

# Official Transcript of Proceedings

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

Docket Number: 50-244

Location: Webster, New York

Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2002

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Pages 1-57

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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 - EVENING SESSION

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Wednesday,

November 6, 2002

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The meeting was held at 7:00 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

(7:00 p.m.)

1  
2  
3 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Good evening,  
4 everyone. We are going to get started with tonight's  
5 meeting. My name is Chip Cameron, I'm the Special  
6 Counsel for Public Liaison, in the Office of General  
7 Counsel at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

8 And I would like to welcome you to the  
9 Nuclear Regulatory Commission's public meeting  
10 tonight. And it really is your meeting, it is a  
11 public meeting. And the topic that we are going to  
12 talk about tonight is the NRC's review of a request  
13 that we received from Rochester Gas and Electric, to  
14 renew the operating license for the Ginna Nuclear  
15 Power Plant.

16 And my job tonight will be to serve as  
17 your facilitator for the meeting, and in that role I'm  
18 going to try to help all of you to have a productive  
19 meeting.

20 You will hear some more detail on what the  
21 objectives of the meeting are tonight. But basically  
22 we want to make sure that we clearly explain the NRC's  
23 review process on this license application that we  
24 received, and to hear your comments, your  
25 recommendations, your advice on what the scope of the

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1 environmental review should be for this license  
2 application, what types of information should we look  
3 at, what types of impacts should we consider, what  
4 alternatives should be looked at.

5 You will be able to submit written  
6 comments on these issues, if you want, and the Staff  
7 will tell you how to do that. But we are here to talk  
8 to you in person tonight. And let me emphasize, that  
9 anything that you say tonight will carry the same  
10 weight as a written comment that we receive.

11 In terms of the format for the meeting,  
12 basically, we are going to have two parts to the  
13 meeting. The first part is to give you information  
14 about the NRC's review process for license renewal,  
15 and answer your questions on that process.

16 The second part of the meeting is to give  
17 you an opportunity to give us some more formal  
18 comments on these issues, and we will ask you to come  
19 up here to address us later on tonight.

20 The ground rules are real simple. If you  
21 have something that you want to say, just signal me  
22 and I will bring you this talking stick, and please  
23 give us your name and affiliation, if appropriate.

24 We are taking a transcript of the meeting,  
25 that is the record of the meeting, that will be

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1 available to anybody who wants to get a copy of it.  
2 I would ask that only one person speak at a time, so  
3 that we can give our full attention to whomever has  
4 the floor.

5 A third ground rule, try to be concise, if  
6 possible. I think we are going to have plenty of time  
7 tonight, but I do want to make sure that we get to  
8 hear everybody who wants to talk. So try to be as  
9 brief as you can. I know this is a complicated issue,  
10 so that can be difficult.

11 When we get to the formal comments, a  
12 guideline that I would like everybody to follow is to  
13 try to keep it in the five to seven minute range. If  
14 you go over that is fine, and I don't think we will  
15 have a problem with that, but try to follow a five  
16 minute guideline.

17 In terms of the agenda for tonight's  
18 meeting, what we are going to be covering, and who is  
19 going to be giving presentations, we are going to  
20 start off with Mr. John Tappert, who is right here,  
21 who is going to give you a brief welcome.

22 And I asked John to do that because he is  
23 the section leader of the Environmental Section in the  
24 License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program  
25 within the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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1           John's staff are responsible for doing all  
2 of the environmental reviews for any applications that  
3 we get for license renewal, such as the one that we  
4 received for the Ginna plant, but also for other types  
5 of environmental reviews, other types of facilities.

6           And in way of background, John been with  
7 the agency for approximately 11 years, he was a  
8 resident inspector at operating nuclear power plants.  
9 He has a bachelor's in ocean and aerospace engineering  
10 from Virginia Tech, and a master's degree in  
11 environmental engineering from Johns Hopkins  
12 University.

13           We are going to go to Russ Arrighi, who is  
14 right here. And Russ is going to give you the  
15 overview of the license renewal evaluation process,  
16 the safety review, the environmental review, how all  
17 that fits together.

18           And after Russ is done we will go out to  
19 you for questions. Russ is the project manager for  
20 the safety evaluation on the Ginna license renewal  
21 application. And he will tell you what goes into that  
22 safety evaluation.

23           Russ has also been with the agency for  
24 about 11 years. Before that he was at the Norfolk  
25 Naval Shipyard. He has served, as has John, as a

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1 resident inspector at operating nuclear power plants.  
2 And in terms of educational background, Russ has a  
3 bachelor's in chemical engineering from the University  
4 of Rhode Island.

5 So we will go out for questions after  
6 that. Then we are going to come back for a final  
7 presentation, and we are going to go to Bob Schaaf,  
8 who is right up here. Bob Schaaf, who is right here.

9 Bob is the project manager on the  
10 environmental review side of the Ginna license renewal  
11 application. I didn't mention it, but Russ is the  
12 project manager on the safety part of that review for  
13 the Ginna application.

14 Bob is going to tell you about the  
15 environmental review process that the NRC conducts,  
16 and he has been with the NRC for about 12 years. He  
17 has been a project manager for various nuclear  
18 reactors. These are the NRC staff that are  
19 responsible for supervising activities at that  
20 reactor, along with our resident inspectors, and we do  
21 have our residents with us tonight.

22 And Bob has worked at, I guess it is  
23 Charleston Naval Shipyard. He has a bachelor's degree  
24 in mechanical engineering from Georgia Tech. So that

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1 is going to be the NRC team who is going to be making  
2 presentations.

3 We have other NRC folks here to answer any  
4 questions that you might have. I would just thank all  
5 of you for being here with us tonight, for taking the  
6 time to help us with this important decision.

7 The Staff of the NRC, and also our expert  
8 consultants, who you will hear more about, will be  
9 here after the meeting to talk about any issues that  
10 you might want to talk about.

11 And with that I would ask John to come up  
12 and start us off. Thanks, John.

13 MR. TAPPERT: Well, good evening, and  
14 welcome. My name is John Tappert, and I'm the Section  
15 Chief of the Environmental Section in the Office of  
16 Nuclear Reactor Regulation. And on behalf of the NRC  
17 I would like to thank everyone for coming out tonight,  
18 and participating in our process.

19 As Chip said, there are several things we  
20 would like to cover today. I would like to briefly go  
21 over the purposes of today's meeting.

22 First of all, we want to provide a brief  
23 overview of the entire license renewal process, and  
24 this includes both the safety review, as well as the

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1 environmental review, which is the principal focus of  
2 today's meeting.

3 Then we will give you some additional  
4 information about our environmental review, which will  
5 assess the environmental impacts associated with  
6 extending the operating life of Ginna for an  
7 additional 20 years.

8 We will give you an idea of the issues  
9 that we are going to look at, the schedule that we  
10 will follow, and the opportunities for the public to  
11 participate in that process.

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

15 But first, let me provide some context for  
16 the entire license renewal process. The Atomic Energy  
17 Act gives the NRC the authority to issue operating  
18 licenses to commercial nuclear power plants for a  
19 period of 40 years.

20 For Ginna that operating license will  
21 expire in 2009. Our regulations also make provisions  
22 for extending that operating license for an additional  
23 20 years, as part of the license renewal program. And  
24 RG&E has requested license renewal for Ginna.

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1           As part of the NRC's review of that  
2 license renewal application we will be conducting an  
3 environmental impact statement. The initial part of  
4 that is called the scoping process, where we identify  
5 those issues which will require the greatest focus  
6 during our review.

7           And the principal purpose of this meeting,  
8 here today, is to receive your input into that scoping  
9 process.

10           And with that I would like to ask Russ to  
11 walk us through the safety portion of license renewal.

12           MR. ARRIGHI: Thank you, John. As John  
13 mentioned, my name is Russ Arrighi, I'm the project  
14 manager for the safety review portion of the license  
15 renewal application for the Ginna nuclear power plant.

16           The license renewal application is  
17 essentially broken down into two parallel paths.  
18 There is a safety review, which I'm in charge of, and  
19 there is also an environmental review.

20           The safety review essentially focus on the  
21 review and the inspection of the aging management  
22 programs for passive long-lived structure systems and  
23 components. And the reason why the Commission felt  
24 that these programs should be the focus of the license  
25 renewal regulation, is because the current regulatory

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1 process already ensures that the current licensing  
2 basis is maintained.

3 And things like emergency planning, and  
4 security plans are acceptably implemented. Now, there  
5 are components and systems that need to be constantly  
6 attended to. However, the maintenance processes don't  
7 explicitly look at the design capability to cope with  
8 long-term degradation of equipment.

9 So the renewal application focuses on  
10 those inspection programs, and the maintenance  
11 practices that are used to maintain the margins of  
12 safety.

13 The second review process is the  
14 environmental review, which Bob Schaaf will discuss  
15 shortly. I also want to mention that there is an  
16 independent review conducted by the Advisory Committee  
17 on Reactor Safeguards, or ACRS.

18 They review the renewal application, as  
19 well as the staff's safety evaluation. The Committee  
20 reports their findings directly to the Commission.

21 This figure, which is probably a little  
22 hard to see, but you have in your handout,  
23 demonstrates the license renewal process. The upper  
24 portion, we have the safety review, and the lower, we  
25 have the environmental review.

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1           As you can see from the illustration, the  
2 Staff's review of the application results in a safety  
3 evaluation report. That report is then reviewed by  
4 the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safety, ACRS. And,  
5 again, as I mentioned, they perform their own review  
6 of the application, in addition to our safety  
7 evaluation.

8           The ACRS will then hold a public meeting,  
9 that meeting is transcribed, oral and written  
10 statements can be provided during that meeting, in  
11 accordance with the instruction described in the  
12 notice in the *Federal Register*.

13           In parallel with the safety review, the  
14 staff performs a review of the environmental impact  
15 for continued operation of the plant. And, as Bob  
16 Schaaf will discuss later, the staff will issue an  
17 environmental impact statement on the facility, after  
18 it completes that review.

19           Now, the NRC's licensing process also  
20 includes a process for public involvement through  
21 hearings. These hearings are conducted by a panel of  
22 Administrative Law Judges, who are called the Atomic  
23 Safety and Licensing Board, or ASLB.

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1           That process requires a petition to be  
2 submitted to hold hearings. However, there were no  
3 petitions to intervene for the Ginna proceedings.

4           At the end of the review process the final  
5 safety evaluation report, the final environmental  
6 impact statements, the results of the NRC  
7 inspections, and ACRS recommendations, are used by the  
8 Agency in determining whether we should grant the  
9 license application, the renewal application.

10           Throughout the process, interested members  
11 of the public who are concerned about nuclear safety  
12 issues can raise those issues in various public  
13 meetings.

14           There are meetings on particular technical  
15 issues which are normally held in the NRC headquarters  
16 in Rockville, Maryland. However, there are occasions  
17 where we may come in the local area to hold those  
18 meetings.

19           Also, at the end of our inspection, the  
20 result of that inspection will be held locally in the  
21 area, and the public is invited to attend those  
22 meetings.

23           In addition to those meetings, the staff  
24 holds two sets of public meetings to discuss the  
25 environmental aspects of the application. There are

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1 two meetings held on the scoping review, and today,  
2 this is the second of those two meetings.

3 And also there are two meetings that are  
4 held on the results of the review, during which the  
5 public can provide comments.

6 Essentially that is a brief overview of  
7 the license renewal process. I will now take  
8 questions regarding that.

9 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Russ.  
10 Are there questions on the process, anything that we  
11 could explain a little bit more fully?

12 Yes, sir, if you could just give us your  
13 name, please?

14 MR. ARNOLD: Charles Arnold. I'm a little  
15 confused as to who does the on-site inspection. Is  
16 that -- where does that come from? And then on the  
17 basis of that, of the evaluation reports, seem to be  
18 people reading paper, relative to somebody else saying  
19 it is all wonderful.

20 MR. ARRIGHI: The inspections are  
21 conducted by the NRC staff, normally for Ginna that  
22 will be Region One inspectors, there may also be  
23 inspectors from some of our other regions.

24 Regarding the review of the application,  
25 the safety review as you mentioned, that is

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1 essentially a review of the application that the  
2 licensee does provide us. From that review we do come  
3 up with questions that we have from the application.

4 At that point in time we will hold  
5 meetings with the utility, or with the Applicant. And  
6 also if there are other questions, as part of the  
7 inspection on site we will forward those questions to  
8 the NRC inspectors, who will then review the results  
9 at the site.

10 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Does that straighten  
11 out a little bit of the confusion?

12 MR. ARNOLD: Yes.

13 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. And if you  
14 have any more questions on that, just feel free to ask  
15 them. I thought maybe we should take the opportunity  
16 to introduce our senior resident at the Ginna plant.

17 And maybe you could just tell them a  
18 little bit about what the resident does, that might be  
19 useful.

20 MR. KOLACZYK: Thanks, Chip. My name is  
21 Ken Kolaczyk, I'm the senior resident inspector of the  
22 Ginna station.

23 And basically the daily life of an  
24 inspector involves coming to the facility, going to  
25 the control room, looking -- assessing how the plant

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1 is operating, then performing independent inspections  
2 of the utility, how they are performing maintenance on  
3 the facility, how well they are operating it.

4 And also, as you asked the question,  
5 perform document reviews, verifying that documents  
6 that have been submitted to the NRC are, in fact,  
7 accurate and truthful.

8 It is an ongoing process. I have an  
9 assistant working for me, and we are both covering the  
10 plant. We have free access to the facility, we can  
11 come on any, various hours. I will come in on a back  
12 shift to watch some of the testing that is done on  
13 midnight shifts, during the weekends and holidays.

14 And generally if there is any issue at all  
15 I have pagers, beepers, and I'm called and I will  
16 respond to the facility. So I could go into much more  
17 detail, but I think I only have five minutes to talk,  
18 so I will hold to that.

19 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much.  
20 Our residents are the NRC on-site presence at the  
21 plant, and in the community, also.

22 Other questions on the safety aspects of  
23 the review?

24 (No response.)

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1 FACILITATOR CAMERON: All right. Thank  
2 you very much.

3 MR. ARRIGHI: If there are no other  
4 questions I will turn it over to Bob Schaaf to discuss  
5 the environmental review.

6 FACILITATOR CAMERON: All right.

7 MR. SCHAAF: Thank you, Chip, thank you  
8 Russ.

9 My name is Bob Schaaf, I'm the  
10 environmental project manager for the Ginna license  
11 renewal application. I'm going to spend a few minutes  
12 discussing the environmental review process, and how  
13 you can participate in that process.

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

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

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1           The NEPA process for license renewal  
2 results in an environmental impact statement, also  
3 called an EIS, which describes the results of the  
4 detailed review we do to evaluate the environmental  
5 impacts of a proposed action that may significantly  
6 affect the quality of the human environment.

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

14           The NRC considered the environmental  
15 impacts of renewing nuclear power plant operating  
16 licenses for up to 20 years, in the Generic  
17 Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of  
18 Nuclear Plants.

19           Our catalog number for that is NUREG-1437,  
20 also known as the GEIS, or commonly referred to as the  
21 GEIS. In the GEIS, the Staff identified and assessed  
22 92 environmental issues related to license renewal.

23           With regard to these issues the Staff  
24 concluded that the environmental impacts for 69 of  
25 these issues, referred to in the GEIS as category 1

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1 issues, were adequately addressed for all plants, and  
2 would not need to be addressed for individual license  
3 renewal applications.

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

8 New and significant information can be  
9 identified by the applicant, in this case RG&E, by the  
10 NRC, or through public comments that we receive during  
11 the scoping process. These plant specific reviews are  
12 to be included in a supplement to the GEIS.

13 At this point we are in the process of  
14 gathering information we need to prepare the  
15 supplement to the GEIS. In particular, at this stage,  
16 we are performing what we call scoping.

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

22 In particular we are looking for  
23 information that may not be readily available, or  
24 environmental concerns that you might have, that may  
25 not have been addressed by RG&E in their application.

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1                   This slide describes the objective of our  
2 environmental review. As stated here the Staff is  
3 trying to determine whether the adverse environmental  
4 impacts of license renewal, for R.E. Ginna, are so  
5 great, that preserving the option of license renewal  
6 for energy planning decision makers would be  
7 unreasonable.

8                   To paraphrase, we are trying to determine  
9 whether or not renewing the Ginna license for an  
10 additional 20 years is acceptable from an  
11 environmental standpoint.

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

17                   The NRC doesn't determine whether they  
18 actually operate for those additional 20 years. Those  
19 decisions will be made by RG&E, and by State  
20 regulators.

21                   It is possible that the utility could  
22 determine, after all of this, that it is not  
23 economically feasible to continue operating the plant.  
24 That is their decision.

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1           This slide gives a little more detail on  
2 the schedule time line of our environmental review  
3 process. RG&E's application was received on August  
4 1st of this year.

5           On October 10th we issued a notice of our  
6 intent to perform scoping, which we are doing now, and  
7 our intent to develop an environmental impact  
8 statement for the proposed action.

9           We are currently in a data gathering phase  
10 to determine the environmental impacts of renewing the  
11 license. After that we will develop a draft of the  
12 environmental impact statement, which we expect to  
13 issue for public comment in June of next year.

14           We will come back to this area in August  
15 of next year for another public meeting, to talk about  
16 the results of our review, and to give you an  
17 opportunity to provide us any comments you may have on  
18 our draft document.

19           After receiving and evaluating those  
20 comments, we will then develop the final environmental  
21 impact statement, which we expect to issue in January  
22 of 2004.

23           Yesterday, we went to the site to get  
24 familiar with the lay of the land, examine plant

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1 features of particular interest, and observe first-  
2 hand how the site interacts with the environment.

3 This week we are gathering information for  
4 evaluation from a number of different sources,  
5 including the documents sent to us by RG&E, and by  
6 reviewing documents contained at local agencies, and  
7 in archives in the area.

8 We also are meeting, and corresponding,  
9 with Federal, State, Native American, and other  
10 Federal agencies, and interested people from the local  
11 community, who may have information that will help us  
12 in our environmental evaluation.

13 We will also consider all comments  
14 received from the public during the comment period,  
15 which is open until December 11th.

16 Our team focuses on many environmental  
17 topics. This slide shows the range of areas we are  
18 reviewing. Impacts considered include everything from  
19 air quality to water use and quality, to effects on  
20 plants and wildlife.

21 We also look at what we call  
22 socioeconomics, how does the plant affect people's  
23 lives economically. And we consider environmental  
24 justice, which focuses our attention on the question  
25 of whether there are minority, or low income

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1 population groups, that may be disproportionately  
2 impacted by the proposed license renewal.

3 To prepare for the review we have  
4 assembled a team of NRC staff with backgrounds in the  
5 specific technical and scientific disciplines required  
6 to perform these environmental reviews.

7 In addition, and to supplement the  
8 technical expertise of the staff, we have engaged the  
9 assistance of several national laboratories to ensure  
10 that we have a well-rounded knowledge base to perform  
11 our review.

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

16 To summarize a few key dates from an  
17 earlier slide our schedule is to complete the scoping  
18 process by December 11th, when the public comment  
19 period ends.

20 After that, as I indicated, we will issue  
21 our draft environmental impact statement in June of  
22 2003, and we expect to issue a final document in  
23 January of 2004.

24 If you would like a copy of these reports  
25 sent directly to you, be sure and leave your name and

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1 mailing address with the registration desk, by putting  
2 your name and address on one of the blue cards.

3 This slide provides my phone number in  
4 case you have additional questions after you leave  
5 today. I'm the designated point of contact, within  
6 the NRC, for the environmental portion of the license  
7 renewal review.

8 Russell Arrighi, who spoke previously, is  
9 project manager for the safety evaluation report.  
10 Although I'm providing my phone number here, we still  
11 need to get your comments in a form that we can  
12 document, either in writing, or as Chip has indicated,  
13 through comments given here at this meeting, which is  
14 being transcribed.

15 The transcript will become the written  
16 record of your comments. Arrangements have been made  
17 for the documents associated with the environmental  
18 review to be available to you locally. These  
19 documents are located at the Ontario and the Rochester  
20 public libraries.

21 Also documents are available through our  
22 internet webpage. After this meeting comments can be  
23 submitted by mail, in person, or by email.

24 You can send specific written comments to  
25 us at the address shown. You can stop by in person,

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1 if you happen to be in the Rockville, Maryland area.  
2 Not too many people take advantage of that option, but  
3 it is available. You can also submit comments by  
4 email to the address indicated, and that is  
5 GinnaEIS@nrc.gov.

6 This concludes our formal presentation on  
7 the review processes. In closing I would like to  
8 thank you, along with Chip, John, and Russ, for your  
9 attention during our presentations, and for your  
10 attendance at today's meeting.

11 Public participation is an important part  
12 of the license renewal process, and it is especially  
13 important for our environmental review, as your  
14 knowledge of the area can provide valuable insights.

15 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,  
16 Bob. How about questions about the review? Yes,  
17 sir.

18 MR. SHEARS: My name is Don Shears, I live  
19 in Ontario. I understand the process you are going  
20 through, at this point in time, and you are going to  
21 issue a report in January of 2004.

22 What, and the license renewal is up in  
23 2009. I'm just curious as to what your participation  
24 is from that period on, until the end of their license

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1 in 2009, and how you would continue to investigate the  
2 environment, and impact of the area?

3 MR. SCHAAF: The licensee is required to  
4 submit annual reports of environmental monitoring that  
5 they perform, both for non-radiological impacts, and  
6 the impacts, any potential impacts from radiological  
7 effluents, and they maintain a sampling program.

8 They monitor any releases that occur from  
9 the site. So they submit the reports, we review  
10 those, we have an inspection, I believe, maybe Ken can  
11 speak to this, as part of the core inspection program,  
12 that looks at their environmental monitoring.

13 And, in particular, it looks at their  
14 effluent and radiological environmental monitoring  
15 programs.

16 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Does that answer  
17 your question? Does anybody else from the NRC want to  
18 add anything else on this?

19 MR. KOLACZYK: No, that is a great  
20 explanation. We do periodic inspections, we have one  
21 scheduled this December, to look at environmental  
22 releases and some of the reports. It is an ongoing  
23 process.

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1 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, so that  
2 inspection, just tell us a bit, for the record, about  
3 the December inspection.

4 MR. KOLACZYK: Well, as was already  
5 indicated, we do, as part of the routine inspection  
6 program, we do look at, we do perform our own  
7 independent review of the utility's effluent releases  
8 by performing routine inspections.

9 And, in fact, we do have one scheduled in  
10 the first week in December, where we have an inspector  
11 from our regional office in King of Prussia to look at  
12 some of the environmental reports that the utility  
13 submitted to us for reviewing.

14 He, in this instance, will come on site  
15 for a week and assess those reports, and any other  
16 issues that may rise out of his review, such as a  
17 routine program that goes on.

18 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much.  
19 Any other questions on the license renewal review  
20 process? Yes, go ahead and introduce yourself.

21 MR. GILLESPIE: I'm Frank Gillespie, I'm  
22 Deputy Director of the Division of Regulatory  
23 Improvement Programs.

24 And let me see if I can answer a part of  
25 the question that I don't think got answered yet. And

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1 that is what I'm going to call the irrelevance of  
2 2009.

3 In the licensing process, what you  
4 actually see happening here, is a relicensing of the  
5 facility. And when a new license is issued it will be  
6 issued for a term that goes 20 years beyond the  
7 original license.

8 The original license is, therefore,  
9 completely replaced. And it will be replaced with new  
10 commitments and conditions that the utility has put in  
11 this application, which will be in addition to its  
12 current license.

13 So, quite honestly, once we get past the  
14 issuance of the new license, the old license has gone  
15 away. So 2009 becomes not relevant. And, as Ken  
16 said, we then roll back into the normal monitoring  
17 process of day to day, which is just what exists  
18 today.

19 Did that answer it?

20 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you for adding  
21 that, Frank. Let's go over to John. And, John, if  
22 you could just give us your name and affiliation?

23 MR. GREENBAUM: My name is Jon Greenbaum,  
24 I'm with Metro Justice, and thanks for your answer.  
25 But actually it raised a question for me, which was

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1 the original application was for two nuclear reactors  
2 back in the '60s, and that is currently a possibility  
3 for RG&E, if they thought it was economically  
4 feasible.

5 That is, at least, my understanding, I  
6 talked to Joe Widay, earlier. But now you are saying  
7 the new license would change that? Or would that  
8 still -- like, here is the scenario.

9 RG&E is relicensed, RG&E sells the nuclear  
10 plant, and my understanding is that because it was  
11 spec'd out for two plants, that then the people who  
12 bought it, the energy company, would be able to build  
13 another one, it would be a possibility.

14 Does the relicensing change that?

15 FACILITATOR CAMERON: There is a couple of  
16 moving parts to this question, and one part is, even  
17 though there were two plants originally contemplated,  
18 can we address that aspect of it?

19 And then I think the second aspect is, as  
20 we heard this afternoon, what are the implications, if  
21 any, between license renewal, either grant or denial,  
22 and what is called the early site permit process,  
23 where utilities might try to come in and bank a  
24 portion of a site for a future plant.

25 Who would like to start us off with that?

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1 MR. TAPPERT: Regarding, I guess the first  
2 one was, it was scoped out for two units originally.  
3 And there were a number of sites around the country  
4 which were originally planned for more units than were  
5 actually built.

6 They don't have any special status as far  
7 as building new plants at any given time. If an  
8 Applicant were to apply to build and operate a nuclear  
9 power plant, it would have to come to the agency, and  
10 go through all the reviews that would be required of  
11 any new site.

12 So there is no special status, and  
13 certainly license renewal doesn't convey any  
14 additional status to the site, as well. It only  
15 applies to the unit that is there, it will be given a  
16 license to 2029.

17 If they were to apply to build a new power  
18 plant there, we would do another environmental impact  
19 statement, we would do another safety review, and we  
20 would look at those in the context of the environment  
21 as it is.

22 So we look at the cumulative impacts of  
23 the new project, as well as the existing plant. So  
24 does that cover your question? Is that consistent,  
25 Frank?

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1 MR. GILLESPIE: Yes.

2 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you. Other  
3 questions about the license renewal process, and what  
4 is going to be happening in the future, the NRC's role  
5 in this?

6 Yes, sir, and give us your name, again.

7 MR. ARNOLD: Charles Arnold. I'm curious  
8 as to whether or not the original license had some  
9 kind of a life span predicted for this facility? Also  
10 I'm very interested in whether or not the environment  
11 has been taken into account in terms of what happens  
12 to exhausted fuel.

13 I'm not good on terminology, I assume you  
14 can predict what I'm talking about?

15 MR. SCHAAF: I understand.

16 MR. ARNOLD: I assume that before we had  
17 this plant we did not have this as a problem.

18 FACILITATOR CAMERON: First question goes  
19 to the original license term. And I think it might be  
20 important to tell people why, what that original  
21 license term means in terms of safety, why was that  
22 selected.

23 And then there is the spent fuel question.  
24 Bob, do you want to start us off on the first one?

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1                   MR. SCHAAF: I'll take a run at that. The  
2 Atomic Energy Act permitted, restricted I guess I  
3 should say, license terms to 40 years. That is not a  
4 safety determination, per se.

5                   I believe it was more based on antitrust  
6 considerations. And so that is the basis for the 40  
7 year term. That is not to say, you know, the plant  
8 has been maintained, and parts replaced, and part of  
9 the review that will be conducted is whether, on the  
10 safety side is really Russ' area, but part of the  
11 review will look at the aging of structures and  
12 components that have not undergone replacement, to  
13 ensure that they are capable of operating for the  
14 additional 20 year period.

15                  FACILITATOR CAMERON: So the 40 years on  
16 Ginna would be 1969 to 2009?

17                  MR. SCHAAF: To 2009. And it is not a  
18 design life of the facility, it was -- the 40 year  
19 term is based on the restrictions in the Atomic Energy  
20 Act.

21                  FACILITATOR CAMERON: And the second  
22 question has to do with, it was Mr. Arnold used the  
23 phrase exhausted fuel, but the term we use is spent  
24 fuel that comes out of the reactor. Maybe it would be  
25 useful to just give people a brief overview of how do

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1 we regulate spent fuel, where is it going to  
2 eventually go to.

3 I think that is what you want to know?

4 MR. ARNOLD: Yes.

5 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Mike Masnik,  
6 NRC staff.

7 MR. MASNIK: Yes, Mike Masnik. Spent  
8 fuel, of course, is produced as the plant operates.  
9 And when these plants were initially licensed the  
10 expectation was that there would be a high level waste  
11 repository to ship the fuel for permanent disposal.

12 I'm sure most people here know about the  
13 ongoing efforts to license a facility, and it is  
14 called the Yucca Mountain facility.

15 The licensee has, at least initially,  
16 shipped some of its fuel, when it first started  
17 operating, to a facility here in New York state.  
18 However, that facility closed. So the spent fuel that  
19 has been generated since that time is being stored on-  
20 site.

21 Again, the expectation is that at some  
22 future date there will be a high level waste  
23 repository that that fuel will be shipped to. Some  
24 utilities have, quite frankly, run out of room to

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1 store their spent fuel, and have placed the fuel in  
2 dry storage in facilities on-site.

3 My understanding is that the licensee has  
4 a number of years before that is a consideration here.  
5 So it is sort of a trade-off. If the high level waste  
6 repository becomes operational they will be able to  
7 ship it there.

8 If it is somehow delayed, they may have to  
9 make provisions to store it either elsewhere or on  
10 site for some extended period of time.

11 FACILITATOR CAMERON: And Mike, just one  
12 footnote to that. If the licensee wants to do dry  
13 storage, is that something that the NRC -- could you  
14 just talk about what the NRC's role is in that?

15 MR. MASNIK: A number of facilities have,  
16 quite frankly, run out of room, and have to store the  
17 fuel on-site. It normally is stored in a pool on the  
18 site, in the spent fuel pool. When they run out of  
19 room, they typically take the oldest fuel that has  
20 cooled the most, and place it in dry storage.

21 And that fuel, then, is placed inside of  
22 a container, which is hermetically sealed, and  
23 shielded, and placed in an ISFSI, another jargon. It  
24 is an independent spent fuel storage installation.

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1                   And that is an on-site pad where the fuel  
2 is stored in these containers, inside the shielded  
3 over packs. And, again, the expectation is that in  
4 the future they will be able to transfer that fuel to  
5 the high level waste repository.

6                   FACILITATOR CAMERON: And the NRC has to  
7 approve this independent spent fuel storage  
8 installation. Thank you.

9                   Other questions?

10                   (No response.)

11                   FACILITATOR CAMERON: All right, thank you  
12 Bob, thanks, Russ. We are going to go to the second  
13 part of the meeting now, which is where we want to  
14 hear from you, any comments that you want to give us  
15 on these issues.

16                   And I would like to go to the local  
17 officials, government officials first, and we are  
18 fortunate to have Mr. Dick Clark with us, who is the  
19 supervisor from the town of Ontario.

20                   And, Dick, I just would welcome you to  
21 talk to us.

22                   MR. CLARK: I always introduce myself as  
23 Dick Clark from American Bandstand. Those of you that  
24 are old enough know what that is.

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1 I debated a little bit, with myself, about  
2 whether I should say something tonight, but some of my  
3 town board members convinced me that I should speak.  
4 I actually prepared something, so it will be easier if  
5 I try to read it.

6 Good evening, my name is Dick Clark, you  
7 already know that, I'm the supervisor of the town of  
8 Ontario. I've lived in Ontario for over 40 years, and  
9 for the 30 plus years that RG&E has been operating the  
10 plant on Lake Road in Ontario.

11 It is located approximately two miles west  
12 of me, and I'm on the Lake Shore, as well. And when  
13 the leaves are off the trees in the fall I can  
14 actually see the lights of the plant, so I'm  
15 relatively close to it.

16 During this period of time that the plant  
17 has been in operation I have had no concerns for my  
18 safety, nor those of my family. RG&E has expressed  
19 their commitment to safe operation of the plant, and  
20 I believe the company employees feel the same way.

21 However, if the Ginna plant is sold to  
22 another entity, I would like to be assured that the  
23 new owner is as committed to the safe operation of the  
24 plant as RG&E is. And, of course, that is something  
25 we don't know at this point in time.

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1           Earlier this year, I went on tour of the  
2           Ginna plant to hear about their increased security in  
3           light of what happened in New York City on September  
4           11th of last year. I'm convinced that they take  
5           security seriously, and are well prepared.

6           As the downside, the heightened security  
7           has ruined the great fishing that is in the warm water  
8           plume that exits the plant. Small mouth bass fishing  
9           there is tremendous. However, now that we are  
10          restricted to a half mile offshore, that good fishing  
11          spot is no longer available, so I can't buzz down  
12          there in my boat and fish any more.

13          Wayne County and the Ginna plant run  
14          periodic drills to evaluate and fine tune the  
15          emergency management system that will look after our  
16          well being, should there be a problem at the plant.  
17          One of my functions is to be part of the county  
18          government in Wayne County.

19          For those who don't know it, we don't have  
20          a county legislative branch, like Monroe County, but  
21          we have a board of supervisors. And I'm on the board  
22          of supervisors. And one of the jobs that I have is  
23          that I'm chairman of the public safety committee.

24          Approximately three weeks ago there was a  
25          drill, and I participated in it. I was at the center

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1 over in Lyons, when it was being conducted. And I was  
2 pretty impressed with the degree of professionalism I  
3 saw of all the people involved in the drill.

4 There were probably at least 25 to 30  
5 people in the center at the time. And we had direct  
6 communications with the plant, and I thought it was  
7 well done.

8 I have been told by my town fathers, and  
9 there is one of them here tonight, I don't know if he  
10 is going to speak or not, that when the plant was  
11 first built, RG&E told the town that they would pay 50  
12 percent of their taxes.

13 Now, I don't know if that ever was true or  
14 not, of course that was 30 years ago. This past year  
15 the plant actually paid 30 percent of the tax bill.  
16 This revenue has been very useful to the town in terms  
17 of developing the town, and also holding down the tax  
18 rate.

19 The 15 towns in Wayne county, Ontario has  
20 the lowest tax rate. I hope that with the continued  
21 presence of the plant, it will continue to support a  
22 significant portion of our tax levy. Or in lieu of  
23 that, the negotiations, some kind of a pilot agreement  
24 between the town and RG&E, and/or the county and the  
25 school district, and RG&E.

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1           And in closing I look forward to the  
2 technical evaluation by the NRC, of the capability of  
3 the plant, and its suitability to operate for another  
4 20 years.

5           That is really what I would like to say,  
6 and I would be glad to answer questions you have of  
7 me, as well.

8           FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you very  
9 much, Mr. Clark, for those comments, and also the  
10 offer to talk to people.

11           It is always useful to hear from the  
12 utility who filed the request for renewal, to hear  
13 what their rationale is for that. And we have Mr. Bob  
14 Mecredy with us tonight. He is the site vice  
15 president for Rochester Gas and Electric at the Ginna  
16 plant. Bob?

17           MR. MECREDY: Thank you, and good evening.  
18 I'm vice president of nuclear operations for RG&E and  
19 have responsibility for the operation of Ginna.

20           Ginna began operation in 1969 and has been  
21 a reliable part of the RG&E system and the state's  
22 power supply, ever since. The plant's power output is  
23 about half of RG&E's retail customers use on an annual  
24 basis.

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1           The mission of everyone who works at, and  
2 who supports Ginna, is simple, safe, reliable, and  
3 economical operation, with the safety of the public  
4 and the people who work at Ginna being our number one  
5 priority.

6           And our core values include being a good  
7 neighbor and a steward of the environment in which we  
8 operate. Since start-up our focus has been, and is,  
9 to continuously improve in all aspects of our  
10 operation, the performance of our people, the  
11 processes and procedures, and the plant design and  
12 equipment.

13           The more than 500 people at Ginna are  
14 highly experienced, well-trained, and committed to our  
15 mission. Visitors at Ginna regularly comment on the  
16 teamwork and commitment that they see demonstrated by  
17 our employees.

18           Without exception, every employee at Ginna  
19 that is provided with training is subjected to testing  
20 to ensure that we can maintain the plant's exemplary  
21 performance.

22           We continue to improve our training based  
23 on improvements in technology, benchmarking and best  
24 practices that we bring back from others in the  
25 industry, and feedback from our workers as they

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1 identify better ways to gain the skills and knowledge  
2 that they need to perform their work.

3 We have a simulator that is an exact  
4 duplicate of the main control room, and we use that to  
5 train our operators, and other members of our staff.  
6 Our operators, for example, spend one week in every 7  
7 in training, every single year.

8 And this is after an extensive initial  
9 qualification program of over a year that is required  
10 for an operator to earn their NRC license. We have  
11 extensive processes and procedures that cover  
12 virtually every aspect of our operation.

13 We have almost 5,000 procedures that cover  
14 operations, maintenance, inspection, testing,  
15 engineering, training, independent assessment,  
16 security, as well as abnormal and a wide range of  
17 unlikely emergency response scenarios.

18 These also are improved on a continuous  
19 basis, based on our experience, and others in our  
20 industry, and elsewhere. People, processes and  
21 procedures come together in emergency preparedness.

22 Our emergency response is conducted in  
23 accordance to a formal plan, and is thoroughly tested  
24 by federal agencies. We have drills several times  
25 each year to test ourselves.

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1           The emergency preparedness plan also is  
2 being continuously improved. But emergency planning  
3 at Ginna is not done in a vacuum, it is very much a  
4 team effort. Our partners include Wayne and Monroe  
5 Counties, and the state of New York, among others.

6           All total about 1,000 people are part of  
7 the emergency response team. When we drill the plan  
8 we have to meet rigorous standards set by the NRC and  
9 FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency. And  
10 our record is good.

11           We, and our partners, constantly  
12 demonstrate our ability to protect the health and  
13 safety of the public. And emergency planning has only  
14 one focus, and that is safety.

15           We began operation in 1969 with a robust  
16 plant design, and proven equipment. And over the  
17 years we have performed extensive maintenance on the  
18 equipment to ensure continued reliable operation.

19           At our refueling and maintenance outages,  
20 conducted every 18 months, we perform over 1,000  
21 individual maintenance activities, and many more  
22 inspections. And this is in addition to the ongoing  
23 maintenance and inspections that are performed between  
24 the refueling and maintenance outages.

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1           Our goal is to provide our operators with  
2 the right equipment performing flawlessly. Over the  
3 years we have replaced a wide range of equipment.  
4 Most notable, at least from outside the plant, we  
5 replaced our two steam generators in 1996, taking  
6 advantage of improved materials and technology, and  
7 ensuring continued reliable operation.

8           We have also replaced heat exchangers,  
9 pumps, and motors. We have taken advantage of  
10 technology in replacing our plant process computer,  
11 instrumentation, and the like.

12           We replaced the computer that powers our  
13 control room simulator, with a PC based technology.  
14 This has allowed us to expand the range of training we  
15 provide the operators, and to take that PC based  
16 system into the classroom, for other training.

17           Security at the plant has received  
18 additional scrutiny and attention since the tragic  
19 events of September 11th, 2001. RG&E has over 30  
20 years experience in nuclear plant security. Our  
21 approach has never been relaxed, nor has it been  
22 static. It has been continually improved, continually  
23 advanced, and continually toughened from the day the  
24 plant began into operation.

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1           And since September 11th we have devoted  
2 several million dollars in additional resources and  
3 equipment. Our security force is numerous, it is well  
4 armed, and it is supported by sophisticated technical  
5 surveillance, and intrusion detection equipment.

6           Plant security is founded on a sound, very  
7 conservative, plant design. The reactor containment  
8 is a steel reinforced concrete that is three feet  
9 thick. The reactor vessel, itself, is six inches  
10 thick, steel, and sunk into bedrock, and we have  
11 multiple safety systems.

12           Relative to containment, recent testing  
13 indicates that the containment structure will, indeed,  
14 withstand aircraft impacts of the type experienced in  
15 the World Trade Center. Additional testing continues.

16           And just as with emergency preparedness,  
17 plant security is conducted in accordance with a  
18 detailed formal plan which is thoroughly reviewed by  
19 the NRC.

20           We communicate frequently, and work  
21 closely with a wide range of law enforcement and  
22 governmental agencies, including county law  
23 enforcement, state police, the FBI, the Coast Guard,  
24 the National Guard, and others.

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1           And to ensure the reliability and  
2 trustworthiness of our workforce, everyone who works  
3 at Ginna is subject to detailed background checks  
4 before they are granted plant access.

5           We do take security seriously. And  
6 security at Ginna, and all other nuclear plants is  
7 under constant review and evaluation. We welcome, and  
8 cooperate fully with these reviews, because we believe  
9 any system can be improved.

10           The care and attention that we pay to our  
11 people, our processes, our procedures, and our  
12 equipment, do make a difference. It has enabled us to  
13 achieve continuing improvement in our safety and  
14 reliability of our operation.

15           Last year, we set a new record for longest  
16 continuous period in operation. And since start-up  
17 from our refueling and maintenance outage this past  
18 spring, we have been online, and serving our  
19 customers, for over 200 days, without interruption.

20           Based on this record of solid performance,  
21 and on the research we conducted while preparing our  
22 application for the renewal of Ginna's license, for  
23 the additional 20 years, we submitted the application  
24 and asked the NRC for its approval.

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1           We believe it is important to retain the  
2 option to operate the plant in the extended period,  
3 thereby contributing to the overall power supply in  
4 the state and, importantly, to the energy mix in the  
5 state.

6           As I mentioned at the beginning of the  
7 presentation, Ginna is one of the key providers of  
8 energy for the consumers in the RG&E service  
9 territory. Its 490 megawatts are important for  
10 moderating energy prices in this region and in the  
11 state.

12           Virtually every new power plant in New  
13 York depends on natural gas as the fuel of choice.  
14 And as we have learned, in the past several years, the  
15 price of natural gas can and does fluctuate greatly.  
16 This means that the price of electricity from gas-  
17 fired power plants also fluctuates correspondingly.

18           To further complicate matters, even for  
19 those new plants receiving siting approval, plant  
20 developers are finding it difficult, to impossible, to  
21 secure financing.

22           The New York state power plant siting law  
23 is scheduled to expire on December 31st. And a number  
24 of older plants may need substantial new investment,

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1 if it is available, to meet new environmental  
2 standards.

3 If Ginna's baseload were removed from the  
4 inventory of available capacity and energy, the result  
5 could be a significant upward pressure on electric  
6 prices.

7 But Ginna is more than a power plant  
8 operated by highly skilled workers. We are part of  
9 the community. Ron Fellows, one of our operations  
10 control room supervisors, will speak later on the  
11 contribution that our plant branch of the American  
12 Nuclear Society makes.

13 But beyond that our employees give back to  
14 the community in a variety of ways. They serve on  
15 school boards, and town boards, as Scout leaders and  
16 sports coaches, they support day care centers, and  
17 work at senior centers. They serve on ski patrols,  
18 and they train guide dogs.

19 Our people raised money to donate a  
20 defibrillator to the Ontario Volunteer Ambulance  
21 Service. We partner with the Wayne Central School  
22 District by providing them with the space for their  
23 Eagles Ventures program, a program for those students  
24 who can benefit from an alternative educational  
25 program, and setting.

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1           We continue to participate, on an annual  
2 basis, in the science and exploration days of the St.  
3 John Fisher College, contributing to the interest in  
4 science on the part of the young people in the  
5 community, and we participate in the Annual Day of  
6 Caring through the United Way.

7           Let me speak, now, to the environmental  
8 aspect of our operation. It is our goal to have a  
9 minimal impact on our environment. Most visibly is  
10 the way we have worked from the days of initial design  
11 and construction to blend into our environment.

12           While it is difficult to hide a 480  
13 megawatt power plant, but we are proud of the apple  
14 orchards, the red barns, the flowers, and the wooded  
15 settings, that do help us blend into the countryside.

16           Just as we do at home we minimize the  
17 impact that our waste stream can have through an  
18 active recycling program for paper and cardboard  
19 products. Surplus lumber and paint have been donated  
20 to the Habitat for Humanity.

21           We work at minimizing all aspects of  
22 solid, gaseous, and liquid waste, setting a variety of  
23 improvement goals each year. In our environment we  
24 enjoy seeing the deer, foxes, muskrat, and occasional  
25 turkey. Overall we have seen a very minimal adverse

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1 impact, over the years, on wildlife and aquatic  
2 species.

3 In conclusion we remain committed to  
4 operating safely, reliably, and economically, and only  
5 operating if it is safe to do so.

6 We remain focused on being a good  
7 neighbor, and a good steward. I, and the rest of the  
8 people back at Ginna, look forward to serving you and  
9 meeting the needs of our community in the years to  
10 come. Thank you.

11 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,  
12 Bob. And we are going to hear from Mr. Ron Fellows in  
13 a minute, or so.

14 I would just like to check with a couple  
15 of people to see if they did want to say anything.  
16 Mr. Herrmann? Do you want to say anything? I'm not  
17 saying you have to, but I just wanted to give you an  
18 opportunity if you wanted to.

19 MR. HERRMANN: I'm Roy Herrman, H-E-R-R-M-  
20 A-N-N. The question I had, you've been doing this at  
21 all these locations, where the time is up, or going to  
22 be up, or asking for renewal.

23 I would like to know what your decisions  
24 have been, if you could give us, you know, how that  
25 has worked out.

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1 FACILITATOR CAMERON: That is a good  
2 question for people to hear an answer to. John, can  
3 I turn to you for this? John Tappert.

4 MR. TAPPERT: Regarding the previous  
5 renewals I believe we have ten renewals that have been  
6 completed, that the environmental reviews have been  
7 completed.

8 And in all those cases, after the  
9 completion of the process has been outlined, those  
10 license renewals have been granted. And that is the  
11 question, right?

12 MR. HERRMANN: Have you turned down any?

13 MR. TAPPERT: We have not turned down any.

14 FACILITATOR CAMERON: And I imagine that  
15 the issues of concern at each of these plants were  
16 different, some were more complex, some the NRC and  
17 the licensee had to go through more interaction.  
18 Maybe you could give people a flavor for that, even  
19 though none were turned down.

20 MR. TAPPERT: None were turned down, but  
21 there were a number of issues that were explored.  
22 Very large documents outlining the impacts of the  
23 environment. And we have a safety evaluation report  
24 that also outlines all the programs to manage the  
25 aging of the facility.

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1           So, you know, the idea is -- it is not a  
2 rubber stamp, it is not a whitewash. I mean, there  
3 was a very thorough review that was done by the staff,  
4 both in the safety and the environmental side.

5           The fact that all the licenses were  
6 granted should not cast doubt on the thoroughness of  
7 those reviews.

8           FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you. Why  
9 don't we hear from Ron Fellows at this point. Ron?

10          MR. FELLOWS: Thank you very much, it has  
11 been a long day, 8 o'clock, past my bedtime.

12          I want to thank, once again, the  
13 Commission for allowing me to speak before the general  
14 public, and RG&E's request for license extension at  
15 the Ginna facility.

16          A brief introduction. My name is Ron  
17 Fellows, I'm a control room supervisor at the nuclear  
18 facility, where I hold an active senior reactor  
19 operator's license.

20          I have worked for RG&E since 1985, and  
21 have been the American Nuclear Society's Ginna Plant  
22 Branch chair for about three years now. What is the  
23 American Nuclear Society?

24          The American Nuclear Society is a not-for-  
25 profit international educational organization that was

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1 established in the 1950's by a group of individuals  
2 who recognized the need to unify the professional  
3 activities within the diverse fields of nuclear  
4 science and technology.

5 Approximately ten to twelve years ago,  
6 when the nation faced deregulation in California, a  
7 bunch of concerned individuals at the Ginna facility,  
8 and myself included, were concerned about the  
9 questions being raised by the general public, and the  
10 misinformation that we felt was being handed out.

11 So with that we decided to form our own  
12 plant branch of the American Nuclear Society. We are  
13 called the American Nuclear Society's Ginna Plant  
14 Branch, and we fall under the Northeastern section of  
15 the American Nuclear Society.

16 We had to formulate a goal, and the goal  
17 we came up with was to increase the awareness, the  
18 general public's awareness on the aspects of nuclear  
19 power, and we do that through a variety of committees  
20 structured around public information, education, and  
21 recognition.

22 Since 1992, when the branch was formed, we  
23 have had thousands of students, elementary, middle  
24 school, high school, collegic, professors, various  
25 professional groups, various community groups, such as

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1 Boy Scouts, 4H, Girl Scouts, request to visit Ginna  
2 and have a conversation with us on nuclear power.

3 We utilized Ginna's training center, where  
4 they were educated in various topics from the spread  
5 of radiation, or the ways about which we minimize the  
6 spread of radiation, we allowed students to go into  
7 the simulator, as Bob related to earlier, the  
8 simulator is a tool that licensed individuals, such as  
9 myself, train on every several weeks.

10 And we allow the community to operate that  
11 -- where they are allowed to manipulate the controls,  
12 just like we do in the real plant. It provides them  
13 with an educational tool, especially the educators,  
14 the teachers, and professors that come to the  
15 facility, to have a better understanding in how we  
16 harness the energy from the atom to make electricity.

17 Area schools and organizations have also  
18 requested from our plant branch guest speakers to  
19 attend various science fairs, as Bob talked about, the  
20 county holds a science fair each year at the St. Johns  
21 Fisher College, where various schools from Monroe and  
22 Wayne County attend, and are educated in various  
23 science topics, and we have been proud to take place  
24 in that.

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1                   We've gone out to schools in the areas and  
2 awarded, or given recognition to students that have  
3 excelled in the field of science. We have distributed  
4 savings bonds, gift certificates, and simple ribbons  
5 and trophies for their efforts.

6                   We also participate in the New York State  
7 Adopt A Highway Program. Our plant branch has been  
8 involved with keeping two and a half miles of route  
9 104 clean from Knickerbocker to North Slocum road.

10                  We get great feedback from the community,  
11 especially the area businesses along route 104, for  
12 keeping that area clean.

13                  One of the biggest achievements that my  
14 plant branch has accomplished is what we call an  
15 excellent SCRAM. For the last 9 years, and I welcome  
16 each of you to the display table out front, where we  
17 have a plaque we hang in the plant, that shows the  
18 recipients of the grant.

19                  Each year a different level of education,  
20 from elementary, middle, or high school, are nominated  
21 by a plant branch member, and the respective schools  
22 are then asked how they would use the money in the  
23 field of science, in a project not covered by other  
24 funding in their school district.

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1           They also must attend a day long lecture  
2           at Ginna. And up until the September 11th incident we  
3           allowed those teachers to go on-site, to address  
4           questions that seemed to be common nowadays, in  
5           regards to the spent fuel.

6           A lot of teachers that were privy to that  
7           luxury of going into the plant, into the auxiliary  
8           building, and seeing the high level waste, are amazed  
9           that it is so little. I'm not coming before you to  
10          debate that issue, because that is a separate item of  
11          discussion.

12          We award about 1,000 dollars each year for  
13          the last nine years. This year we are going to,  
14          again, do it in December. This year we are going to  
15          cooperate with the Central New York Health Physics  
16          Society, where we plan on having speakers for nuclear  
17          medicine, and on the fission process.

18          In closing, I'm 41 years old, I live 11  
19          miles south of the plant. I'm proud to be in close  
20          proximity to such facility as Ginna. I've been PTA  
21          president for my school district, I've been on the  
22          school board, I've done the budget committee, I coach  
23          football, and attend various functions in the  
24          community, as well as the singles, a lot of the  
25          members in my plant branch.

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1                   In closing, I would just like to say that  
2 the American Nuclear Society Ginna Plant Branch would  
3 highly recommend that the Commission extend Ginna for  
4 the 20 years that was requested.

5                   FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,  
6 Ron. Is there anybody else who would like to say  
7 anything while we are here tonight, or anybody that  
8 has a question about the NRC's responsibilities, our  
9 review process?

10                   (No response.)

11                   FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Well, the NRC  
12 staff, not only from Washington, but from here and the  
13 region, the experts that we have on ecology,  
14 socioeconomics, are all with us tonight, so avail  
15 yourself of the opportunity to talk to them after the  
16 meeting.

17                   And I would just thank you all for taking  
18 the time to be with us tonight, and for all of your  
19 comments. And I'm going to ask John Tappert, as the  
20 leader of the environmental section, to just close  
21 this out tonight. John?

22                   MR. TAPPERT: Okay. Just to echo Chip's  
23 final thoughts, thanks for coming out tonight, and we  
24 appreciate your participation in this process, it is  
25 important to what we do.

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1                   And please avail yourself to anyone with  
2                   the name tags to discuss any additional questions you  
3                   have tonight. Thank you for coming.

4                   FACILITATOR CAMERON: We are adjourned.

5                   (Whereupon, at 8:15 p.m. the above-  
6                   entitled matter was concluded.)

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