

# Official Transcript of Proceedings

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant  
License Renewal Application  
Environmental Scoping Process  
Public Meeting - Afternoon Session

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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R. E. GINNA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS

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PUBLIC MEETING - AFTERNOON SESSION

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WEDNESDAY,

NOVEMBER 6, 2002

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WEBSTER, NEW YORK

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The meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. at the Betty Rissberger Community Room, Webster Public Library, 980 Ridge Road, Webster, NY, Chip Cameron, Facilitator, presiding.

PRESENT:

CHIP CAMERON, FACILITATOR

JOHN TAPPERT

ROBERT SCHAAF

RUSS ARRIGHI

FRANK GILLESPIE

KENNETH KOLACZYK

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

(1:35 p.m.)

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

And I would like to welcome you to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's public meeting this afternoon. And our topic for today is the scope of the NRC's environmental review on the request of Rochester Gas and Electric, to renew the license for the Ginna Nuclear Power Plant.

And it is my pleasure to serve as your facilitator today, and my main responsibility in that role will be to try to help all of you have a productive meeting this afternoon.

I just wanted to briefly cover some items about the meeting process, before we get to our first substantive item of discussion. And in terms of our objectives for today's meeting, and you will be hearing more about this from the NRC staff, we have two primary objectives.

One is to clearly explain to you the NRC's evaluation process for an application to renew a

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1 license, and specifically the environmental review  
2 portion of the NRC's evaluation process.

3 And the second objective, and the most  
4 important one, is to hear your recommendations, your  
5 advice, on what the NRC should consider in its  
6 environmental review, what types of information should  
7 we look at, what types of environmental impacts, what  
8 types of alternatives should be looked at.

9 Now, we are taking written comments on  
10 these issues, and the staff will tell you the process  
11 for submitting those written comments. But we wanted  
12 to be here, in person, with you today to meet you, and  
13 to talk with you.

14 Our format for the meeting matches the  
15 objectives. Basically we are going to do this in two  
16 parts. One is to give you information and context on  
17 the NRC's evaluation process, and we will have a  
18 couple of short presentations, and then go out to you  
19 to answer any questions that you might have on the  
20 process.

21 The second part of the meeting will be  
22 devoted to listening to you and we will give you an  
23 opportunity to come up here, to the microphone, and to  
24 give us some formal comments on these issues.

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1           In terms of ground rules, if you have  
2 anything to say, a question or a comment, during the  
3 first part of the meeting, just signal me and I will  
4 bring you this talking stick. Give us your name and  
5 affiliation, if appropriate, so that we can get that  
6 on the transcript.

7           We are taking a transcript of the meeting,  
8 and that will be publicly available for anybody who  
9 wants to get a copy, and it is our record of what was  
10 said this afternoon.

11           I would ask that only one person speak at  
12 a time, not only so that we can get a clear transcript  
13 to identify who is speaking. But, more importantly,  
14 so that we can all give our full attention to whomever  
15 has the floor at the time.

16           The third ground rule is, as much as  
17 practicable try to be concise in your comments. I  
18 know that that is difficult, sometimes, on these types  
19 of issues. But we do want to make sure that everyone  
20 who wants to talk this afternoon has an opportunity to  
21 talk.

22           So if you try to be brief then that will  
23 help us to try to meet that goal. When we go to the  
24 second part of the meeting where we ask you to come up

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1 and make formal comments, I would ask you to follow a  
2 guideline of five minutes.

3           Nothing terrible will happen, obviously,  
4 if you go over five minutes. But try to keep it to  
5 that time frame, so that we can get everybody on who  
6 wants to talk. And we have several people signed up  
7 already.

8           And in terms of the agenda, so that you  
9 know what we are going to do, and who is going to be  
10 talking to you, what I would like to do is just go  
11 over the agenda, and introduce some of the NRC  
12 speakers.

13           I asked John Tappert, from the NRC, to  
14 give you a short welcome after I'm done, because he is  
15 -- and this is John Tappert right here, John is the  
16 section leader of the Environmental Section in the  
17 License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program at  
18 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

19           And that program is within our Office of  
20 Nuclear Reactor Regulation. John's staff are  
21 responsible for doing all of the environmental reviews  
22 for any plant, nuclear power plant, that comes in for  
23 license renewal, and other environmental projects that  
24 the NRC has to do on nuclear reactors.

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1           He has been with the Commission for  
2 approximately 11 years, he was a resident inspector at  
3 operating nuclear power plants. He has a bachelor's  
4 degree in ocean and aerospace engineering, and a  
5 master's degree in environmental engineering from  
6 Johns Hopkins University. And we will go to John in  
7 a minute.

8           The next speaker from the NRC will be Russ  
9 Arrighi, who is right here. And Russ is going to give  
10 you an overview of the license renewal evaluation  
11 process, generally, so that you can see the whole  
12 picture and schedule for what is going to be  
13 happening.

14           Now, Russ is the project manager for the  
15 safety evaluation on the Ginna license renewal  
16 application. And he will tell you what goes into that  
17 safety evaluation.

18           Like John Tappert he has been a resident  
19 inspector at operating nuclear power plants. He also  
20 worked at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. He has a  
21 bachelor's in chemical engineering from the University  
22 of Rhode Island.

23           And after Russ is done, we will go out to  
24 you for questions on the overall process. Then we are  
25 going to go to the final NRC presentation, which is

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1 going to be done by Mr. Robert Schaaf, Bob Schaaf, who  
2 is right here.

3 Bob is the project manager on the  
4 environmental review side of the Ginna license renewal  
5 application. So he is responsible for making sure  
6 that the environmental review is completed, and he  
7 will tell you about that process.

8 He has been with the NRC for about 12  
9 years. He has been a project manager for various  
10 operating reactors around the country. He also worked  
11 at the Charleston Naval Shipyard. He has a bachelor's  
12 degree in mechanical engineering from Georgia Tech.

13 And I do want to make one final  
14 introduction, because we do have part of the NRC  
15 senior management team here, Mr. Frank Gillespie, who  
16 is the Deputy Director of the Division of Regulatory  
17 Improvement Programs. I'm not sure I got that right.

18 But that is the division, within our  
19 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, where the  
20 License Renewal and Environmental Impacts branch is,  
21 and Frank is with us today.

22 I would just thank all of you for being  
23 here to help us with this important decision that the  
24 NRC has to make, in terms of whether to renew the  
25 license. I would encourage you, after the meeting, to

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1 take the opportunity to talk to the NRC staff that are  
2 involved in this.

3 We also have some expert consultants in a  
4 number of scientific areas of expertise that are  
5 relevant to the environmental review, that are with  
6 us, and they will also be available.

7 And with that I would turn it over to John  
8 Tappert, to just say a few words to us. John?

9 MR. TAPPERT: Thank you, Chip. Good  
10 afternoon, and welcome.

11 As Chip said, my name is John Tappert, and  
12 I'm the chief of the Environmental Section in the  
13 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. And on behalf  
14 of the NRC I would like to thank everyone for coming  
15 out today, and participating in our process.

16 As Chip said, there are several things we  
17 would like to cover today. I would like to briefly go  
18 over the purpose of today's meeting.

19 First of all we want to provide a brief  
20 overview of the entire license renewal program, and  
21 this includes both the safety review, as well as the  
22 environmental review, which is the principal focus of  
23 today's meeting.

24 Then we will give you some additional  
25 information about our environmental review, we will

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1 talk about the issues that we look at, the schedule  
2 that we are going to follow, and how you can  
3 participate in the process.

4 At the conclusion of the staff's  
5 presentation we will be happy to receive any questions  
6 or comments that you may have today.

7 But first let me provide some context for  
8 the entire license renewal program. The Atomic Energy  
9 Act gives the NRC the authority to issue operating  
10 licenses to commercial nuclear power plants for a  
11 period of 40 years.

12 For Ginna that operating license will  
13 expire in 2009. Our regulations also make provisions  
14 for extending that operating license for an additional  
15 20 years, as part of the license renewal program. And  
16 RG&E has requested license renewal for Ginna.

17 As part of the NRC's review of that  
18 license renewal application we will be conducting an  
19 environmental impact statement, developing an  
20 environmental impact statement. And as part of that  
21 the first step is to conduct a scoping process.

22 In that scoping process we identify those  
23 issues which will require the greatest focus during  
24 our review. And the principal purpose of this

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1 meeting, here today, is to receive your input into  
2 that scoping process.

3 And with that I would like to ask Russ to  
4 briefly go over the license renewal portion, safety  
5 portion.

6 MR. ARRIGHI: Thank you, John. As John  
7 mentioned, my name is Russ Arrighi, I'm the project  
8 manager for the safety review portion of the license  
9 renewal application for the Ginna Nuclear Power Plant.

10 The license renewal process essentially  
11 runs in two parallel paths. There is a safety review,  
12 which I'm in charge of, and there is also an  
13 environmental review.

14 The safety review is a review and  
15 inspection of the aging management programs for  
16 passive long-lived structure systems and components.  
17 And the reason why the Commission felt that these  
18 programs should be the focus of the regulation, is  
19 because the ongoing regulatory process already ensures  
20 that the current licensing basis is adequately  
21 maintained.

22 And things like emergency planning, and  
23 security plans are acceptably implemented. Now, there  
24 are components that need to be constantly attended to.  
25 However, the maintenance processes don't explicitly

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1 look at the design capability to cope with long-term  
2 degradation due to aging.

3 So the renewal application focuses on  
4 those inspection programs, and the maintenance  
5 processes that are used to maintain the margins of  
6 safety.

7 The second review process is the  
8 environmental review, which Bob Schaaf will discuss  
9 later. I also want to mention that there is an  
10 Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, or ACRS.

11 They also review, do an independent review  
12 of the renewal application, as well as the staff's  
13 safety evaluation. The Committee reports their  
14 findings directly to the Commission.

15 As you can see from the slide, the license  
16 renewal process essentially runs in two parallel  
17 paths. The upper portion, we have the safety review,  
18 and the lower, we have the environmental review.

19 As I mentioned earlier, the ACRS reviews  
20 the staff's safety review, and the application, in  
21 order to develop its independent findings. The ACRS  
22 will hold public meetings, which are transcribed, oral  
23 and written statements can be provided during that  
24 meeting, in accordance with instructions in the  
25 *Federal Register*.

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1           In parallel with the safety review, the  
2 staff performs a review of the environmental impact  
3 for continued operation. And, as Bob Schaaf will  
4 discuss later, the staff will issue an environmental  
5 impact statement on the facility, after it completes  
6 that review.

7           Now, the NRC's licensing process also  
8 includes a process for public involvement, and that is  
9 conducted through Hearings that are conducted by a  
10 panel of Administrative Law Judges, who are called the  
11 Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, or ASLB.

12           That process requires a petition to be  
13 submitted to hold a hearing on a particular issue, and  
14 that would be litigated by that Board. However, there  
15 were no petitions to intervene for the Ginna  
16 proceedings.

17           At the end of the review process the final  
18 safety evaluation report, the final environmental  
19 impact statements, the results of the staff's  
20 inspections, and ACRS recommendations, are used by the  
21 Agency in making the final license renewal decision.

22           Throughout the process, this license  
23 renewal process, interested members of the public who  
24 are concerned about nuclear safety issues can raise  
25 those issues in various public meetings.

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1           There are meetings on particular technical  
2 issues which are normally held in the NRC headquarters  
3 in Rockville, Maryland. Some of those meetings, as  
4 well as the results of the NRC's inspection findings,  
5 those meetings would be held here, locally, for the  
6 public to attend.

7           In addition to those meetings the staff  
8 holds two sets of public meetings. The first set of  
9 meetings will be conducted today, and the latter set  
10 will be done during the summer, which will discuss the  
11 environmental aspects of the review.

12           Essentially that is a brief overview of  
13 the process. I will now take questions regarding the  
14 general overview process before we proceed on the  
15 environmental presentation by Bob Schaaf.

16           I do want to mention that we will be here,  
17 after today's meeting, to answer questions, also.

18           FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Russ.  
19 That is the overview. Does anybody have any questions  
20 on the overview process? Could you just give us your  
21 name?

22           DR. LOOMIS: Yes, Norman Loomis, Ontario,  
23 New York. And there will be two or three more public  
24 meetings, am I correct?

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1 MR. ARRIGHI: Yes, again, there will be a  
2 meeting later tonight at 7 o'clock. There will be  
3 another set of meetings, later this summer, for  
4 environmental review.

5 We have an inspection plan, we have  
6 inspectors that will be coming to the site, to look at  
7 the plant, to ensure the things that they put in the  
8 application. And that meeting, that exit meeting,  
9 will be in the summer, also, in the June time frame.

10 Again, there are technical questions that  
11 the staff asks the utility. And, again, most of those  
12 meetings are normally held in our Rockville office,  
13 but some of those meetings may be held down here in  
14 the local area.

15 FACILITATOR CAMERON: And if people want  
16 to know about when certain meetings are going to  
17 happen, there may not be a public meeting like this,  
18 but as Russ mentioned, there may be a meeting with the  
19 license applicant at this point, that are open to the  
20 public.

21 If people want to find out about those  
22 meetings, are they on the NRC website? How do people  
23 find out about a meeting that you are going to, for  
24 example, have on these issues with the utility?

25 MR. ARRIGHI: I'm not sure.

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1 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Let's go to John  
2 Tappert.

3 MR. TAPPERT: They are on the website,  
4 Chip. If it is a public meeting it will be noticed to  
5 the website. And if you would like to be notified,  
6 personally, we can put you on distribution for those  
7 documents, as well. If you see one of us, after the  
8 meeting, we can put you on that.

9 Just going back to your question of what  
10 the public meetings are going to be, there are going  
11 to be, as far as soliciting public comments and input,  
12 we are going to have the meeting this afternoon, the  
13 meeting this evening, and then next summer, as well.  
14 Next August, I think it is what it is scheduled for.

15 And that will be to receive comments on  
16 our draft environmental impact statement.

17 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, John,  
18 thank you, Russ. Let's go to --

19 MS. ANDERSON: Yes. My name is Bernadette  
20 Anderson, I live in Webster. And I wasn't quite clear  
21 on how you are going to evaluate, as part of the  
22 renewal process, the long-term degradation issues that  
23 are very prominent in nuclear power plants across the  
24 country, Ohio being one, Virginia another one.

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1           The cracks and the various issues that  
2           have surfaced and have caused great concerns in a  
3           number of communities across the country, how do you  
4           propose to make the public aware of the process that  
5           you are going to be using in evaluating degradation?

6           FACILITATOR CAMERON:   Okay, thank you.  
7           Russ?

8           MR. ARRIGHI:    In the application the  
9           licensee discusses their aging management programs  
10          that we will use to evaluate the status of the plant.  
11          Now, with regard to some of the cracking, and issues  
12          that are generic that you bring up, the licensee has  
13          programs in place that inspect for those areas.

14          And the NRC has inspectors on-site that  
15          would review those findings.   Now, we also issue  
16          bulletins, or information notices, that require the  
17          fact to take certain actions.   And as the on-site  
18          resident staff, they will look into those issues to  
19          make sure that they are in compliance.

20          MS. ANDERSON:   May I have a follow-up  
21          question please?

22          FACILITATOR CAMERON:   Sure.

23          MS. ANDERSON:    Thank you.   That is,  
24          obviously fine, because that is part of the day to day  
25          inspection.   I'm talking about a 20 year out in the

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1 future evaluation by the NRC, how are you going to go  
2 about evaluating long-term degradation on that basis?

3 MR. ARRIGHI: Well, the aging management  
4 program at the facility ensures that those programs in  
5 place will minimize degradation, or they monitor and  
6 inspect -- excuse me.

7 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Do we have a  
8 standard review plan? For example, if someone wanted  
9 to look at what the NRC looks at on the safety side,  
10 if someone wanted to go and read something, is there  
11 a standard review plan, or anything like that, for  
12 that, Russ?

13 MR. ARRIGHI: On certain inspections that  
14 the NRC performs?

15 FACILITATOR CAMERON: No, on your review  
16 of the safety side, the aging issues.

17 MR. ARRIGHI: Well, after the applicant  
18 issues the application, NRC will review that  
19 application, will develop a safety evaluation report.  
20 And in that report we docket our inspection findings,  
21 and our assessment of the application, to ensure that  
22 those programs that are in place, they cover the  
23 appropriate equipment, that those programs that are in  
24 place are adequate to maintain the aging effects of  
25 the components.

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1 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. So two  
2 important documents, and we may not have completely  
3 answered your question yet. But there is the  
4 application, and there is information in there. There  
5 is the NRC staff, something called the safety  
6 evaluation report, that shows what we looked at, and  
7 what conclusions we reached.

8 And, John, do you want to add some more to  
9 this, for the question?

10 MR. TAPPERT: Yes. There is an important  
11 point to make here. The license renewal we are  
12 looking at aging management programs for these  
13 components.

14 If things come up, during the operational  
15 experience of the power plants, you are talking about  
16 the Davis Besse event, which is a very serious event  
17 that occurred earlier this year. When something like  
18 that happens we don't wait for license renewal  
19 application to come in, to take action.

20 We have issued directives to the plants to  
21 conduct inspections, and to take corrective actions  
22 today. We don't wait for the renewal license for 2009  
23 for Ginna, we don't wait for that, we take those  
24 issues on today.

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1           And that will continue in the extended  
2           licensing period. If something happens in 2015, which  
3           will require action, we will take action at that time.  
4           So this is a review, but it is not done in a vacuum,  
5           and it is not the only review that is going to be done  
6           for this plant.

7           MS. ANDERSON: One last point. There has  
8           to be, in my view, if you are extending a plant that  
9           has an age of 30 plus years, another 20 years, if you  
10          are giving approval for that, there has to be  
11          something concrete, in my view, that has to be given  
12          to the public, that estimates the degradation factors  
13          that this plant will experience, over time, and gives  
14          the public some comfort that these aging plants that  
15          many, many people feel should be shut down yesterday,  
16          are actually able to stay online safely for another 20  
17          years.

18                 What kind of comfort will you give to the  
19          population, that will be the case?

20                 FACILITATOR CAMERON: And we do have Frank  
21          Gillespie, over here, who is going to say something.  
22          Frank, will you address that? Okay.

23                 MR. GILLESPIE: I'm ancient and aged.  
24          I've been doing this for 31 years.

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1           The guys jumped right to a plant-specific  
2 answer on you. Let me step back and say how we are  
3 making sure the best science is applied to your  
4 question. Let me go back to the early 1990s.

5           Our research group put together a series  
6 of 150 reports that looked at things like austenitic  
7 stainless steel, the specific components and materials  
8 in these facilities, in the specific environment.  
9 Austenitic stainless steel, in less than 140 degrees,  
10 in borated water.

11           Those are summarized into a document which  
12 is called the Generic Aging Lessons Learned Document.  
13 The first version of that was actually put out in  
14 about the mid-'90s, which covered what we thought was  
15 all of the best science on how fast various materials  
16 and components for their use in the specific  
17 environments, in the specific plants, would degrade.

18           That further got summarized as we said,  
19 what programs currently exist that already appear to  
20 take care of that? And the key one we have is called  
21 the Maintenance Rule that we have out, which requires  
22 people, on active components, to monitor, look at,  
23 inspect, break down, and maintain active components.

24           But we got to a point you are getting to  
25 in that we said, you know what, we know the pump will

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1 pump water, we know the internals go around, but we  
2 don't know that the case will hold pressure.

3 And so what the GALL report does is breaks  
4 down these components. There were things like  
5 pressure use of the primary circuit, and actually  
6 differentiates how the pressure boundary will degrade,  
7 versus how the internals will degrade.

8 And that document, by the way, is  
9 available on our website, and it is called the Generic  
10 Aging Lessons Learned document, and it has these  
11 series of two series documents behind it, which led up  
12 to that.

13 In relaying that, to the application, you  
14 will find that the applicant, which in this case is  
15 Ginna, by design they relate their systems to the  
16 systems in the degradation mechanisms and the  
17 environments that those components receive, that is in  
18 this research document.

19 And that is what the staff is really using  
20 to judge, have we covered everything we know about?  
21 And so what we are trying to do is trying to take the  
22 best science, and operating experience. Operating  
23 experience is a very big influence in this, put it in  
24 that document.

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1           There is a joint document that goes as a  
2 companion to this Generic Aging Lessons Learned, it is  
3 our Standard Review Plan. And what it tries to do is  
4 extract, and give us what the acceptance criteria is.

5           And if an applicant doesn't meet that  
6 acceptance criteria we go through a question and  
7 answering process, in writing, on the record to say,  
8 why aren't you doing what the best science says you  
9 should do?

10           And that is, basically, all on the record.  
11 So you will see, if you go out and look at the three  
12 volumes, which are very tedious to look at, but you  
13 will see GALL, or the Generic Aging Lessons Learned  
14 Document referenced, actually, in their application,  
15 to make this connection between science and practical  
16 application.

17           The other thing the applicant had to do,  
18 is we don't allow an application to come in before 20  
19 years of operation. That is because of the unique  
20 configurations of a facility could introduce unique  
21 aspects of cracks, erosion, corrosion, at that  
22 facility.

23           And, therefore, we want at least 20 years  
24 of direct observation and monitoring on these

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1 components, before we will give credit for trying to  
2 project that even further forward.

3 In Ginna's case they have over 30 years of  
4 observation on components. And you will find that  
5 what they are committed to, in many cases, is at least  
6 a one time test to make sure that any assumptions made  
7 on how fast things could erode, corrode, or crack, is  
8 in their application.

9 And that is what the staff is really  
10 reviewing, is the future, it is these commitments, and  
11 the time scale, connected to the best science. So  
12 those documents are all available on the NRC website.

13 They are very tedious, and they are very  
14 thick. And I guess if you write in to John, and  
15 really want a copy, he has them on CD, we could send  
16 you even a CD with it.

17 Chip, I think, did I get to your question?  
18 I tried. It was a bit long.

19 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Right. That was  
20 very, very helpful, Frank, in terms of what parameters  
21 the NRC looks at. Let's go back here.

22 MR. JUDSON: My name is Tim Judson, I'm  
23 with the Citizens Awareness Network. And just for  
24 clarity's sake, I wanted to sort of test this.

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1           It seems like the answer to this woman's  
2 question is that, no, the NRC isn't, as part of the  
3 relicensing process, going to do a systemic review of  
4 the aging and degradation of the reactor.

5           FACILITATOR CAMERON: I think we better --  
6 it is important to clarify that, because I'm not sure  
7 that is the case. John, you heard, and Russ, you  
8 heard Tim's question. Can you address that, before he  
9 goes on?

10           MR. ARRIGHI: The utility has programs --

11           MR. JUDSON: I understand that. I mean,  
12 what I'm saying is, you know, it seemed like the  
13 question was whether as part of reevaluating the  
14 relicensing application, whether NRC does, you know,  
15 an actual material condition inspection review, to  
16 determine whether this reactor could safely operate  
17 for another 20 years.

18           And didn't this used to be included as  
19 part of the relicensing process? And there were  
20 certain reactors that were preparing their  
21 applications, that determined that the reactor was  
22 already too degraded, like Yankee Rowe?

23           MR. ARRIGHI: We are going to perform  
24 inspections at the facility, they will be walking down

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1 various systems, but it is essentially to look for  
2 what components and systems are in scope.

3 We do have inspectors there on a day to  
4 day basis that look for the -- look over the general  
5 condition of the plant, look at the surveillances that  
6 the utility performs to make sure the equipment is  
7 running properly on a day to day basis.

8 But, no, that is not a part of the license  
9 renewal inspection, to my knowledge.

10 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Anybody else, from  
11 NRC, want to comment on Tim's question? Tim, do you  
12 have some further point?

13 MR. KOLACZYK: My name is Ken Kolaczyk,  
14 I'm the senior resident inspector of the Ginna  
15 station. I would like to try to answer your question.

16 As part of the utility's Appellant to  
17 renew their operating license for another 20 years,  
18 they had to do a study to determine if their reactor  
19 vessel is safe for another 20 years.

20 So in partial answer to your question,  
21 yes. And as part of their analysis of whether they  
22 can operate the plant for another 20 years they had to  
23 extrapolate, just assuming normal wear and tear, would  
24 the vessel maintain its integrity.

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1           It is also important to realize that the  
2 utility, as part of its ongoing maintenance program,  
3 has performed various non-destructive examinations of  
4 parts of the reactor vessel internals. So that gives  
5 us confidence that the reactor vessel is, in fact,  
6 safe.

7           I live and work in the local area, so I'm  
8 very concerned about the integrity of the reactor  
9 vessel at Ginna. So, to answer your question, yes.  
10 There have been many studies concerning some of the  
11 reactor vessels that you deal with, that have  
12 determined that they were safe to possibly operate  
13 another 20 years.

14           I hope that answers your question.

15           FACILITATOR CAMERON: And thanks, Ken. I  
16 should point out that Ken is our senior resident at  
17 the Ginna power plant. Thank you very much, Ken.  
18 Susan? And please tell us your full name.

19           MS. GATELEY: Susan Gateley, Lakeshore  
20 Environmental Action. A quick question, just to  
21 clarify that process of the generic aging reviews.

22           Back and forth between the NRC and the  
23 licensed operator of the plant, is any of that very  
24 technical information ever reviewed by outside parties

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1 that are not directly tied to the industry, or the  
2 government?

3 And if so how could we get their  
4 interpretations of it? Because it is so technical for  
5 citizens to try to wade through a six-inch thick  
6 volume, or whatever?

7 MR. ARRIGHI: There is the Advisory  
8 Committee of Reactor Safeguards, which is on that flow  
9 chart, there. And they review the application, as  
10 well as the Staff's safety evaluation report. And  
11 they make the recommendation to the Commission, should  
12 we approve this license renewal process.

13 And the ACRS, they are, some of those  
14 members are, they are recognized experts in their  
15 field. Some may be former utility employees, they  
16 also could be professors, and what not. I don't know  
17 all their particular expertise. But not all of them,  
18 necessarily, are from the utility, but they are  
19 recognized experts.

20 MS. GATELEY: Are they a government, how  
21 are they funded, or what are they? Are they part of  
22 the NRC? I don't quite understand.

23 FACILITATOR CAMERON: They are an advisory  
24 committee that is a statutory, in other words, it was  
25 mandated, the creation of this advisory committee, to

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1 advise the NRC. They are not NRC employees, they do  
2 make an independent recommendation.

3 Their budget, I believe, is part of the  
4 total NRC budget package. And I believe -- Russ, the  
5 Advisory Committee will be issuing its own report on  
6 the license renewal application, and do they, in some  
7 cases they do come to the locality around the plant,  
8 to have one of their meetings? Is that correct, Russ?

9 MR. ARRIGHI: Yes.

10 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. So they will  
11 be here, and you can participate in that meeting. In  
12 terms of other independent groups, I would only say  
13 that I would, maybe impose upon Tim Judson to -- in  
14 terms of some of the national groups, like Union of  
15 Concerned Scientists, I think on their website they  
16 may have various reports on plant aging issues.

17 And, Tim, can you give us any information  
18 on that? I think you know what Susan is looking for,  
19 I don't know if you can.

20 MR. JUDSON: On plant aging issues?

21 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Yes. I mean, are  
22 there national groups, non-profits, that will look at  
23 some of these generic aging issues, and post  
24 information on their website?

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1                   Of course we couldn't vouch for that, but  
2 just trying to get information for Susan.

3                   MR. JUDSON:       Well, basically, the  
4 information that groups, I think the national groups  
5 like UCS have, is basically NRC documents that they  
6 boil down and synthesize for the public. But I think  
7 what Susan is asking is something different about  
8 whether there is, you know, independent technical,  
9 scientific, agencies or organizations, that review the  
10 data themselves, first-hand, and make evaluations of  
11 it.

12                   FACILITATOR CAMERON: That would be the,  
13 I think the closest we have to that is the Advisory  
14 Committee on Reactor Safety.

15                   Before we go on to the environmental  
16 review process, are there any other questions on the  
17 overall process, before we move on? And if you think  
18 of something, later on, we can answer it also, then.  
19 So this isn't your last opportunity.

20                   (No response.)

21                   FACILITATOR CAMERON: Russ, thank you very  
22 much. And now we are going to go to Bob Schaaf, who  
23 is the environmental project manager on the Ginna  
24 license renewal application, and he is going to talk,

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1 specifically, about the environmental review.

2 Bob?

3 MR. SCHAAF: Thank you, Chip, thank you  
4 Russ.

5 My name is Bob Schaaf, I'm the  
6 environmental project manager for the Ginna license  
7 renewal application. I'm going to spend the next 15  
8 minutes, or so, discussing the environmental review  
9 process, and how you can participate in that process.

10 The National Environmental Policy Act, or  
11 NEPA, was enacted in 1969, and requires all federal  
12 agencies to use a systematic approach to consider  
13 environmental impacts during certain decision-making  
14 proceedings.

15 NEPA is a disclosure tool which involves  
16 the public. It involves the process in which  
17 information is gathered to enable federal agencies to  
18 make informed decisions. And then, as part of that  
19 process, we document that information and invite  
20 public participation to evaluate it.

21 The NEPA process for license renewal  
22 results in an environmental impact statement, also  
23 called an EIS, which describes the results of the  
24 detailed review we do to evaluate the environmental

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1 impacts of a proposed action that may significantly  
2 affect the quality of the human environment.

3 As part of our review, we also consider  
4 the environmental impacts of alternatives to the  
5 proposed action. These alternatives include the no-  
6 action alternative, which means simply not approving  
7 the license renewal request, in this case, and  
8 construction and operation of replacement power  
9 generating facilities.

10 The NRC considered the environmental  
11 impacts of renewing nuclear power plant operating  
12 licenses for up to 20 years, in the Generic  
13 Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of  
14 Nuclear Plants.

15 NUREG-1437, also known as the GEIS, or  
16 commonly referred to as the GEIS. In the GEIS the  
17 Staff identified and assessed 92 environmental issues  
18 related to license renewal.

19 With regard to these issues the Staff  
20 concluded that the environmental impacts for 69 of  
21 these issues, referred to in the GEIS as category 1  
22 issues, were adequately addressed for all plants, and  
23 would not need to be addressed for individual license  
24 renewal applications.

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1 Additional plant specific review is  
2 required for the remaining 23 issues, and for any  
3 category 1 issue for which new and significant  
4 information is identified.

5 New and significant information can be  
6 identified by the applicant, by the NRC, or through  
7 public comments. These plant specific reviews are to  
8 be included in a supplement to the GEIS.

9 At this point we are in the process of  
10 gathering information we need to prepare that  
11 document, the supplement. In particular, at this  
12 stage, we are performing what we call scoping.

13 The NRC is having this meeting as part of  
14 our scoping process for the purpose of providing you,  
15 and other government agencies, with an opportunity to  
16 provide us with any information that you believe may  
17 have some bearing on our environmental evaluation.

18 In particular we are looking for  
19 information that may not be readily available, or  
20 environmental concerns that you might have, that may  
21 not have been addressed by the licensee in their  
22 application.

23 This slide describes the objective of our  
24 environmental review. As stated here the Staff is  
25 trying to determine whether the adverse environmental

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1 impacts of license renewal, for R.E. Ginna, are so  
2 great, that preserving the option of license renewal  
3 for energy planning decision makers would be  
4 unreasonable.

5 That is what it says in the regulations.  
6 To paraphrase, we are trying to determine whether or  
7 not renewing the Ginna license for an additional 20  
8 years is acceptable from an environmental standpoint.

9 I want to emphasize that if we decide, in  
10 the end, that license renewal is acceptable from an  
11 environmental perspective, all that means is that R.  
12 E. Ginna will have the option to operate Ginna for up  
13 to an additional 20 years.

14 The NRC doesn't determine whether they  
15 actually operate for those additional 20 years. Those  
16 decisions will be made by RG&E, and by State  
17 regulators. It is possible that the utility could  
18 determine, after all of this, that it is not  
19 economically feasible to continue operating the plant.  
20 That is their decision.

21 This slide gives a little more detail on  
22 the schedule time line of our environmental review  
23 process. RG&E's application was received on August  
24 1st. On October 10th we issued a notice of our intent  
25 to perform scoping, which we are doing now, and our

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1 intent to develop an environmental impact statement  
2 for the proposed action.

3 We are currently in a data gathering phase  
4 to determine the environmental impacts of renewing the  
5 license. After that we will develop a draft of the  
6 environmental impact statement, which we expect to  
7 issue for public comment in June of next year.

8 We will come back to this area in August  
9 of next year for another public meeting, to talk about  
10 the results of our review, and to give you an  
11 opportunity to provide us any comments you may have on  
12 our preliminary conclusions and evaluation.

13 After receiving and evaluating those  
14 comments, we will then develop the final environmental  
15 impact statement, which we expect to issue in January  
16 of 2004.

17 Yesterday we went to the site to get  
18 familiar with the lay of the land, examine features of  
19 particular interest, and observe first-hand how the  
20 site interacts with the environment.

21 This week we are gathering information for  
22 evaluation from a number of different sources, as  
23 indicated here, including the documents sent to us by  
24 RG&E.

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1           We also are meeting, and corresponding,  
2 with Federal, State, Tribal, and local government  
3 officials, and interested people from the local  
4 community, who may have information that will help us  
5 in our environmental evaluation.

6           We will also consider all comments  
7 received from the public during the comment period,  
8 which is open until December 11th.

9           Our team focuses on many environmental  
10 topics. This slide shows the range of areas we are  
11 reviewing. Impacts considered include everything from  
12 air quality to water use and quality, to effects on  
13 plants and wildlife.

14           We also look at what we call  
15 socioeconomics, how does the plant affect people's  
16 lives economically. And we consider environmental  
17 justice, which focuses our attention on the question  
18 of whether there are minority, or low income  
19 population groups, that may be disproportionately  
20 impacted by the proposed license renewal.

21           To prepare for the review we have  
22 assembled a team of NRC staff with backgrounds in the  
23 specific technical and scientific disciplines required  
24 to perform these reviews.

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1           In addition, and to supplement the  
2 technical expertise of the staff, we have engaged the  
3 assistance of four national laboratories to ensure  
4 that we have a well-rounded knowledge base to perform  
5 our review.

6           We have put together a team of about 15  
7 people to conduct this review. And many of them are  
8 here today to hear what you have to say, and to be  
9 available to answer any questions you have.

10           To summarize a few key dates from an  
11 earlier slide our schedule is to complete the scoping  
12 process by December 11th, when the public comment  
13 period ends. After that, as I indicated, we will  
14 issue our draft environmental impact statement in June  
15 of 2003, and we expect to issue a final document in  
16 January of 2004.

17           If you would like a copy of these reports  
18 sent directly to you, be sure and leave your name and  
19 mailing address with the registration desk, by putting  
20 your name and address on one of the blue cards.

21           This slide provides my phone number in  
22 case you have additional questions after you leave  
23 today. I'm the designated point of contact, within  
24 the NRC, for the environmental portion of the license  
25 renewal review.

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1           Russell Arrighi, who spoke previously, is  
2 project manager for the safety evaluation report.  
3 Although I'm providing my phone number here, and I'm  
4 available to receive your comments, or receive your  
5 questions and respond to those, we still need to get  
6 your specific comments that you want considered as  
7 part of the record, in a form that we can document,  
8 either in writing, or as Chip has indicated, through  
9 comments given here at this meeting, which is being  
10 transcribed. The transcript will become the written  
11 record of your comments.

12           Arrangements have been made for the  
13 documents associated with the environmental review to  
14 be available to you locally. These documents are  
15 located at the Ontario and the Rochester public  
16 libraries.

17           Also documents are available through our  
18 document management system, known as ADAMS, which can  
19 be accessed on our internet webpage. After this  
20 meeting comments can be submitted by mail, in person,  
21 or by email.

22           You can send specific written comments to  
23 us at the address shown. You can stop by in person,  
24 if you happen to be in the Rockville, Maryland area.  
25 Not too many people take advantage of that option, but

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1 it is available. You can also submit comments by  
2 email to the address indicated.

3 This concludes our formal presentation on  
4 the review processes. In closing I would like to  
5 thank you for your attention during our presentations,  
6 and for your attendance at today's meeting.

7 Public participation is an important part  
8 of the license renewal process, and it is especially  
9 important for our environmental review, as your  
10 knowledge of the area can provide valuable insights.

11 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,  
12 Bob. We are going to do a little variation.  
13 Something unexpected came up for one of our public  
14 commenters, and we do want to hear your comments, so  
15 we are going to give Mr. Jon Greenbaum an opportunity  
16 to say something now, before he has to leave. Jon?

17 MR. GREENBAUM: Thank you, I appreciate  
18 your flexibility. If plans go as scheduled Yucca  
19 Mountain will then open up as a storage facility, and  
20 the waste will be trucked down 590, which is within  
21 two miles of my house, which is why I have my  
22 potassium iodide.

23 And even with Yucca mountain we will still  
24 be left with 100 metric tons of radioactive waste.  
25 And I don't know if Al Qaeda is targeting Ginna, but

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1 I do know that in the '80s the containment structures  
2 were studied, and were shown to not be able to,  
3 several of them, many of them, 40 percent were shown  
4 not to be able to withstand a plane crash.

5 And I don't understand why we are taking  
6 this risk. I don't understand why we are not talking  
7 about wind generation on Lake Ontario. I just -- I  
8 think we need to look at the alternatives.

9 We are subsidizing the nuclear industry.  
10 Bush's energy plan calls for a 2.9 billion dollar  
11 subsidy to nuclear industry, and the solar industry's  
12 subsidy would be enough to build about two miles of  
13 federal interstate.

14 So it seems like we need to look at the  
15 alternatives. And I'm not, myself, and the hundreds  
16 of members of Metro Justice, are not willing to take  
17 the risk involved. Thank you.

18 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,  
19 Jon. And, Jon is with the group Metro Justice.

20 MR. GREENBAUM: Yes, and we are in the  
21 phone book if you want to contact us about meetings  
22 about this issue.

23 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you. I  
24 think Jon raised a couple of points that maybe we

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1 should clarify, since we are in the question period,  
2 now.

3 One is the point about the transportation  
4 of spent fuel. And I just wanted to get a  
5 confirmation from the Staff on this. Is that  
6 regardless of whether there is a license renewal  
7 application granted at Ginna, the issue of  
8 transportation of spent fuel is still an issue. Is  
9 that not correct?

10 MR. SCHAAF: Yes, that is correct, whether  
11 the plant is licensed for the additional operating  
12 period, or the license expires in 2009, the fuel that  
13 is on-site will need to be shipped when a site is  
14 available.

15 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thanks, Bob.  
16 And the other question, and it is a very important  
17 one, and maybe I should ask John Tappert, at least  
18 first, to address it.

19 The whole security issue, and how that  
20 fits into the license renewal equation. John, could  
21 you talk to us a little bit about that?

22 MR. TAPPERT: Sure, Chip. Security is  
23 another one of these issues which isn't necessarily  
24 tied to license renewal. It is an issue that we need  
25 to deal with today.

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1           In the aftermath of the attacks on the  
2 World Trade Center on 9/11, the agency did a number of  
3 things to take on this issue. We staffed our  
4 emergency operations center, we put the plants in the  
5 highest state of alert.

6           In the time since then, we have issued  
7 orders to every operating power plant to put in place  
8 interim compensatory measures to increase their  
9 security posture. We have also taken actions to do a  
10 top to bottom security review to find out what the  
11 appropriate level of security is in the new state of  
12 the world.

13           So there are a number of issues that are  
14 going on, independent of license renewal, to address  
15 that security issue. Regarding the plane attacks,  
16 themselves, we have initiated some studies to review  
17 the effects of that. And that will be rolled into our  
18 ongoing efforts to find out what the right security  
19 posture is for these plants.

20           I also want to take on a point that  
21 occurred right before Bob gave his presentation. We  
22 had a question about whether any independent reviews  
23 of our Generic Aging Lessons Learned, or Standard  
24 Review Plans, which the Staff uses to do their  
25 reviews.

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1 I would just like to point out that those  
2 are published before they are used, for public  
3 comment. And that operators, as well as public  
4 interest groups, such as Union of Concerned  
5 Scientists, and public citizens, have an opportunity  
6 to comment on those, and give us their input.

7 Chip had also asked a question, does the  
8 ACRS, or the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards  
9 have, which does an independent review of the Staff's  
10 analysis, do they have meetings in the local  
11 community? Or do they occasionally have meetings in  
12 the local community? And the answer was yes.

13 They do not always do that, that is at  
14 their discretion. So I didn't want to create an  
15 expectation that there necessarily would be one of  
16 those meetings up here. That will be up to them.

17 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. And I  
18 certainly -- I know the ACRS does accept public  
19 comments. And, certainly, if anybody in the community  
20 wanted to request that one of the ACRS meetings on  
21 this subject was held in the community, you certainly  
22 are free to do that.

23 Bob, do you have anything to add before we  
24 go to questions on any of the points that John raised?

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1           MR. SCHAAF: Yes, just on one other item  
2 regarding alternative power sources. We do look at a  
3 wide range of alternatives. The standard alternatives  
4 that might be considered would be the coal-fired  
5 plants, or gas-fired plants. But we also discuss a  
6 range of alternatives to include solar and wind power,  
7 and other possible sources of replacing the power in  
8 the event that we did not go forth with relicensing.

9           FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. So even  
10 though Mr. Greenbaum's statement was in the form of a  
11 comment, I think implicitly there was a recommendation  
12 that we look at the wind power alternative?

13           MR. SCHAAF: Yes, and it will be factored  
14 in as a comment in our statement.

15           FACILITATOR CAMERON: Great. Do we have  
16 other questions on the environmental review? Is it  
17 clear? One of the things that often is a little bit  
18 murky is that the environmental review is one part of  
19 the evaluation of the license renewal application.

20           The safety review that Russ Arrighi talked  
21 about is another part of that equation. And the third  
22 part, I suppose, is the inspection findings. Can  
23 either Bob, or Russ, can you just tell us, when do all  
24 of those reviews come together, what is the ultimate

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1 schedule so that people will know when the NRC might  
2 be making a decision some time in the future?

3 MR. SCHAAF: Right. I can't address all  
4 of those schedule items. I do know that we list all  
5 of the major milestones on the website, would be one  
6 place to get that information. I covered most of the  
7 major milestones for the environmental review.

8 Russ, do you want to address any of the  
9 other items?

10 MR. ARRIGHI: The schedule, normally the  
11 schedule is a 30 month process, from the time of the  
12 application. Now, if there were no petitions to  
13 intervene that process would be shortened to a 22  
14 month process.

15 And at the present time we have not  
16 received any petitions to intervene regarding the  
17 application. So they started in August 1st, they  
18 submitted their application. So 22 months from that,  
19 I think that is February '04, I have to do the math.  
20 But it is 22 months from August '02.

21 FACILITATOR CAMERON: And I guess I should  
22 -- petitions to intervene is a term related to the  
23 adjudicatory hearing that can be requested on this  
24 type of license renewal application. I just wanted to  
25 clarify that.

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1           But the important point is all of these  
2 various pieces do come together, and the Staff of the  
3 NRC looks at those, and makes an initial  
4 recommendation to the Commission, or I'm not sure that  
5 that is still the process.

6           But the Staff looks at those and makes a  
7 recommendation on whether the license renewal  
8 application should be granted or denied. Is that  
9 correct?

10           MR. ARRIGHI: The Staff performs the  
11 safety review, and we put the safety evaluation report  
12 together and see that an independent review body, the  
13 ACRS, makes a recommendation to the Commission,  
14 whether to accept it or not.

15           FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, all right.  
16 Any questions? Is this anything that you would like  
17 to know about this? Yes, sir.

18           MR. GUTACKER: Andy Gutacker, Webster,  
19 neighbor of the plant.

20           We touched on transporting nuclear waste,  
21 and also the containment chamber safety requirements.  
22 What I'm trying to say here is that back in the '80s  
23 we had a way of looking, had development money to work  
24 for isotope separation.

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1           Which says we can take these rods and like  
2 a battery, make them over, and over again, maybe nine  
3 times on the contract, but actually figure we could  
4 probably get about 20 uses out of them. Which means  
5 the storage goes down, and you have to have them on  
6 site.

7           You can keep reusing them, and recharging  
8 them. Did that whole science fall apart, or what? It  
9 was funded by -- I was working on that in Los Alamos,  
10 and also Lawrence Livermore had contracts for that.  
11 And it looked like it had great hope. Did that ever  
12 turn out to be viable?

13           FACILITATOR CAMERON: Let me see who might  
14 want to address that, or similar concepts. Bob?

15           MR. SCHAAF: Right. Essentially it is the  
16 policy of the United States government that we would  
17 not pursue reprocessing in this country, of spent  
18 nuclear fuel, that we would not pursue that option.

19           The concern related to proliferation of  
20 weapons grade material, plutonium, separation of  
21 plutonium from the fuel rods.

22           FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Is that --  
23 does anybody have any information, specifically, on  
24 the project that Andy was talking about?

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1                   MR. GUTACKER: This is because we are  
2 using a 200 terrawatt laser to zap it, and just like  
3 recharging it with a battery. But I got a feeling,  
4 from -- it probably went underground, because  
5 technology was being developed back in the '80s.

6                   FACILITATOR CAMERON: And I know you are  
7 not referring to Yucca Mountain when you say it went  
8 underground. I know, you got it in there.

9                   John, do you have anything you want to add  
10 to that?

11                  MR. TAPPERT: As far as the technology,  
12 there is technology that can allow reprocessing, which  
13 I think is what you are referring to. And, actually,  
14 I believe the French and the Japanese actually do  
15 that, and the Russians, as well.

16                  The United States is not reprocessing  
17 spent fuel, and that is a decision of the utilities,  
18 and -- it is primarily a proliferation concern. When  
19 you separate out the plutonium, and the highly  
20 enriched uranium, you don't want that to fall into  
21 people's hands.

22                  FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thanks John,  
23 thank you Andy. Let's go over to -- Susan, do you  
24 have a question?

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1 MS. GATELEY: This might be kind of a dumb  
2 question, but I'm trying to figure out the regulatory  
3 process. Ninety-two issues were identified by the  
4 Generic Environmental Impact Statement. The Staff  
5 concluded 60 some were adequately addressed, maybe  
6 about 23 might have been specific to this power plant.

7 And then we are scoping today to look for  
8 more, right? Something like that?

9 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Yes, that is  
10 correct.

11 MS. GATELEY: At what point, or where  
12 would we be able to find out about the 23 issues that  
13 were possibly germane to Ginna?

14 MR. SCHAAF: Well, the 23 issues are  
15 discussed in the GEIS. Those are also discussed in  
16 the GEIS.

17 MS. GATELEY: For Ginna?

18 MR. SCHAAF: Not for Ginna, they are  
19 discussed generically. And the conclusions for those  
20 23 items is that we would need to look at them.

21 FACILITATOR CAMERON: So that is why they  
22 are doing the review. Okay, great, good.

23 Roland, do you have a question? And  
24 please identify yourself.

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1 MR. MICKLEM: Yes, Roland Micklem, of Lake  
2 Shore Environmental Action. I would like to ask a  
3 question of the environmental impact statement that  
4 very much confuses me.

5 You say that the scope of this  
6 investigation, I should say the scope of this study,  
7 takes the water, the land, the air, etcetera,  
8 etcetera.

9 Now, how do you determine whether or not  
10 the amount of radiation that you release into the  
11 lake, you obviously know what it is, how can you  
12 determine exactly what impact it is going to have on  
13 the ecology of the lake, given the subtleties of the  
14 changes, and is it ever considered that probably a lot  
15 of the deterioration of the lake environment -- I'm  
16 talking about now only of the internal motors, I'm not  
17 talking about the air, or anything of that.

18 The deterioration of the lake environment  
19 may be due, partially of course, to nuclear plants,  
20 but also to all the other discharges. And I don't see  
21 how you can make that kind of adequate evaluation.

22 I will just say one more thing, and then  
23 I will shut up. There used to be a species of snail  
24 that was very prominent on the shores of Lake Ontario.

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1 And in my more studious days I remembered the  
2 scientific name, I don't any more.

3 All I know is that once it did exist, and  
4 now it doesn't. Okay, so we have nuclear plants, and  
5 we have a lot of other things. I don't quite see how  
6 you can get an adequate environmental impact statement  
7 on -- without really taking the whole framework of the  
8 ecology there.

9 MR. MASNIK: I'm Mike Masnik from the NRC.  
10 The interesting thing about radiation is that we know  
11 quite a bit about it. We have been studying it, and  
12 its impacts, on organisms and people for probably 60,  
13 70 years, earnestly.

14 And we know a great deal about what the  
15 impact of radiation is on aquatic species. The  
16 licensee is required to operate the plant within  
17 certain limits, and they can release certain amounts  
18 of radiation to the lake, but those are very carefully  
19 controlled, and they are very small amounts of  
20 radiation.

21 To date we haven't seen any impacts  
22 associated with release of radiation on aquatic  
23 organisms, here or at other nuclear power plants.  
24 What we have determined is that the human -- humans

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1 are probably the most radio sensitive organism that we  
2 routinely deal with.

3 So if the requirements are safe enough for  
4 humans, we've determined that they are safe enough for  
5 the environment. Now, the Great Lakes have had a long  
6 history of environmental insults, over-fishing and  
7 pollution. And, certainly, there have been rather  
8 significant changes in the lakes, and introduced  
9 species have had profound effects.

10 But to date, based on our work, and work  
11 of the licensees, and other organizations, we haven't  
12 found any relation between release of radioactive  
13 materials and the environment within the lakes.

14 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thanks, Mike. And  
15 you might want to check back in with Roland, after the  
16 meeting, to make sure that we captured all of his  
17 questions, there. Let's go to Tim Judson.

18 MR. JUDSON: This is Tim Judson, again.  
19 I guess, I mean, I have two questions at this point.  
20 One is, I guess, directly pertaining to this issue,  
21 whether the NRC has compiled, as part of this review,  
22 basically a summary of the total radiological  
23 effluence that Ginna has released into the  
24 environment.

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1 I mean, I know from 1974 to '83,  
2 Brookhaven National Lab summarized that there was, I  
3 think, about 2,500 curies of radioactive waste that  
4 have been ejected into the water, and about 25,000  
5 curies that have been released into the air.

6 I wonder if the NRC has compiled an up to  
7 date list over the last 33 years for Ginna?

8 MR. SCHAAF: I don't know whether we've  
9 got a current compilation. The licensee is required  
10 to submit effluent monitoring reports on an annual  
11 basis, and yes, there is a biological sampling  
12 program, as well, as part of their annual report.

13 The data could be compiled from those  
14 reports, I don't know that we've done that for an  
15 extended period, recently.

16 MR. JUDSON: I mean, 2,500 curies into the  
17 lake is more than a little bit of radioactive  
18 effluent.

19 But my other question is more in terms of  
20 the relicensing issue, and whether in your  
21 understanding, or any of the NRC representatives  
22 understanding, if Ginna is relicensed, whether that  
23 creates a larger window of opportunity for RG&E, or  
24 some other owner of Ginna, to build a new reactor,

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1 without having to go through a site permitting  
2 process?

3 MR. SCHAAF: On the site?

4 MR. JUDSON: On the Ginna site, yes.

5 MR. SCHAAF: Any action of that nature  
6 would be required to undergo a separate review and  
7 licensing process.

8 MR. JUDSON: I understand that they would  
9 need to get a new reactor license. But when they  
10 built Ginna, or when they build a new reactor on a new  
11 site, that is currently unused for nuclear reactor  
12 operation, that there is a site permitting process  
13 that has to take place.

14 And whether, you know, if Ginna's license  
15 were to expire in 2009, without a renewal, whether  
16 that would make it any more challenging for a new  
17 operator, or RG&E to build a new reactor on-site,  
18 rather than do it under an extended license for Ginna?

19 MR. SCHAAF: Maybe you could restate the  
20 question?

21 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Well, I think that  
22 the idea is that does either approval of the  
23 application to renew the license, or disapproval, does  
24 that have any implications in terms of early site  
25 permit. And we will go to John Tappert for that.

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1                   MR. TAPPERT:   And the answer is no.   I  
2                   mean, if they were to decide to build a new reactor  
3                   there it would require a new site permit, a new  
4                   operating license.   So there are completely separate  
5                   issues associated with the relicensing of the current  
6                   plant.

7                   FACILITATOR CAMERON:   Okay, thank you,  
8                   John.   Yes?

9                   MS. ANDERSON:   I'm Bernadette Anderson,  
10                  Webster.   And my question is, there are a number of  
11                  nuclear power facilities on the New York side of Lake  
12                  Ontario.   Canada has 12

13                  When you do the environmental impact  
14                  statements do you then also take into consideration  
15                  what is the impact of this conglomerate of plants that  
16                  exist in this area?

17                  MR. SCHAAF:   Part of NEPA requires an  
18                  assessment of cumulative impacts.   So that is  
19                  something that we consider.

20                  FACILITATOR CAMERON:   And is that -- NEPA  
21                  requires us to look at cumulative impacts, and based  
22                  on prior experience, and doing these types of  
23                  environmental impact statements for license renewal,  
24                  have we looked at that specific type of cumulative  
25                  impact?

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1           In other words, a number of nuclear power  
2 plants in the vicinity? And we will put that, that  
3 definitely will be considered, obviously, a comment as  
4 something that you are suggesting that we do look at,  
5 at a minimum.

6           Have we ever had any experience with those  
7 types of situations?

8           MR. SCHAAF: I want to say the licensing  
9 efforts, the relicensing efforts, we've gone through  
10 to date, it has been different situations as far as  
11 the bodies of water.

12           I don't know, did you want to touch on  
13 that, Mike?

14           FACILITATOR CAMERON: This is Mike Masnik,  
15 again.

16           MR. MASNIK: Yes. You know, under NEPA we  
17 are required to look at cumulative impacts. And we do  
18 look at, you know, multiple units at a site, for  
19 example, their impact.

20           And if there are other sources of impact  
21 we have to factor that into our assessment. So your  
22 comment is a good one, and we certainly will look at  
23 the cumulative impacts of all the units around the  
24 lake.

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1 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Great, thank you for  
2 the comment. Tim, did you have another --

3 MR. JUDSON: Sure, it is just a follow-up  
4 to my previous question. Because, you know, this is  
5 sort of a convoluted process that I feel that we are  
6 going through with the relicensing, as well as other  
7 regulatory issues.

8 But I guess one of the things I'm  
9 wondering is, if Ginna were not to receive a license  
10 extension, then it would have to shut down in 2009.  
11 And prior to that, you know, initiate a decommissioning  
12 and site cleanup process, you know, through preparing  
13 plans for how they were going to do that, that they  
14 would have to submit to NRC and begin preparing, you  
15 know, the reactor complex and the site for that.

16 And would that complicate, in any way, the  
17 submission of an early site permit application to  
18 build a new reactor on site, or to begin that kind of  
19 preparation, has that ever happened before, and what  
20 is the anticipation?

21 MR. MASNIK: Mike Masnik, again. Yes,  
22 we've had licensees that have permanently ceased  
23 operation at a location, but have not proposed a new  
24 nuclear plant, but have proposed alternative energy  
25 sources.

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1           For example, a fossil plant of some sort.  
2           We would certainly require, or we certainly require  
3           oversight, and we provide oversight of the  
4           decommissioning. And if there was any other power  
5           facility planned for the location we would have to  
6           consider both the impact of that power facility on the  
7           decommissioning, and if a licensee chose to put a  
8           nuclear plant there, we would have to consider the  
9           impact of the decommissioning on the construction of a  
10          plant.

11           But as John Tappert mentioned earlier,  
12          they are separate processes. That is a fairly small  
13          site. And, you know, I think it would certainly  
14          require a good hard look by our agency, on any  
15          proposal to build another plant there.

16                  FACILITATOR CAMERON: Tim, let's get one  
17          more question.

18                  MR. JUDSON: So would those considerations  
19          be in, you know, the NRC's regulation of the  
20          decommissioning, or would it have to also do with the  
21          consideration of the site permit application to build  
22          a new reactor?

23                  MR. MASNIK: We are getting very  
24          hypothetical here. But, again, the decommissioning, as  
25          you decommission a facility, you have to be concerned

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1 with other activities that occur around it. And under  
2 the license for the facility, under the license of the  
3 decommissioning facility, there are certain  
4 requirements to make sure that activities in the  
5 vicinity of the plant are done in such a manner that  
6 it doesn't jeopardize the decommissioning plant, and  
7 vice versa.

8 It would be of concern during the  
9 construction of a new facility, if it was proposed.  
10 But I think, you know, I think we are really getting  
11 hypothetical. I certainly would talk to you about it  
12 after the meeting, if you want.

13 FACILITATOR CAMERON: The short answer  
14 seems to be that it would have to be considered from  
15 either perspective, as Mike pointed out.

16 Let's move on to -- thank you very much,  
17 Bob. Let's move on to hear from some of you more  
18 formally. And usually what I like to do is to hear  
19 from local officials first, and then give the utility,  
20 in this case, a chance to just briefly explain what  
21 their vision is behind their application.

22 And I just want to check, is Cathryn  
23 Thomas here? Okay, we are going to go to Michael  
24 Havens, who is the school superintendent for the Wayne  
25 Central School District.

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1           And, Michael, if you could join us up  
2 here? Probably would hopefully be convenient for all  
3 of us.

4           MR. HAVENS: Good afternoon, and first let  
5 me thank the NRC for giving us this opportunity to  
6 comment on the possible relicensing of the Ginna  
7 Nuclear Power Plant.

8           My comments this afternoon are going to be  
9 fairly general, and probably pretty brief. Again, my  
10 name is Michael Havens, I'm superintendent of the  
11 Wayne Central School District.

12           Wayne Central educates about 2,900  
13 students, and is located in the towns of Ontario,  
14 Walworth, parts of the towns of Webster, Marion,  
15 Williamson, and Pennfield.

16           The Ginna Nuclear Power Plant is located  
17 within our school district, and so you can see that we  
18 have considerable interest in its future. And, in  
19 fact, it is approximately six miles from the main  
20 campus where we have two elementary schools, a middle  
21 school, and a high school.

22           So understand where we are coming from.  
23 And let me say, with that, that provided that Energy  
24 East maintains the level of support for the Ginna  
25 Nuclear Power Plant, that has been demonstrated by

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1 RG&E, I am in support of relicensing the nuclear power  
2 plant.

3 And I say that for three primary reasons.  
4 First of all, it has been an excellent corporate  
5 neighbor. Secondly it provides a substantial tax base  
6 for the school district. And, thirdly, it provides a  
7 good standard of living for our families, and to my  
8 students.

9 Let me talk about the first, which is the  
10 economic tax base. And I do not put this in any  
11 particular order of importance.

12 The power plant has provided approximately  
13 15.8 million dollars in revenue over the last five  
14 years. It provided 3,182,172 dollars to the tax base  
15 just last year; 29.9 percent of the local taxes that  
16 we collect come from Ginna.

17 Consequently the loss of Ginna would be an  
18 economic disaster for the school district, and  
19 taxpayers.

20 Secondly, it has been a good corporate  
21 neighbor for us who live here in the Wayne Central  
22 School District. And I live approximately eight miles  
23 from the nuclear power plant.

24 And while I must admit that the thought of  
25 a emergency at the plant is frightening to all of us,

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1 particularly to me who is responsible for the safety  
2 of those 2,900 children, I also realize that Ginna is  
3 recognized as one of the best run power plants in the  
4 nation.

5 I have confidence in the plant manager,  
6 Joe Widay, and his people who run the site. We also  
7 are comfortable that it is a secure site, especially  
8 with the addition of the National Guardsmen, more  
9 recently.

10 The Wayne Central School District  
11 practices annual emergency drills and we feel  
12 confident we are prepared to deal with an emergency,  
13 should there be one.

14 I would also say that the plant has been  
15 a good neighbor. Mr. Biendenbach and his people have  
16 allowed us to use their manor house for training, to  
17 house some of the programs for our special needs  
18 children.

19 When we have a need RG&E has always been  
20 there. After 9/11 when all of us were very concerned  
21 about the safety of the plant, Rick Wyatts, Joe Widay,  
22 others volunteered to come to the school and run  
23 programs for us. They have been a good corporate  
24 neighbor to us.

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1 Thirdly, it has to do with the standard of  
2 living for my children. Ginna provides approximately  
3 500 RG&E jobs at its plant. In addition there are  
4 about 300 related jobs through private contractors.

5 Now, most of those people live in my  
6 school district, and they are parents of my  
7 schoolchildren. My children live in decent homes, and  
8 have middle class values, and middle class  
9 opportunities because of Ginna.

10 Because of this we believe we can offer  
11 the best of both worlds. We live in a pleasant rural  
12 community, but we have the benefits of a suburban type  
13 school district.

14 So, in conclusion, Ginna has been good for  
15 the Wayne Central School District, its community, and  
16 its children. And as long as Energy East maintains  
17 the existing level of care, we are supportive of its  
18 relicensing.

19 We look forward to a continued long  
20 relationship with RG&E, its partner Energy East, and  
21 the Ginna Nuclear Power Plant. Thank you.

22 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,  
23 Superintendent Havens.

24 Now I'm going to ask Bob Mecredy, from  
25 Rochester Gas and Electric, to tell us a little bit

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1 about their rationale, their vision behind the license  
2 renewal application.

3 Bob is the site vice president at Ginna.  
4 Bob?

5 MR. MECREDY: Thank you. Good afternoon,  
6 and welcome. I'm Bob Mecredy, I'm vice president of  
7 nuclear operations for RG&E and responsible for the  
8 operation of Ginna.

9 Ginna began operation in 1969 and has been  
10 a reliable part of the RG&E system and the state's  
11 power supply, ever since. The plant's output is about  
12 half of RG&E's retail customers, what they use  
13 annually.

14 The mission of everyone who works at, and  
15 who supports Ginna, is simple; safe, reliable, and  
16 economical operation, with the safety of the public  
17 and our workers being our number one priority.

18 And our core values include being a good  
19 neighbor and a good steward of the environment in  
20 which we operate. Since start-up our focus has been  
21 to continuously improve in all aspects of our  
22 operation, the performance of our people, the  
23 processes and procedures, and the plant design and  
24 equipment.

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1 More than 500 people at Ginna are highly  
2 experienced, well trained, and committed to that  
3 mission. Visitors at Ginna regularly comment on the  
4 teamwork and commitment that is demonstrated by our  
5 employees and all who work at Ginna.

6 Without exception every employee at Ginna  
7 that is provided with training is subjected to testing  
8 to ensure that we can maintain the plant's exemplary  
9 performance.

10 We continue to improve our training based  
11 on improvements in technology, benchmarking and best  
12 practices that we bring back from others in the  
13 industry, and feedback from our workers as they  
14 identify better ways to gain the skills and knowledge  
15 that they need to do their job.

16 We have a simulator that is an exact  
17 duplicate of the main control room, and we use that to  
18 train our operators, and other members of our staff.  
19 The operators, for example, spend one week in every 7  
20 in training, every single year.

21 And that is after an extensive initial  
22 qualification program of over a year that is required  
23 for an operator to earn his or her NRC license. We  
24 have extensive processes and procedures that cover  
25 virtually every aspect of our operation.

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1                   We have almost 5,000 procedures that cover  
2 operations, maintenance, inspection, engineering,  
3 training, independent assessment, security, as well as  
4 abnormal and a wide range of emergency, unlikely  
5 emergency response scenarios.

6                   These also are improved on a continuous  
7 basis, based on our experience, and others in our  
8 industry, and elsewhere. People, processes, and  
9 procedures come together in emergency preparedness.

10                  Our emergency response is conducted in  
11 accordance with a formal plan, and is thoroughly  
12 tested by Federal agencies. We have drills several  
13 times each year to test ourselves.

14                  The emergency preparedness plan has been  
15 continuously improved. But emergency planning at  
16 Ginna is not done in a vacuum, it is very much a team  
17 effort. Our partners include Wayne and Monroe  
18 Counties, and the state of New York, among others.

19                  All total about 1,000 people are part of  
20 our emergency response team. When we drill the plan  
21 we have to meet rigorous standards set by the NRC and  
22 FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency. And  
23 our record is good.

24                  We, and our partners, constantly  
25 demonstrate our ability to protect the health and

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1 safety of the public. The emergency plan has only one  
2 focus, and that is safety.

3 We began operation in 1969 with a robust  
4 plant design, and proven equipment. And over the  
5 years we have performed extensive maintenance on that  
6 equipment to ensure continued reliable operation.

7 At our refueling and maintenance outages,  
8 conducted every 18 months, we perform over 1,000  
9 individual maintenance activities, and many more  
10 inspections. And this is in addition to the ongoing  
11 maintenance and inspections that are performed between  
12 the refueling and maintenance outages.

13 Our goal is to provide our operators with  
14 the right equipment performing flawlessly. Over the  
15 years we have improved and replaced a wide range of  
16 equipment. Most notable, at least from outside the  
17 plant, we replaced the two steam generators in 1996,  
18 taking advantage of improved materials and technology,  
19 and ensuring continued reliable operation.

20 We have also replaced heat exchangers,  
21 pumps, and motors. We have taken advantage of  
22 technology in replacing our plant process computer,  
23 instrumentation, and the like.

24 We replaced the computer that powers our  
25 control room simulator, the one the operators train

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1 on, with a PC based technology. This has allowed us  
2 to expand the range of training we provide the  
3 operators, and to take that PC based system into the  
4 classroom, for other training.

5 And it is instructive to talk about the  
6 reactor vessel head, in terms of inspections and  
7 replacements. In the early 1990s, based on French  
8 experience, we began to perform additional  
9 inspections, visual inspections, on our reactor vessel  
10 head.

11 In 1999 we took the opportunity, with our  
12 extended ten year end service inspection to do  
13 detailed, non-destructive examinations, and visual  
14 inspections, of our vessel head.

15 In each of those cases we saw no  
16 degradation, no defects. We performed additional  
17 inspections, both non-destructive examinations, and  
18 visual inspections, in our most recent refueling  
19 outage, in 2002. And, again, saw no degradation, and  
20 no defects.

21 Nevertheless, looking to the future, even  
22 just to 2009, we reached the conclusion to replace  
23 that reactor vessel head to provide us an economic  
24 benefit, and to give us additional margin and

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1 assurance. That vessel head will be replaced in the  
2 fall of 2003, our next refueling outage.

3 Security at the plant has received  
4 additional scrutiny and attention since the tragic  
5 events of September 11th, 2001. RG&E has over 30  
6 years experience in nuclear plant security. The  
7 approach has never been relaxed, nor has it been  
8 static. It has been continually improved, continually  
9 advanced, and continually toughened, from the day the  
10 plant started into operation.

11 And since September 11th we have devoted  
12 several million dollars in additional resources and  
13 equipment. Our security force is numerous, it is well  
14 armed, and it is supported by sophisticated technical  
15 surveillance, and intrusion detection systems.

16 Plant security is founded on a sound, very  
17 conservative, plant design. The reactor containment  
18 is a steel reinforced concrete structure that is three  
19 feet thick.

20 And more recent testing, and analysis,  
21 seems to indicate that these designs would, indeed,  
22 withstand aircraft impacts. We have multiple safety  
23 systems that support the security and the safety of  
24 the plant.

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1           And just as with emergency preparedness,  
2 plant security is conducted with a formal plan, which  
3 is thoroughly reviewed by the Nuclear Regulatory  
4 Commission, supported by others.

5           We communicate frequently, and work  
6 closely with a wide range of law enforcement and  
7 governmental agencies, including county law  
8 enforcement, state police, the FBI, the Coast Guard,  
9 the National Guard, and others.

10           And to ensure the reliability and  
11 trustworthiness of the workforce, everyone who works  
12 at Ginna is subject to detailed background checks  
13 before they are granted plant access.

14           We do take security seriously. And  
15 security at Ginna, and all other nuclear plants is  
16 under constant review and evaluation. We cooperate,  
17 fully, with these reviews, because we believe any  
18 system can be improved.

19           The care and attention that we pay to our  
20 people, our processes, our procedures, and our  
21 equipment, does make a difference. It has enabled us  
22 to achieve continuing improvements, and safety and  
23 reliability of our operation.

24           Last year we set a new record for longest  
25 continuous period in operation. And since start-up

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1 from our refueling and maintenance outage this past  
2 spring, we have been online, and serving our  
3 customers, for over 200 days, without interruption.

4 Based on this record of solid performance,  
5 and on the research we conducted while preparing our  
6 application for the renewal of Ginna's operating  
7 license, for the additional 20 years, we submitted the  
8 application and asked the NRC for its approval.

9 We believe it is important to retain the  
10 option to operate the plant for the extended period,  
11 thereby contributing to the overall power supply in  
12 the state and, importantly, to the energy mix in the  
13 state.

14 As I mentioned at the beginning of the  
15 presentation, Ginna is one of the key providers of  
16 energy for the consumers in the RG&E service  
17 territory. Its 490 megawatts are important for  
18 moderating energy prices in this region and, indeed,  
19 in the state.

20 Virtually every new power plant in New  
21 York depends on natural gas as the fuel of choice.  
22 And as we have learned, in the past several years, the  
23 price of natural gas can fluctuate greatly. This  
24 means that the price of electricity from gas fired  
25 power plants, would also correspondingly fluctuate.

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1           To further complicate matters, even for  
2 those new plants receiving siting approval, plant  
3 developers are finding it difficult, to impossible, to  
4 obtain financing.

5           The New York state power plant siting law  
6 is scheduled to expire at the end of this year. And  
7 a number of older plants may need substantial new  
8 investment, if it is available, to meet new  
9 environmental standards.

10           If Ginna's baseload output is removed from  
11 the inventory of available capacity and energy, the  
12 result could be a significant upward pressure on  
13 electric prices.

14           But Ginna is more than a power plant  
15 operated by highly skilled workers. We are, indeed,  
16 as Mr. Havens has commented, part of the community.  
17 Ron Fellows, one of our operations control room  
18 supervisors, and the president of the plant branch of  
19 the American Nuclear Society, will make some comments  
20 on that contribution.

21           But beyond that our employees give back to  
22 the community in a variety of ways. They serve on  
23 school boards, and town boards, as Scout leaders and  
24 sports coaches, they support day care centers, and

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1 senior centers. They serve on ski patrols, and they  
2 train guide dogs.

3 Our employees raised money to donate a  
4 defibrillator to the Ontario Volunteer Ambulance  
5 Service. We partner with the Wayne Central School  
6 District by providing them with the space for their  
7 Eagles Ventures program, a program for those students  
8 who can benefit from an alternative educational  
9 program, and setting.

10 We continue to participate, on an annual  
11 basis, in the science and exploration days of the St.  
12 John Fisher College, contributing to interest in  
13 science on the part of the young people in the  
14 community, and we participate in the Annual Day of  
15 Caring, among others.

16 Let me speak, now, to the environmental  
17 aspect of our operation. It is our goal to have a  
18 minimum impact on our environment. Most visibly is  
19 the way we have worked from the days of initial design  
20 and construction to blend into our environment.

21 It is difficult to hide a 480 megawatt  
22 power plant, but we are proud of the apple orchards,  
23 the red barns, the flowers, and the wooded settings,  
24 that do help us blend into the countryside.

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1           Just as we do at home we minimize the  
2 impact that our waste stream can have, so an active  
3 recycling program for paper and cardboard products.  
4 Surplus lumber and paint have been donated to the  
5 Habitat for Humanity.

6           We work at minimizing all aspects of  
7 solid, gaseous, and liquid waste, setting a variety of  
8 improvement goals each year. Overall we have seen no  
9 adverse impact, over the years, on wildlife and  
10 aquatic species.

11           In conclusion we remain committed to  
12 operating safely, reliably, and economically through  
13 the current period and, if approved, into the extended  
14 period. But we will only operate if the plant is  
15 safe.

16           We remain committed on being a good  
17 neighbor, and a good steward. I, and the rest of the  
18 people at Ginna, look forward to serving you and  
19 meeting the needs of our community in the years to  
20 come. Thank you.

21           FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,  
22 Mr. Mecredy. We are now going to go to Ivette Torres,  
23 who is going to read a couple of statements, I  
24 believe, from some local officials.

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1                   And Ivette is a public affairs specialist  
2 with Rochester Gas and Electric.

3                   MS. TORRES: Good afternoon, my name is  
4 Ivette Torres, public affairs specialist at Rochester  
5 Gas and Electric.

6                   The first letter comes to us from Mr.  
7 Frank J. Guelli, supervisor, town of Woolworth. Mr.  
8 Guelli addresses the letter to Mr. Robert G. Schaaf,  
9 Office of Nuclear Regulatory Regulation.

10                  Dear Mr. Schaaf: I am the town supervisor  
11 of the town of Woolworth, located in Wayne County, New  
12 York, near the R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant, owned  
13 by Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation.

14                  I'm writing you in support of RG&E's  
15 application for an operating license extension. The  
16 plant has been operated safely and reliably for more  
17 than 30 years. It is a responsive neighbor to my town  
18 and county.

19                  The plant is a substantial taxpayer in my  
20 county, and provides several hundred jobs. I have  
21 confidence in the management of the plant. I believe  
22 this operating record is worthy of relicensing.  
23 Sincerely, Mr. Frank Guelli, Supervisor, town of  
24 Woolworth.

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1           The second letter is from Mr. Channing H.  
2 Philbrick, Supervisor, Town of Penfield. It is  
3 addressed to Mr. Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director,  
4 License Renewal and Environmental Program.

5           Dear Mr. Kuo: Although I'm not able to  
6 attend the public Hearing at the Webster, New York  
7 public library, on Wednesday, November 6th, 2002, I  
8 wanted to convey my thoughts on the RG&E application  
9 for renewal of its facility operating license for the  
10 Ginna Nuclear Power Plant for an additional 20 years.

11           The town of Penfield has had an excellent  
12 working relationship with RG&E, and they have always  
13 been very responsive in dealing with questions and  
14 concerns that we may have.

15           Continuing to provide service from the  
16 Ginna plant for an additional 20 years is important to  
17 our community, and we strongly support this  
18 application.

19           It is important to note that nearly half  
20 of the power provided through RG&E comes from the  
21 Ginna plant. It has proven to be a safe and  
22 dependable source of electricity for our community.

23           The impact on the environment has been  
24 negligible. I visited the plant on at least two  
25 occasions, and have been impressed with the

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1 professional management of the site, and the high  
2 level of security maintained for this facility.

3 Again, I'm sorry that I'm not able to  
4 personally attend the hearing on the 6th, but wanted  
5 to convey my strong support for this application to  
6 extend the operating license for the Ginna Nuclear  
7 Power Plant for an additional 20 years. Sincerely,  
8 Channing H. Philbrick, supervisor, town of Penfield.

9 Thank you.

10 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you very  
11 much, Ivette.

12 Next we are going to go to Susan Gateley,  
13 and then we will hear from Roland Micklem, and then  
14 from Tim Judson. Susan? And Susan is from Lakeshore  
15 Environmental Action.

16 MS. GATELEY: I guess I will read, because  
17 I'm not a very good speaker. I'm a freelance writer,  
18 and I do better writing than I do trying to talk.

19 I guess the purpose of the scoping meeting  
20 is to identify significant issues. A number comes to  
21 mind. I will concentrate on only a few of them.

22 The world is a very different place than  
23 it was back in the early 1960s, when Ginna was built.  
24 Cold War pressures which prompted our government to

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1 fund the research and engineering for power plants  
2 like Ginna have given away to terrorism concerns.

3 Commercial nuclear power plants once seen  
4 as vital to our national security, are now seen as  
5 vulnerable to terrorist attacks. And today there are  
6 more efficient, cleaner, and safer ways to make  
7 electricity.

8 When Ginna was built there was no such  
9 thing as the National Environmental Policy Act, the  
10 legislation that mandates the environmental impact  
11 statements that we just heard about for the last half  
12 hour.

13 And if Ginna were being considered, today,  
14 in this place, it might not be built under that  
15 legislation. Lake Ontario is now home to 16 nuclear  
16 plants, a tritium recovery facility, a uranium  
17 refinery, and at least two low level radioactive waste  
18 dumps at Lewiston and Port Hope.

19 Most of these plants were built after  
20 Ginna. Ginna is one of the oldest plants on the lake.  
21 That is a big cumulative impact on the lake. It is  
22 used by more people every year, as a water source.

23 I understand Newark may be expanding the  
24 water district that will now tap into Lake Ontario  
25 water. I could be wrong, but I do know that more and

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1 more municipalities are depending on Lake Ontario  
2 water.

3 All of these plants, when they are  
4 operating, all of these facilities, release some  
5 radioactivity. Some of it has a very short half-life  
6 of days or weeks, some of it, like tritium, has a  
7 longer half-life of 12 years, some is very long-lived.

8 That brings me to point number two. When  
9 the plant was new, we did not have 40 years of  
10 radiation being released. Radiation exposure has  
11 cumulative health effects. That is why most skin  
12 cancers show up later in life.

13 As power plants operate they expose the  
14 population, and the environment, to an ongoing burden  
15 of exposure. And just as an aside to this, outside of  
16 scoping, many scientists do not accept threshold dose  
17 and hormises as valid, no matter what the HPs say.

18 So the longer these plants operate  
19 basically the more dose, cumulative, the population  
20 receives. Population around Ginna, number three, is  
21 much higher than it was when the plant was built.  
22 This is no longer a rural area, it is now a suburban  
23 area.

24 Even without increased population many  
25 people believe the present emergency ten mile

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1 evacuation zones should be expanded, because of other  
2 concerns, such as the terrorism issue.

3           Ginna should not be relicensed until this  
4 is done. When the plant was built there was no spent  
5 fuel on the site. It was supposed to be removed.  
6 Politics and logistics are leading other nukes to use  
7 dry cask storage on-site. Will this plant, how long  
8 will it be there, what about security for it?

9           Terrorist concerns, we hear how safe and  
10 secure the nuclear plants are with their guards, and  
11 lights, and fences, and bunkers. But there have been  
12 failures of plant security, and warning devices, at  
13 Ginna since September 11th.

14           Sirens failed tests. A contract worker  
15 apparently tested positive for drugs last spring.  
16 Many experts feel that the danger of attack lies from  
17 within the plant. There have been at least two cases,  
18 that we know of, since September 11th, where employee  
19 background checks failed to catch workers who  
20 falsified information and omitted felony information.

21           Also the spent fuel pool is not in a  
22 hardened containment structure, it is more in  
23 something like a pole barn. It could be attacked and  
24 breached with a relatively small projectile, and there  
25 is plenty of radiation in it.

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1           Another very big change since Ginna was  
2 built is deregulation. This is changing the way these  
3 plants are operated. Ginna is coming up on 40 years  
4 now. Some of its components were designed to last its  
5 licensed life.

6           So it does need more care and monitoring.  
7 However, both the NRC and industry are trying to  
8 streamline regulation and reduce costs. Pressures to  
9 reduce costs to industry, along with possibly a little  
10 complacency, are what led to that hole in the reactor  
11 head at Davis Besse. That could have been a very  
12 serious accident on Lake Erie.

13           There have been many other age related  
14 failures besides this one. Nine Mile core shroud,  
15 that steam generator rupture in 1982 at Ginna was not  
16 anticipated; embrittlement of the reactor vessel,  
17 these all surprised the experts. There are probably  
18 going to be more surprises as these plants age.

19           One more change since the good old days of  
20 the AEC, the regulatory Atomic Energy Commission of  
21 the 1960s. Today the NRC must function in a political  
22 environment that stresses deregulation and less  
23 government spending.

24           The NRC has been like other agencies, it  
25 has been pressured to become more efficient. And for

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1 several years it has endured reduced funding, and a  
2 shortage of skilled technical workers.

3 In a speech two years ago, I don't know  
4 what the situation is now, but two years ago the NRC  
5 chairman said, despite efforts to hire new engineers,  
6 we have experienced a net loss of engineers over the  
7 past five years, about 8 percent of their workforce,  
8 engineering workforce.

9 We are losing expertise, and along with  
10 it, valuable institutional knowledge. That is a  
11 direct quote from his speech. The net effect of this,  
12 and failures to catch things like that Davis Besse  
13 hole in the head, is that there is less trust of  
14 institutions like the NRC, than there was of the AEC,  
15 40 years ago. And I think we see a little bit of that  
16 in this room today, less trusting public.

17 Finally, the world of energy production  
18 has changed since 1960. We really don't need nuclear  
19 plants any more. There are cleaner, safer ways to  
20 produce power. Denmark now gets about ten percent of  
21 its power from wind. Their goal is half by 2030.

22 California just passed a renewable energy  
23 requirement of 20 percent in 20 years. We could do  
24 this in New York. There have also been huge  
25 improvements in cogeneration technology, which is very

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1 much more efficient than the large centralized plants.

2           Ginna should not be relicensed. I would  
3 just add, I scribbled this down during the meeting,  
4 and then it was brought up by someone else, that a  
5 good environmental impact statement does consider  
6 alternatives. I'm glad to hear that they will be  
7 considering alternative ways of producing electricity.

8           Also an environmental impact statement  
9 does, or should, consider what they call secondary  
10 impacts. Which are something like you build a  
11 shopping mall, and then you attract other businesses  
12 to set up alongside it, so that the initial traffic  
13 load from the mall becomes greater 20 years down the  
14 road because of other things.

15           And that may be some of what Tim is  
16 driving at. By relicensing the plant you might  
17 encourage a future usage of that site, not necessarily  
18 another nuclear plant, but some other industrial usage  
19 of this slightly contaminated site that might not be  
20 compatible with the environment, or with the  
21 residential area.

22           So I'm concerned about thinking about  
23 those secondary impacts, what this woman referred to,  
24 those 20 year out impacts. Is my time up? I've got  
25 one more paragraph.

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1 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Go ahead.

2 MS. GATELEY: We should also, as a  
3 condition, I would like to see this done. We should  
4 have easier access to the radiation release data for  
5 the entire lake, not just Ginna, all the other  
6 facilities.

7 Winds of radiation do not respect boundary  
8 lines. I would like to see a database, a good  
9 compilation of this information, that would be in an  
10 easy to access format, and it should be sent to each  
11 town hall, and to each library within 25 miles of each  
12 of these power plants, not just Ginna.

13 The governments of the U.S. and Canada do  
14 not make it easy to get this data now. I think  
15 somebody asked a question about that, and I think the  
16 fellow said it could be compiled. But has it been  
17 compiled, or do we have to do this as citizens? That  
18 is not an easy process to do.

19 In fact I think Tim mentioned that a lab,  
20 a technical institution used to compile this data for  
21 Ginna, but apparently it is no longer available. I  
22 think that definitely should be a condition of  
23 relicensing.

24 I spent about 20 minutes, all right, 10  
25 minutes, maybe 20 is an exaggeration. But I spent

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1 quite a while looking at the NRC website the other  
2 day, trying to figure out when and where this meeting  
3 was. I'm sure it is posted on there, but I had a hard  
4 time finding it.

5 Okay, our elected officials and public  
6 health people should have the information about  
7 radiation releases, it should be in an easy to use  
8 database, it should be available to the public. This  
9 is important as these plants get older.

10 And one other thing I haven't heard  
11 anybody talking about, Canada is also undergoing  
12 deregulation of their public utilities. This should  
13 be factored in as part of the impact of keeping this  
14 plant going.

15 I'm almost done. I guess it was about 40  
16 years ago, time goes by, that I heard my father, Lee  
17 Peterson say at the dinner table, we used to live  
18 about a mile from the plant, that nuclear plants are  
19 a really complicated way to boil water.

20 They are complicated, they are inherently  
21 dangerous. That is why we have security guards down  
22 there. And they are relatively inefficient compared  
23 to newer technology.

24 That is why we are so concerned with  
25 relicensing and regulating them. There might be

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1 alternatives here. There is a very smart fellow that  
2 designs green buildings, and he says that regulation  
3 is a result of design failure.

4 Nuclear power is one of the more regulated  
5 industries around. The solution is not to deregulate  
6 it, or to extend it, or relicense it, but to eliminate  
7 it, to phase it out, like they are doing in Sweden and  
8 Germany. We could do it right here, we could start  
9 right here in Wayne County.

10 And as far as that tax base concern there  
11 could be other things, perhaps even another generating  
12 facility, that would be safer and cleaner, that could  
13 pick up some of that economic and tax concern, and it  
14 could even enhance the area's economic activity.

15 So, thank you.

16 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,  
17 Susan. Roland? Roland is also with Lakeshore  
18 Environmental Action.

19 MR. MICKLEM: I'm not going to attack  
20 nuclear power plants so much as the whole concept of  
21 development. And most of it seems to be driven by  
22 economics.

23 And I'm not talking about -- I know that  
24 the presence of a power facility, good corporate  
25 neighbors, makes the economics of it, people --

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1 supplies people with jobs. We can relate to the  
2 schools, the whole works.

3 But I think that my concern is that  
4 nuclear power, along with a lot of inventions of the  
5 20th century, was just simply opening a Pandora's box.  
6 And we never looked down the road to see what the  
7 consequences of them were going to be.

8 Right now, the automobile, we didn't  
9 realize that it would be one of the things that was a  
10 prime suspect in causing global warming, just as we  
11 didn't realize that nuclear power plants, for all of  
12 their advantages, have one flaw, which to me is the  
13 most serious one of all.

14 And I don't know a lot of statistics, I  
15 can't quote a lot of this, but my big concern is what  
16 happens to the waste from all of the thousands of  
17 nuclear power plants around the country, that we keep  
18 accumulating the waste, and keep piling it up, and  
19 keep stockpiling it with half-life of thousands of  
20 years, without any concern for what is going to happen  
21 to the people in the future that will have to deal  
22 with it.

23 Even though right now it seems like the  
24 main thing that is driving it is economics, that if  
25 money weren't involved, if power plants, if you

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1 weren't going to lose money by making various and  
2 sundry changes, then it wouldn't be such a large  
3 issue.

4 So I guess my concern is we shouldn't let  
5 the economics drive the picture. But we need to look  
6 at the consequences, the health and welfare  
7 consequences, not only of this generation, but future  
8 generations.

9 That is about it.

10 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,  
11 Roland. Next we are going to hear from Tim Judson of  
12 Citizens Awareness Network.

13 MR. JUDSON: Thanks. My name is Tim  
14 Judson, and I'm with the Citizens Awareness Network.  
15 We are a grass roots volunteer group of people who  
16 live in reactor communities, mostly in the northeast.

17 And I live in Syracuse. I work, I'm in  
18 Oswego, so I'm much more affected, myself, by the Nine  
19 Mile and Fitzpatrick reactors. So, you know, so  
20 coming here I realize that I'm not part of the host  
21 community.

22 And I want to thank the NRC for answering  
23 our questions today, for attempting to do that. But  
24 with all due respect, to the NRC representatives here,  
25 I believe, and CAN believes, that the NRC's review of

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1 this question of extending Ginna's operating life for  
2 another 20 years is really inadequate to protect the  
3 public health and safety.

4 And that is because of some of the  
5 questions that we've asked today, such as, you know,  
6 whether -- it is important what the material condition  
7 of the reactor is at this point. You know, it sounds  
8 really scientific, we got a lot of really scientific  
9 answers to that, how it is going to be dealt with.

10 But, essentially, the NRC supports  
11 relicensing of reactors as a policy. And the NRC, the  
12 Nuclear Regulatory Commission appointed by the  
13 President, has given directives to the NRC staff to  
14 facilitate the relicensing, and the construction of  
15 new reactors, and revised the rules on the relicensing  
16 process to make that more possible, to make it easier.

17 And so what we are stuck with is this  
18 process in which it is really difficult for the public  
19 even to challenge the relicensing of a reactor at this  
20 point. It is really difficult for the public to even  
21 intervene in this process, with all the issues that  
22 are really relevant, like the questions that people  
23 have been raising today.

24 So in that sense, you know, it doesn't  
25 seem like this is the place to have our concerns

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1 addressed. And there is a number of groups here who  
2 are going to be appealing to the Public Service  
3 Commission in New York state to be involved in this  
4 process, and to oppose the relicensing.

5 And I know that when we are opposing the  
6 relicensing, essentially what we are saying is that  
7 the reactor should shut down. And, you know, I live  
8 in Syracuse, I work in Oswego county, I understand the  
9 terrible impact that people can conceive of when we  
10 talk about shutting down plants in this region.

11 Fulton, I don't know if people realize it,  
12 but Fulton is losing another 500 jobs, because of the  
13 closing of the Nestle Plant. And it is really painful  
14 to see that.

15 We also realize that, you know, nuclear in  
16 many ways is a special case. And right now what we  
17 have to deal with, inevitably, is the reality that  
18 nuclear power plants in this country are potential  
19 targets for terrorist attacks on civilians in America.

20 And that is an issue that I didn't even  
21 want to really look at, until 9/11. My concerns about  
22 nuclear power were, after having grown up in reactor  
23 communities, living in one, had to do with just the  
24 day to day consequences of having a reactor in the  
25 community, and the way that it divides people, the way

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1 that people suffer from illness around reactors, and  
2 the ways in which it corrupts the political system in  
3 the community.

4 With 9/11 it is sort of the trump card,  
5 and the threat of terrorism. People talk about the  
6 increase in security at Ginna. It is true, you know,  
7 people are hiring a few more security guards. In New  
8 York we have the National Guard providing some extra  
9 service, which is another subsidy, to deal with the  
10 inadequacy of the industry's ability to deal with the  
11 security problem.

12 But the truth is that security isn't an  
13 adequate response to it. The reactor sites,  
14 themselves, are structurally vulnerable. People,  
15 there is a lot of focus on whether the containment at  
16 Ginna could withstand an airliner impact, you know,  
17 whether or not the plane goes through the containment,  
18 there is a lot of collateral damage that could cause  
19 a severe accident.

20 But, you know, the high level waste, the  
21 irradiated fuel, the spent fuel on site is in an  
22 unprotected building. It is not -- there is no  
23 containment around the spent fuel pool, and that has  
24 more radioactive material in it than the reactor ever  
25 has.

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1           So when you conceive of the fact that the  
2 NRC's estimates from 1982, just for a meltdown, were  
3 that 2,000 people in the immediate vicinity could die,  
4 and that 28,000 people within 40 miles could be  
5 hospitalized, and that there could be, you know, 63  
6 billion dollars in property losses to the surrounding  
7 area, you know, this is really incredible.

8           And to think that, you know, that there  
9 aren't people who realize the damage that that could  
10 cause to our economy, and to our society, is not worth  
11 it to keep it going.

12           And what actually, you know, what is  
13 afforded to us at this point is the fact that Ginna,  
14 you know, if it doesn't get relicensed has seven years  
15 to plan for a shutdown.

16           And while as an anti-nuclear person it is  
17 hard for me to say, you know, keep it running for  
18 another seven years. It affords us an opportunity to  
19 plan for the phase-out, and to plan for what is going  
20 to happen in terms of jobs, and in terms of property  
21 taxes, and in terms of the economy.

22           And we would all be a lot safer. Whether  
23 or not you think that, you know, Ginna should be  
24 relicensed or not, nobody can deny that we would be a  
25 lot safer if, you know, the nuclear power plants were

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1 shut down, and the nuclear waste that was on-site was  
2 secured.

3 We would all be a lot safer, there is no  
4 doubt about that. So why not take the chance that we  
5 have now, rather than let R. E. Ginna go forward, and  
6 charge the repairs for the process of relicensing this  
7 reactor, for any retrofits that it goes through, and  
8 deal honestly with the question of whether RG&E is  
9 going to sell this plant.

10 I mean, RG&E is the subsidiary of a  
11 corporation that doesn't invest in generation at this  
12 point. And the pattern in the RG&E, sold its other  
13 nuclear power plant to a private operator.

14 The truth is that if RG&E wants to sell  
15 this reactor, and get the liability off its hands, it  
16 has to relicense it. Nobody is going to buy a nuke  
17 that has only 7 years left on its license.

18 And that is the truth, that is the reality  
19 that we are faced with at this point. And whether,  
20 you know, RG&E to give them credit, has been a better  
21 neighbor than a lot of, than the other nuclear  
22 operators in this state.

23 But the companies that are coming in and  
24 taking over these reactors aren't. And Oswego is  
25 already having problems with property taxes going up,

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1 because the new companies can't afford to pay the high  
2 bills that they paid in the past. And they are, you  
3 know, preparing to reduce the size of the workforce.

4 This is the future coming. And it makes  
5 sense, right now, to take a proactive stance in this  
6 situation, to make sure that the future of what  
7 happens with Ginna is a positive one for the  
8 community, rather than stretching this out in an  
9 ongoing experiment. Thanks.

10 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you. We  
11 are going to next hear from Cathryn Thomas. And  
12 Cathryn is the town supervisor for the town of  
13 Webster. Cathryn?

14 MS. THOMAS: Thank you, and welcome to the  
15 Webster Library. Thank you for holding your meeting  
16 here at what we think is our really great facility  
17 here.

18 As I have been introduced, I'm the town  
19 supervisor right here in Webster. And I don't feel  
20 comfortable, to tell you the truth, getting into the  
21 whole debate about whether or not we should have  
22 nuclear power, and have nuclear power plants.

23 But -- and I'm sorry that I had a conflict  
24 at another meeting, and I wasn't here. I just got  
25 here a short while ago and I'm going to have to leave

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1 after this, because I have a really tight schedule  
2 these days.

3 And I know I might be repeating some of  
4 the comments. I certainly know that Channing  
5 Philbrick, who is the Penfield supervisor, one of my  
6 colleagues, had sent a letter.

7 And I probably don't need to go through  
8 all the pros, also, in the sense of some of the  
9 advantages that we do have, as I say, not talking  
10 about whether we should have nuclear energy or not, a  
11 plant.

12 But a lot of things, talking about the  
13 jobs, and talking about the economic impact. I just  
14 can't imagine taking a facility with the assessed  
15 value that that plant has out of a town just like  
16 Webster, and what the impact would be.

17 I mean, we could probably sit down and  
18 even crunch numbers, but it would be significant. And  
19 it would be even more significant, would be my guess,  
20 from my -- what I see as a relative relationship  
21 between what the town of Ontario is like, and what the  
22 town of Webster is like.

23 So certainly you are going to have an  
24 impact there with that reduced assessed value should  
25 that not have a plant, or some facility there. And,

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1 of course, the job impact too. And I don't think we  
2 can really minimize it, in the economy these days.

3 The jobs, I know a lot of people right  
4 here in Webster, and in the surrounding area, do work,  
5 rely on their jobs at the plant. So there certainly  
6 are the economic factors that are a certainty would be  
7 negative.

8 But what I can really talk about with you  
9 is the experience that I have had working with the  
10 people at RG&E, running the plant, in the town right  
11 adjacent to the town of Webster. And all of those  
12 experiences have been very positive, and I only view  
13 all of those people as very, very professional, and  
14 very caring, and very interested in running, I think  
15 there was an admission about the people that are there  
16 now, in RG&E, and how they run the Ginna facility, and  
17 how well they have done.

18 And they really do an exemplary job, and  
19 I'm just telling you that that has been my personal  
20 experience. They -- after 9/11, and as I say, we  
21 think about things a lot differently now than we did,  
22 there were extra meetings right out at the plant to  
23 look at -- and they don't reveal everything to me,  
24 just like they are not going to, to the general  
25 public, which is obvious.

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1           But to give us some additional level of  
2           assurances of the security factors in place, really  
3           that had been in place for an extended period of time,  
4           for the history of the plant, up until 9/11, and  
5           additional measures that had been thought of since  
6           that event.

7           And that was very reassuring, and I'm  
8           regularly communicated to from representatives of RG&E  
9           about what is going on, and any updates, and anything  
10          that I need to know, and that my community,  
11          potentially, needs to know I'm aware of.

12          I have never been surprised, and all of a  
13          sudden read something in the paper, or heard a rumor,  
14          or anything like that. They are very good at letting  
15          us know everything that we need to know, when we need  
16          to know it.

17          And I, in turn, feel that is important in  
18          representing the people, that I then let the people of  
19          Webster know, when I pass that along to them, and I  
20          always check my facts with RG&E before I do that, so  
21          I make sure I have everything going out correctly to  
22          the public.

23          So, as I say, you know, the plant is  
24          there, and I know people have very strong feelings on  
25          either side of whether or not we should have that

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1 energy. I don't know, I know it would be a very big  
2 impact, also, to replace all of the energy that is  
3 generated by the plant.

4 You know, we are very fortunate in New  
5 York state that we have had the capacity that we have  
6 had, that all of the energy suppliers have been able  
7 to supply, with a very large increase in demand, as  
8 time goes on, with technology and electricity, and a  
9 lot of those issues.

10 And you heard about, a couple of years  
11 ago, how terrible it was to live out in California,  
12 and be a resident, and try to run a business out there  
13 with the rolling blackouts, or brownouts, or whatever  
14 they were having, and we have not had any of those  
15 types of experiences, at least in this part of New  
16 York state, and not that I'm very widely aware of,  
17 throughout our state.

18 And to think that we would have to find  
19 something to replace that. And if we were not to  
20 relicense a lot of these facilities around the state,  
21 and the country, we would have to find a whole lot of  
22 things to replace a lot of that energy that is being  
23 created, that is just another side of what is to be  
24 looked at.

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1                   But very specifically all of the  
2 experiences that I have had dealing with the people,  
3 that is the core of what RG&E is, the people who  
4 specifically run the plant out there.

5                   And we have very good people, not speaking  
6 about myself personally, but on the government side,  
7 with the office of emergency preparedness. And I  
8 don't know the people in Wayne County, but I do know  
9 Muffy Misenthal, and Sandy McCluso are two of the top  
10 people in the Monroe County Office of Emergency  
11 Preparedness, and they work even much more closely  
12 than I do with the Ginna people as far as putting  
13 together all the plans, and then we are trained to  
14 follow the plans, and what is involved in all of them.

15                   So, as I said, it is a very professionally  
16 run operation, and they have given me every assurance  
17 that they are -- you know, these people live here,  
18 too, in this area, and they don't want anything to  
19 happen to their facility as much as everyone else  
20 doesn't.

21                   Does that mean that absolutely positively  
22 nothing could ever happen to it? Of course not, that  
23 would be naive. But absolutely anything could happen  
24 anywhere, any time, as we really did experience on  
25 9/11 that I'm sure no one had even imagined anything

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1 as tragic as happened on that date would, might have  
2 ever happened anywhere, and it did.

3 So -- but you have to weigh all of the  
4 practical realities of what do we need, do we need  
5 this energy, is it good to have the jobs, is it good  
6 to have the economic impact of having a plant there,  
7 against all of the things that a lot of the other  
8 people spoke about.

9 You know, we talked about -- somebody just  
10 mentioned political corruption, I don't know exactly  
11 what that reference was to, but as I said, all the  
12 people that I work with from RG&E have been good and  
13 professional people. And I do trust the people who  
14 have a lot more expertise in this area, at the higher  
15 levels of our state government.

16 I don't know to what role the PSE in New  
17 York state would ever play in this, but then you have  
18 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and those are the  
19 people that have the expertise, and that I will rely  
20 on to make the right decision.

21 Long-term is it a good idea to make the  
22 licensing, but if they are making their decision, or  
23 a part of their decision is based on historically how  
24 has the facility run, and what is the impression of  
25 people about it, my impression is that the facility is

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1 run in a very excellent manner, and the people that we  
2 deal with to run it are very good, and caring, and  
3 professional people.

4 And I can just tell you that because that  
5 has been my experience with them, so I wanted to pass  
6 that along. Thank you very much.

7 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Cathryn.  
8 And next we are going to go to Ron Fellows, and then  
9 we are going to hear from Joel Van Schaffel, Ron  
10 Behan, and Dr. Loomis. Ron Fellows.

11 MR. FELLOWS: Thank you very much. I was  
12 asked by RG&E to provide you, the audience, the few  
13 examples of how our society, the American Nuclear  
14 Society Ginna plant branch interrelates with the  
15 immediate communities around Ginna, and Monroe  
16 Counties.

17 As Bob Mecredy introduced me, my name is  
18 Ron Fellows. I hold a senior reactor operator's  
19 license for the Ginna facility, where I'm a control  
20 room supervisor.

21 I've worked with RG&E since 1985, and I'm  
22 currently the American Nuclear Society's Ginna Plant  
23 branch chair. I've been in that position for  
24 approximately three years.

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1           A little bit about the American Nuclear  
2 Society. The American Nuclear Society is a not-for-  
3 profit international, scientific, and educational  
4 organization. It was established in the 1950s by a  
5 group of individuals who recognized the need to unify  
6 the professional activities within the diverse fields  
7 of nuclear science and technology.

8           The American Nuclear Society's Ginna plant  
9 branch falls under the northeastern section of the  
10 American Nuclear Society. Back in the early 1990s,  
11 when deregulation was the topic in the utility  
12 business, a bunch of us in the industry had a grave  
13 concern for questions that were being raised by  
14 members of the community.

15           Today you witnessed some of those concerns  
16 that have been brought up by concerned citizens, and  
17 I applaud them for bringing forth their grave concerns  
18 to ensure that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is  
19 going to take under consideration when they decide to  
20 renew the, or deny the renewal, of the RG&E Ginna's  
21 facility.

22           We had to come up with a goal for the  
23 plant branch outside of the American Nuclear  
24 Society's, and the plant branch goal at Ginna is to

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1 increase the awareness of the general public about the  
2 aspects of nuclear power.

3 We decided to do that through three  
4 committees, public information, and education, and  
5 recognition. Since early 1992, when we were formed,  
6 we have been asked by various community organizations,  
7 such as PTAs, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts, 4H  
8 groups, various universities, St. John's Fisher  
9 College, the University of Rochester, just to name a  
10 few, to provide guest speakers on the topic of nuclear  
11 power and the atom.

12 We've also provided to the community, with  
13 support of RG&E, tours to our facility, mainly  
14 elementary, middle school and high school students,  
15 but as well as other professional organizations.  
16 Thousands of students have visited Ginna's training  
17 center, where we've covered various topics, radiation  
18 exposure to how we ensure the safety and health of the  
19 general public, through a system that we call safety  
20 in depth.

21 Students have been able to try on the  
22 little canary outfits you might be familiar with, from  
23 news organizations, we call them anti-contamination  
24 clothing, which they got a kick out of, to have a

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1 better understanding of how we prevent the spread of  
2 contamination.

3 We've had students visit the Ginna  
4 simulator, which was referenced earlier. It is an  
5 actual mockup of the control room, a facility that  
6 operators such as myself train on, periodically, and  
7 annually given a rigorous exam to maintain our license  
8 proficient.

9 Ginna had just completed, successfully,  
10 their annual exam for the operators at Ginna. We also  
11 participate in New York state's Adopt A Highway  
12 Program, the American Nuclear Society's Ginna Plant  
13 Branch is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness  
14 of areas on Route 104 between Knickerbocker and North  
15 Slocum Road. It is about two and a half miles.

16 We have been doing that for pretty much 11  
17 or 12 years, and we meet about three times a year to  
18 maintain that area clean.

19 A lot of support in that from the  
20 communities and businesses along the highway. They  
21 have come out and personally thanked me for our  
22 efforts in maintaining that clean.

23 One of my biggest accomplishments for the  
24 American Nuclear Society's Ginna plant branch is an  
25 excellent SCRAM. If you visit our display table

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1 outside you will see where we proudly display a plaque  
2 in the plant that shows the recipients of that award.

3 For the last nine years, this will be the  
4 tenth in December, we have awarded a local school,  
5 elementary, middle or high school, a thousand dollar  
6 grant to be used for various school supplies otherwise  
7 not covered by their budgets.

8 To be nominated they must be nominated by  
9 a plant branch member. They are then invited to fill  
10 out an application specifying what they plan on doing  
11 with the funds, and then when we receive those, we  
12 invite them to attend a day long workshop that we  
13 normally have held at the Ginna nuclear facility.

14 After September 11th we did hold one final  
15 workshop at Ginna, and we did not bring any of the  
16 teachers, unfortunately, on site as we did in years  
17 past. There is a lot of interesting concerns teachers  
18 have.

19 They have a hard time explaining the  
20 nuclear waste. It is an issue, and it is of  
21 importance. But what they are fascinated in seeing is  
22 that it is very minimal in quantity.

23 Now, I didn't come to debate the aspects,  
24 pros and cons, obviously I'm biased. But what this  
25 excellence grant does is educates the educators, so

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1 that they can take back to the classroom resources  
2 that they can present, in an unbiased fashion, to  
3 their students so that they can make their own  
4 rational decisions as to what we are going to do.

5 Electricity is a commodity, in my opinion  
6 we shouldn't deregulate it. Electricity is a  
7 commodity that we rely on in our daily lives, from the  
8 time you get up in the morning to the time you go to  
9 bed at night.

10 I know my kids love it with their  
11 Nintendos, and their computers, and their remote  
12 control, that I never had, their satellites, I can  
13 talk forever.

14 So the excellence grants, I'm proud to  
15 say, that is a major accomplishment of the Ginna plant  
16 branch. We have awarded it for the last nine years.  
17 The funds come from membership dues, various fund  
18 raising events, and personal donations.

19 This year, in December, we are  
20 collaborating with the central New York Health  
21 Physicists Society, where we plan on having speakers  
22 from nuclear medicine, and the fission project at the  
23 University of Rochester.

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1 I was told I only had five minutes to  
2 speak, so I close. I can talk forever, if you would  
3 like.

4 I'm 41 years old, I live 11 miles due  
5 south of the plant. I actually have, I have a  
6 teenager, a 16 year old daughter, and a 13 year old  
7 boy. Those are not fun years, if anyone has ever been  
8 there before.

9 But I've got a family, I've got friends.  
10 I have been the PTA president for my school district,  
11 I've been a Boy Scout leader, I've been a coach. A  
12 lot of members of our plant branch are volunteer  
13 firemen.

14 We participate in various fundraisers. On  
15 Sunday -- there is a young gentleman, this past  
16 summer, who passed away at the age of 10, and we are  
17 having a fundraiser for the individual, in his name,  
18 and we are having a volunteer firemen versus the  
19 Ginna, the football coaches, a flag football game. I  
20 invite you all out to participate, of course there is  
21 a small contribution requested.

22 But it is things like that, that make me  
23 proud to be part of Ginna, and the community. We've  
24 got nothing but full support from the members of the  
25 community. We've talked in great detail with

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1 concerned scientists on the subject, and a very open  
2 minded, unbiased logic, train of thought.

3 And I hope that with the concerns they  
4 bring up today, the society becomes more intelligent  
5 in making decisions that the Nuclear Regulatory  
6 Commission has to make on the renewal of Ginna's  
7 license.

8 And, in closing, the American Nuclear  
9 Society's Ginna Plant Branch is obviously in favor,  
10 and fully supportive of extending Ginna's license for  
11 20 years. Thank you.

12 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you very  
13 much, Ron. Let's go to Mr. Van Schaffel.

14 MR. VAN SCHAFFEL: My name is Joel Van  
15 Schaffel, I represent Millwrights Local 1163. We've  
16 had the opportunity to work very closely with RG&E at  
17 the Ginna station on their turbine decks, as well as  
18 in their maintenance shops, over the years, including  
19 the building of the place.

20 The membership in my local has been there  
21 from day one, pretty much. So we have been through all  
22 the refuels, and it has been a good time there. We've  
23 seen a lot of changes with Ginna, we've seen the  
24 updates they've done, they've done a very good job

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1 protecting the workers there, along with the  
2 surrounding areas.

3 The people always seem to come home in  
4 good shape, they have learned a lot, they've been well  
5 educated while they were there. Thank you.

6 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you very  
7 much, Mr. Van Schaffel. And let's go to Mr. Behan.

8 MR. BEHAN: Good afternoon, my comments  
9 will be very brief. My name is Ron Behan, I'm  
10 President of the Rochester Building and Construction  
11 Trades Council.

12 Rochester Building Trades represents over  
13 15,000 working families in the Rochester area. I'm  
14 here today to speak in favor for the renewal of the  
15 operating license for the Ginna Nuclear Power Plant.

16 The reason is very simple for us, it is  
17 jobs for our members who live in this community.  
18 Since the plant was built the Rochester Building  
19 Trades have been involved with the building of the  
20 plant, and supplementing the RG&E personnel when it  
21 comes to maintaining this plant.

22 During shutdowns at the plant RG&E has  
23 always made sure that subcontractors have hired local  
24 craftsmen to do their work. This has provided good

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1 paying, safe jobs for the people that live in this  
2 community.

3 I wish more corporate citizens would take  
4 the time to do due diligence to make sure that their  
5 work goes to the people that work in the community.

6 I want to end by saying that I have worked  
7 at Ginna nuclear power house, I have worked at Indian  
8 Point, I have worked in Seabrook, I've worked in Nine  
9 Mile 2, I have worked in the Fitzpatrick plant in  
10 Oswego.

11 And I think we all should realize, and  
12 appreciate what a well-rounded efficient plant that  
13 RG&E has at Ginna. And I can only say that I hope  
14 that the NRC goes through with the licensing, it would  
15 mean a lot to this community. Thank you.

16 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Mr.  
17 Behan. And next Dr. Loomis.

18 DR. LOOMIS: Thank you for the opportunity  
19 to participate in the first ever public hearing  
20 regarding Ginna outside of the town of Ontario.

21 I'm a family doc, now retired, bought an  
22 old cobblestone house on Lake Road in Ontario. Almost  
23 immediately after we signed, got our mortgage, RG&E  
24 bought the property on three sides of us. So I think

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1 we have the distinction of living the closest, of  
2 anybody, to the Ginna plant.

3 We lived there 32 years. And this, by the  
4 way, is a co-generated report, my wife and myself.  
5 She was on the town board. I had all sorts of reasons  
6 to be very concerned about safety at this plant.

7 One had to do with the personal nature,  
8 two I was town health officer and remain the town  
9 health officer for the town of Ontario. And I had  
10 some real concerns early on.

11 We raised three kids, enjoyed the rural  
12 setting. We found RG&E to be a good neighbor. We  
13 now, I tell people we got scared, we moved a mile away  
14 downwind from the plant.

15 One of the concerns we talked about  
16 alternative sources of power. One of our major  
17 concerns, after RG&E bought it, was not the nuclear  
18 side of things, but were they going to put gigantic  
19 piles of coal about 600 or 800 feet behind our house.

20 And then I found out, in some of the early  
21 stuff, that it generated more radiation than did the  
22 plant. So we were supporters at the start. And I  
23 did, for the town, a great deal of work regarding the  
24 safety of all this.

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1           One of the early concerns was, well, was  
2 the plant going to blow up? That was a real concern.  
3 Secondary is what happens to the waste products. We  
4 were assured, by the Federal government, I don't  
5 recall it was -- I believe it was the AEC at the time,  
6 that this material would be trucked away.

7           And indeed, for a while, I believe it did  
8 go to West Valley, until its closure. We believe the  
9 license should be renewed because the positive factors  
10 outweigh the negative.

11           On the plus side we need energy for our  
12 homes, and for our places of employment. We do not  
13 want to have brownouts here. Ginna provides jobs for  
14 our local residents. RG&E, now Energy East, is a  
15 significant contributor to the tax base in the town of  
16 Ontario.

17           This has enabled Ontario to maintain a  
18 reasonable tax rate, and we hope this continues. RG&E  
19 has been a good neighbor. They have been sensitive to  
20 the immediate neighborhood by keeping the rural  
21 setting of orchards and acres of green space.

22           Being an immediate neighbor, they were  
23 responsive to our questions and concerns. And we  
24 found them always to be very up front. My major beef  
25 was what I call light pollution. And on cloudy

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1 nights, particularly in the winter, the snow is  
2 orange, but it hardly has to do with the safety.

3 At a professional level I participated in  
4 the development of emergency planning, participated in  
5 drills, and had the opportunity to observe, first-  
6 hand, the management team, some of whom are here  
7 today, and their attentiveness to safety and health  
8 physics departments, and to their consultants.

9 Energy East must be observed by regulatory  
10 agencies to see that the advice of these valuable  
11 employees continues to be carefully considered. Both  
12 to their benefit, and to the town of Ontario, Bear  
13 Creek Harbor was improved to provide public access to  
14 Lake Ontario, and to the fishermen who, in the past,  
15 loved to fish the warm waters off Ginna.

16 We have three concerns on the negative  
17 side. When Ginna started this operation, in 1970, the  
18 spent nuclear waste was trucked out of this area to  
19 West Valley. This was changed several years ago and  
20 the waste is now stored on-site.

21 We believe that the local citizens should  
22 know when this spent fuel will be removed from the  
23 present site. The answer to this issue should be part  
24 of the permitting process.

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1           The Federal government has the  
2 responsibility for this, and has committed billions of  
3 dollars to the proper storage of spent nuclear fuel.  
4 When will this happen?

5           In the past there has been a problem in  
6 establishing an assessed value of Ginna for local  
7 property tax purposes. Although this is a local and  
8 state issue, the relationship between Energy East and  
9 the town of Ontario is a key factor in establishing a  
10 fair assessed value.

11           Although the ultimate assessed value of  
12 the property lies with the local assessor, it is hoped  
13 that the good relationship with the town established  
14 by RG&E will continue.

15           Energy East, albeit a new arrival, has yet  
16 to establish its credentials as a good neighbor, with  
17 commitment to the health and welfare of Ontario, and  
18 the surrounding area.

19           In closing, we ask two questions. Why  
20 wasn't there much notice of this local meeting here  
21 today? And I would -- well, why was the hearing not  
22 held in the town of Ontario? We have facilities that  
23 range between 100 people and 1,400 if they are  
24 necessary.

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1           And I asked the question earlier, were we  
2 going to have additional meetings. I would hope that  
3 if you do, that you do it in the town of Ontario,  
4 where local residents can participate easily. Thank  
5 you very much.

6           FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Dr.  
7 Loomis. And your last two comments on notice and  
8 location of the meeting will -- we are going to take  
9 that into serious consideration.

10           And it just reminds me that we do have  
11 something called a -- it is called a feedback form,  
12 but it is an evaluation form of NRC meetings. And if  
13 you could just take a few minutes to give us your  
14 thoughts, criticism, in terms of notice, or whatever,  
15 things that we did well, we would appreciate that.

16           And I think that is the end of the  
17 speakers for this afternoon's session. And I would  
18 just like to thank you, from my perspective, for your  
19 excellent questions and your excellent comments. And  
20 I guess I would just ask John Tappert, even though we  
21 have senior management here with us, this is usually  
22 his show.

23           Do you have anything, John, that you want  
24 to close out the meeting?

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1                   MR. TAPPERT: No, just to echo Chip's  
2 thoughts. We appreciate people taking time out today  
3 to come out here and participate in the process. It  
4 is an important part of our scoping review, and we  
5 a p p r e c i a t e       y o u r       t i m e .

6                   And the Staff will be staying after the meeting  
7 if you want to talk to anyone on a one on one basis.

8                   (Whereupon, at 4:00 p.m. the above-  
9 entitled matter was concluded.)

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