

# Official Transcript of Proceedings

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: Environmental Review for License Renewal  
H.B. Robinson, Unit 2  
Public Meeting - Afternoon Session

Docket Number: (50-261)

Location: Hartsville, South Carolina

Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2002

1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
2 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
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4 PUBLIC MEETING ON THE  
5 SCOPE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW  
6 FOR LICENSE RENEWAL  
7 H. B. ROBINSON, UNIT 2

8 + + + + +  
9 AFTERNOON SESSION

10 + + + + +  
11 WEDNESDAY

12 SEPTEMBER 25, 2002

13 + + + + +  
14 HARTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

15 + + + + +  
16 The Public meeting was held in the Davidson Hall Auditorium, Coker  
17 College, Hartsville, South Carolina, at 1:30 p.m., Francis "Chip" Cameron,  
18 Facilitator, presiding.

19 PRESENT:

20  
21 FRANCIS (Chip) CAMERON

22 JOHN TAPPERT

23 S. K. MITRA

24 RICHARD EMCH  
25

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

1  
2 MR. CAMERON: Good afternoon, everyone. My name's  
3 Chip Cameron. I'm the Special Counsel for Public Liaison at the Nuclear  
4 Regulatory Commission. And I'd like to welcome you to the NRC's public  
5 meeting this afternoon. The topic of today's meeting is the scope of the  
6 environmental review, the NRC's environmental review on the request of CP&L  
7 to renew the operating license at the H. B. Robinson, Unit 2 plant. And it's my  
8 pleasure to serve as your facilitator today. And my job is going to be to make  
9 sure that all of you have a productive meeting.

10 Before we get into the substance of today's discussions, I just  
11 want to cover three items very briefly about the meeting process. One is why  
12 we're here today, the objectives of the meeting. Secondly, I'd like to tell you a  
13 little bit about the format and ground rules for today's meeting. And, third, I  
14 want to just go over the agenda with you briefly so you'll know what to expect  
15 this afternoon, and also introduce some of the people from the Nuclear  
16 Regulatory Commission who will be talking to you today.

17 In terms of objectives, the staff is going to go into this in more  
18 detail. But, simply stated, we want to make sure that we clearly describe to you  
19 what the NRC's review process is on a license renewal application, and  
20 specifically what the environmental review process is.

21 Secondly, and most importantly, we want to hear from any of  
22 you in terms of suggestions, comments, advice to us on what types of impacts  
23 should be looked at in the environmental review, what types of information we  
24 should gather, what types of alternatives we should consider in doing the  
25 environmental review.

26 And the ultimate objective is to take your comments and use

1 those to develop the scope for our environmental review. You'll be hearing in  
2 a few minutes from the NRC staff that we're also asking written comments – for  
3 written comments on these issues. I just want to emphasize that anything you  
4 say today will carry the same weight as written comment. You may hear some  
5 information today that would spur you to file a written comment, if you – if you  
6 want. But anything you say today is on the record and will be considered by the  
7 NRC staff.

8 In terms of format, the format pretty much matches the  
9 objectives of the meeting. The first part of the meeting is going to consist of  
10 some brief NRC presentations to give you the context of our review process,  
11 what we look at in making a decision on whether to grant the license renewal  
12 application. After each NRC speaker, we'll go out to you to see if you have any  
13 questions on the process.

14 Second part of the meeting is going to give you an opportunity  
15 to make some more formal comment, and we do have a sign-up list at the desk.  
16 It's not critical that you sign up, it just gives us an idea of what to expect, how  
17 much time to – to plan for. So if – if you haven't signed up, and at the end of the  
18 meeting you do want to say something, just let me know.

19 In terms of ground rules, if you have a question, just signal me  
20 and I'll bring you this talking stick. Tell us your name and your affiliation, if  
21 appropriate. And we need to have you on the mic, not necessarily so everybody  
22 can hear you, because they may hear you without the mic, but we are taking a  
23 transcript today. Melanie is our stenographer. And we need to have you speak  
24 clearly in the microphone to get you on the record.

25 And that leads me to another ground rule, is that I would just  
26 ask that only one person speak at a time, so that Melanie can clearly identify who

1 is speaking for the transcript, but more importantly, so we can give our full  
2 attention to whomever has the floor at the time.

3 The third ground rule, try to be concise. That's difficult  
4 sometimes on – on these types of issues. But I do want to make sure that  
5 everybody who is here who wants to talk gets an opportunity to talk today. So  
6 if you try to be brief, that will help us to achieve that – that particular goal.

7 When we get to the formal comment part of the meeting, I  
8 would just ask you to use a five minute guideline for your prepared remarks. We  
9 do have plenty of time in terms of the number of speakers that we have, so that's  
10 not hard-and-fast. But just use that as a – as a guideline.

11 In terms of agenda, I'm going to ask – after I'm done, I'm going  
12 to ask John Tappert---who is right over here---John, from the NRC staff, to – to  
13 provide a welcome for you. John is the Section Leader of the Environmental  
14 Review Section of the License Renewal and Environmental Review Program at  
15 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. John's section is responsible for preparing  
16 the environmental reviews on all requests for – for a license renewal application.  
17 And you'll be hearing from one of his staff today, Richard – Richard Emch, who  
18 is going to talk about the environmental review part of the – of the process.

19 By way of introduction, John has been with the agency for  
20 approximately 11 years. He was a resident inspector at a nuclear power plant for  
21 the NRC. And he has a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering from  
22 Johns Hopkins University.

23 We are here to talk about the environmental review, but we –  
24 we also want to give you the big picture in terms of what – what is the NRC's  
25 license renewal process like overall. And part of that process is a safety  
26 evaluation as well as an environmental evaluation. And after John welcomes

1 you, we're going to – to go to S. K. Mitra---S. K. is right over here---from the  
2 NRC staff. And S. K. is the Project Manager on the Safety Review for the  
3 Robinson license renewal application, and he'll talk to you a little bit about that  
4 particular process.

5 He's been with the NRC for about 12 years, and now he's in  
6 the same branch, License Renewal and Environmental Programs, but on the  
7 safety evaluation side. Before he joined the NRC, he was with General Electric  
8 for about 12 years. And in terms of his educational background, he has a  
9 Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and a Master's degree in Nuclear  
10 Engineering.

11 We'll then go out to you for any questions that you might have.  
12 We want to make sure that – that we clearly explain ourselves and our process,  
13 so feel free to – to ask questions. And then we're going to go to – to Mr. Richard  
14 Emch, who is the Project Manager for the environmental review. He's in John's  
15 section at the – at the NRC. He's been with the NRC for about 28 years, and he  
16 has a Bachelor's in Engineering Physics from Louisiana Tech University, and he  
17 also has a Master's in Health Physics from – from Georgia Tech.

18 After Rich explains the environmental review process again,  
19 we'll go out to you for questions, and then we'll go to the formal comment part  
20 of today's meeting. And I would just thank all of you for – for being here today  
21 to help us with this – this important decision. And I think, with that, I'll ask  
22 John Tappert to – to give us a welcome. John.

23 MR. TAPPERT: Well, thanks, Chip, and good afternoon and  
24 welcome. As Chip said, my name's John Tappert. I'm Chief of the  
25 Environmental Section of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. And on  
26 behalf of the NRC, I'd like to thank you for coming out today and participating

1 in our process.

2 As Chip said, there's some things I'd like to go over today. I'd  
3 like to briefly cover the purposes of today's meeting. First we're going to  
4 provide a general overview of the entire license renewal program, and this  
5 includes both the safety review as well as the environmental review, which is the  
6 principal focus of today's meeting.

7 Next, we'll give you an idea of how we perform that  
8 environmental review, what our schedule is, and how you can submit written  
9 comments in order to participate further in the process. At the conclusion of  
10 staff's presentation, we'll be happy to receive any questions or comments that  
11 you may have on the scope of our environmental review.

12 But first, let me provide some general context for the License  
13 Renewal Program. The *Atomic Energy Act* gives the NRC the authority to issue  
14 operating licenses for a period of 40 years for commercial nuclear power plant.  
15 For Robinson, that operating license will expire in 2010. Our regulations also  
16 make provisions for extending that operating license for another 20 years as part  
17 of a License Renewal Program, and CP&L has requested license renewal for  
18 Robinson.

19 As part of that – as part of the NRC's review of that license  
20 renewal application, we'll be doing an environmental impact statement to look  
21 at the environmental impacts associated with extending the operating life for  
22 another 20 years. Right now we're in the scoping portion of that review where  
23 we identify issues that will require greater focus in our environmental impact  
24 statement. And the real purpose of this meeting here today is to receive your  
25 input in that scoping process. And, with that, I'd like to ask S. K. Mitra to give  
26 a brief overview of the safety portion of the license renewal.



1 MR. MITRA: Thank you, John. Good afternoon.

2 As John mentioned, I am S. K. Mitra. I am the Project  
3 Manager for the safety review of the application for license renewal for  
4 Robinson Nuclear Plant. The NRC license renewal process essentially runs in  
5 two parallel paths. There is a safety review that is focused on the review and  
6 inspection of aging management programs for passive, long-lived systems,  
7 structure, and components.

8 The reason that the Commission felt that these programs  
9 should be in the focus of the license renewal regulation is because ongoing  
10 regulatory processes already ensure that the current licensing basis is maintained,  
11 and that things like emergency planning and security plans are acceptably  
12 implemented.

13 There are components and systems that need to be constantly  
14 attended to. However, those maintenance processes do not explicitly look at the  
15 plant's design capability to cope with long-term degradation of equipment due  
16 to aging effects. So the license renewal application focuses on those inspections,  
17 programs, and maintenance practices that are used to maintain the margin of  
18 safety in the plant's safety equipment.

19 The second review path involves an environmental review,  
20 which Rich Emch, the Environmental Project Manager, will discuss shortly. I  
21 also want to mention that there is an independent review by the Advisory  
22 Committee on Reactor Safeguard, known as ACRS, which reviews the renewal  
23 application and staff's safety evaluation. The committee reports their findings  
24 and their recommendation directly to the Commissions. Slide 5.

25 This figure illustrates the entire license renewal process. The  
26 upper path describes the safety review, and the lower path shows the

1 environmental review. As you can see, the staff's safety review results in a  
2 safety evaluation report, over there. And as I mentioned earlier, the ACRS  
3 review this report, as well as the application, in order to develop an independent  
4 finding on the review. The ACRS holds public meetings which are transcribed.  
5 Oral and written statement can be provided during the ACRS meeting in  
6 accordance with the instruction described in the notice of their meeting in  
7 *Federal Register*.

8 In parallel with safety review, the staff perform the review of  
9 the environmental impact of continued operation. As Rich Emch will discuss  
10 later, the staff will issue an environmental impact statement on the facility after  
11 it completes its review. The NRC's licensing process also includes a formal  
12 process for public involvement through hearing conducted by a panel of  
13 administrative judges who are called the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, or  
14 ASLB. That process requests a petition be submitted to hold hearings on  
15 particular issues which would be litigated by the board. However, there are no  
16 petitions to intervene on the Robinson proceedings.

17 At the end of the process, the final safety evaluation report, the  
18 final environmental impact statement, the result of staff's inspections, the ACRS  
19 recommendation will be used by the agency in making the final license renewal  
20 decision. Throughout this process interested members of public who are  
21 concerned about nuclear safety issues can raise those issues during the various  
22 public meetings that the NRC will hold to discuss the Robinson application.

23 Meeting on particular technical issues are usually held at the  
24 NRC headquarter in Rockville, Maryland; however, some technical meetings  
25 and meetings to summarize the result of NRC inspection findings will be held  
26 near the plant site in a place that is accessible to the public. In addition, the staff

1 holds four public meetings on the environmental impacts of the review: two on  
2 the scope of the review, and two on the result of the review, during which the  
3 public can provide comments.

4 This is a brief overview of our renewal process. The NRC  
5 staff members will be available after the meeting to answer any questions about  
6 the renewal process. But unless there are any particular questions you have  
7 about the overall process, I am going to turn the podium over to Rich Emch to  
8 discuss the environmental review for this licensing action.

9 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, S. K. Let's – let's find out if there  
10 are any questions at this point, after hearing your description of the entire  
11 process. Are there – anybody have a question on the license renewal process  
12 that we can – we can answer?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. CAMERON: And as S. K. mentioned, we do not only  
15 have NRC staff here, but we have some experts from the national lab programs  
16 who are helping us to prepare the environmental report. They will be here after  
17 the meeting, if you want to talk to – to them. And if you have a question on the  
18 overall process after Rich is done, we can get to that at that point, too.

19 Any – any questions?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, S. K.

22 And next, we're going to hear from Rich Emch.

23 MR. EMCH: Good afternoon. I'm Rich Emch. I'm the  
24 Environmental Project Manager for the Robinson project for the U.S. Nuclear  
25 Regulatory Commission.

26 Let's talk about why we're here today; okay? Basically, the

1 environmental process is something that was – was laid out, was brought to  
2 light, shall we say, by the National Environmental Policy Act which was enacted  
3 in 1969. We refer to it as NEPA for short, I guess. Basically, what it says is, is  
4 that we have to do a systematic approach to evaluate – follow a systematic  
5 approach to evaluate environmental impact. Any major federal action which  
6 might significantly affect the quality of human environment has to – there has  
7 to be an environmental impact statement. And the NRC---Nuclear Regulatory  
8 Commission---made the decision that any license renewal – any application for  
9 license renewal, we would, indeed, publish a supplement, essentially an  
10 environmental impact statement, a supplement to the generic environmental  
11 impact statement for license renewal. So that's why we're here today.

12 This process is a disclosure tool. In other words, what this is  
13 really about, what NEPA did is, now you have to look to see what the impacts  
14 are and study them carefully, evaluate them carefully. But it really is a  
15 disclosure tool. In other words, that means we really want to involve you, the  
16 public, in this; and, in fact, that's the main reason we're here today. It's a scoping  
17 meeting to hear from you, the public, the people who live and work around this  
18 plant, and to – so that we can find out if there is any new information or any  
19 issues that we need to consider in doing our environmental impact and in doing  
20 our environmental assessment. Next slide.

21 The end point, if you will, of this process for us is a – is to  
22 reach a decision. It's up here on the slide in back of me. And since it's a  
23 government regulation, I'm not very good at remembering them. I'll just read it  
24 to you:

25 To determine whether or not the adverse environmental  
26 impacts of the license renewal for H. B. Robinson, Unit 2, are so great

1           that preserving the option of license renewal for energy planning  
2           decision makers would be unreasonable.

3           Okay, now the – the plain English translation is: Is the environmental impact of  
4           another 20 years of operation of H. B. Robinson okay? Is it okay, environmental  
5           impact-wise?

6                         Now, it's important to note that – that this decision, when it's  
7           made, if it's – you know, whichever way it comes out, if it is a positive decision,  
8           it really doesn't set the course. The – it preserves the option to continue to  
9           operate the plant for an additional 20 years. The decision about whether that  
10          would actually happen will be up to the utility, the state regulators, decision  
11          makers, and probably will have a lot to do with the economic – whether the plant  
12          will continue to be economically feasible or not. Next slide.

13                        This is – S. K. showed you a few moments ago the overall  
14          process. This is specific to the environmental process. The application was  
15          submitted on June 17<sup>th</sup>. We published our notice of intent to do scoping and to  
16          undertake an environmental assessment on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. We're in the middle of  
17          the scoping process now. Our environmental team, which is made up of people  
18          from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and experts in various environmental  
19          areas from three national laboratories, have been at the site this week and in the  
20          environs of the site. Some of the – some of you have probably talked with our  
21          team, with members of our team. And we're gathering information to help us do  
22          our assessment of the impact. And part of that is this scoping meeting that we're  
23          holding this afternoon and this evening to get – to get input from the public,  
24          again, about anything new and different or anything that we need to know, to  
25          help us do a good assessment.

26                        Once that's completed, we will issue a draft supplemental

1 environmental impact statement in May, and then we will come back to  
2 Hartsville to meet with you folks again, to – to get any input that you might have  
3 for us about that – that draft statement. And then we'll issue the final statement  
4 in December of 2003. Next slide.

5 In undertaking our information gathering, we've had many  
6 sources of information; okay? We had the licensee's application which many of  
7 you have seen. It is available in a complete written form at the Hartsville  
8 Memorial Library just a couple of blocks that way. We also have the staff audit  
9 that we've been – site audit we've been working on this week at the plant. We  
10 have done interviews, that we will be continuing, to have communications with  
11 the state and local authorities, and also permitting authorities. Permitting  
12 authorities, for instance, the state organization that issues the NPDES pertinent  
13 to – pertinent, that allows – determines how much chemicals and how much  
14 thermal pollution or whatever that the plant can – can release, and controls those  
15 sorts of things.

16 There's also social services that we will be checking within the  
17 area. And, of course, the public comments, the comments that we get from you  
18 folks during this meeting, or that we receive in the mail or over the Internet  
19 between now and the end of the process. Next slide.

20 We have a team of about 15 people here this week. About a  
21 third of us are from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and we have expertise  
22 in a number of areas: health physics, radiation protection, hydrology, project  
23 management. And along with us is a team of approximately ten people from  
24 three national laboratories: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Los Alamos  
25 National Laboratory, and Argonne National Laboratory. Those folks provide the  
26 expertise in a wide range of subjects that we need to examine as part of the

1 environmental impact assessment. Atmospheric science, air quality; radiation  
2 protection; nuclear safety; aquatic ecology, water quality; hydrology; land use,  
3 terrestrial ecology; archeology and – and cultural resources; and socioeconomics  
4 and environmental justice.

5 Environmental justice may be a term – you're probably  
6 familiar with most of those terms. Environmental justice is a little bit different.  
7 That means that we look at the possibility – we study the possibility, evaluate  
8 any possible differential of impact, if you will, any disproportionate impact on  
9 minority groups or low income groups. And that's something which is a fairly  
10 recent area, within the last five or ten years, for the NRC to be looking at. I  
11 think that covers all those areas. Next slide, please.

12 The scoping comment period, if you will, that we're in right  
13 now started on August 22<sup>nd</sup> with the issue of *Federal Register*. And this is part  
14 of that process. Any comments that we receive from you folks or anybody in the  
15 public by October 25<sup>th</sup> will be evaluated and included in our deliberations in the  
16 development of the draft environmental impact statement which will be issued  
17 in May, as I indicated. And then later the final will be issued in December.

18 I mentioned earlier that – that there is a copy of the licensee's  
19 application at the Hartsville Memorial Library. Anybody who wants to receive  
20 a copy of our – our environmental statement, there's blue cards, and you just  
21 need to let us know and we will see to it that you get a copy sent to you in the  
22 mail. I believe it's blue cards that are out at the front registration desk. If you  
23 give us your name and address, we'll see to it that both of these documents get  
24 sent to you when we develop it. Next slide.

25 All right, that's me, and this is the phone number that you can  
26 reach me at back in Washington, D.C.; actually Rockville, Maryland. We're in

1 the suburbs now. The documents, as I said, are located at the Huntsville  
2 Memorial library. And might be a little hard to read, but this is our website,  
3 www.nrc.gov. The documents can also be viewed there on our website per our  
4 document control system. And – yes, okay, not just yet. Tonight or this  
5 afternoon, as Chip already mentioned, we are transcribing this meeting, and so  
6 that's – that will be another source of information. Yes, go ahead.

7 Okay. So give us your comments. You can send them to us  
8 by mail at this address. You can give them to – you can deliver them to us in  
9 person in Rockville, Maryland. That's not a very often-used pathway, but it's  
10 available. And probably the easiest way, other than talking here tonight, the  
11 easiest way is on – by Email to – on the website through NRC, and to  
12 RobinsonEIS@nrc.gov. That may – I will – that means it'll come immediately  
13 to my attention and we'll see to it that they get put into the process.

14 And, of course, as I – as we want to remind you, that probably  
15 the easiest way to give comments is to speak here this afternoon. Anything that  
16 you – any comments you give us when you speak here this afternoon will be  
17 transcribed. That will be a written record, and we'll be sure and – and evaluate  
18 those comments as they come into consideration. With that, next slide, please.

19 Okay, I'm pretty much done, except for any questions. I want  
20 to thank all of you folks for coming out here tonight or this afternoon and  
21 showing – you know, giving us your attention, being a cooperative audience.  
22 You know, I didn't get any tomatoes or anything. So thank you very much. I'll  
23 be here for a few – a little bit to answer any questions.

24 MR. CAMERON: The tomatoes come later.

25 MR. EMCH: Oh, later. Okay.

26 MR. CAMERON: But thank you, Rich. And let me borrow



1 this back to see if anybody out here has any questions about the environmental  
2 review process.

3 Rich, can you just tell people – S. K. talked about the safety  
4 review. You talked about the environmental review, and you gave the date for  
5 when the final EIS would be done. Can you just tell us how that final  
6 environmental impact statement then goes into the – with the safety evaluation,  
7 and when you anticipate that there will be a decision on the license renewal  
8 application that considers both of those.

9 MR. EMCH: I'm not sure I can cover all that, but I'll try. As  
10 – as there was a slide very early on that indicates, there are several – actually, I  
11 was looking for the one a little bit before that when S. K. was making his  
12 presentation. Yeah, that's the one I was looking for.

13 You see, there are several different – several different pieces  
14 that go into the review; okay? There's the safety review of – mainly of aging  
15 management programs, as – as S. K. talked about earlier; there's our review, the  
16 environmental review. As S. K. mentioned earlier, there are inspections. The  
17 regional inspectors for the NRC have a whole bevy of inspections that they will  
18 do at the plant as part of this process. And then all this – and then, of course, as  
19 S. K. said, it will go to the – to the advisory committee. All those things will get  
20 put together, and the decision process then, I think, essentially goes to the – it's  
21 a Commission-level decision.

22 MR. CAMERON: Okay. And I – just an approximate time  
23 frame, if we have one, for when all that will – will happen, I guess, sometime in  
24 2004? Wait, let me get – John, what – what date did you give?

25 MR. TAPPERT: Yeah, it should be early in 2004. I think  
26 we're on, Rich, a 22-month goal for reaching a decision.

1 MR. EMCH: Right.

2 MR. TAPPERT: Or coming to a decision on the license  
3 renewal program at this point.

4 MR. EMCH: Right.

5 MR. TAPPERT: And just to clarify what Rich said, it used  
6 to be a Commission-level decision, and recently the Commission has delegated  
7 that down to the Office Director for the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.  
8 And so, to answer your question briefly, early in 2004 we should have that  
9 decision.

10 MR. CAMERON: Great. Thank you. Thank you for that  
11 information.

12 Anybody have a question on how this all works?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much, Rich. And  
15 now we're going to go to – to hear from – from all of you. And what I'd like to  
16 do is to have the local or state representatives, local officials speak first. And  
17 I'm going to ask – we have Jay Lucas here, who is from the South Carolina  
18 House of Representatives. And, Jay, feel free to use that or other microphones,  
19 if you're more comfortable with that. This is Jay Lucas.

20 MR. LUCAS: Chip, thank you so much. It's an honor for me  
21 to be here today. It's an even greater honor for us to have the NRC here in  
22 Hartsville. As Chip said, I'm Jay Lucas. I'm a native Hartsvillian. I'm a  
23 practicing attorney here in the town, and I also have the privilege of representing  
24 South Carolina House District 65 in Columbia, South Carolina, and I'm proud  
25 to say that the H. B. Robinson Nuclear Plant is smack-dab in the middle of my  
26 house district.

1 I think you can tell from my introductory comments that I  
2 support the license renewal for the H. B. Robinson Nuclear Plant. The Robinson  
3 Nuclear Plant has been a great corporate citizen, not only in South Carolina, but  
4 to the Pee Dee Region of our state for over 30 years. Most importantly for many  
5 people in this room, Chip, they've been a good corporate citizen in Darlington  
6 County. As most of you know, CP&L is our largest taxpayer in Darlington  
7 County due primarily to having the Robinson Nuclear Plant in our county. I can  
8 tell you it's always a great day when CP&L brings that check to the treasurer's  
9 office in January of each year...

10 (Laughter.)

11 MR. LUCAS: ...and we appreciate that.

12 I want to also say that – that I support this plant not only  
13 because of what it does for our school system and our local government, but  
14 CP&L is such a good steward of the environmental resources that has been  
15 entrusted to us. Lake Robinson, as all of you know, is – is just a gem, and it's  
16 an honor to have that in our county. I grew up at Lake Robinson, and I can tell  
17 you it just means so much to the people of our area.

18 CP&L actively promotes economic development throughout  
19 the Pee Dee Region, also. And I know it – it's sometimes hard to take care of  
20 your environmental resources and to promote economic development, but I've  
21 watched CP&L over the years and I can tell you I think they do an outstanding  
22 job at that.

23 For most of the people in Darlington County, in Hartsville,  
24 and in South Carolina, I think all of you know that public safety now is certainly  
25 a very important concern. It's important to me, it's important to the people in this  
26 community. I've been so impressed with the commitment by CP&L and the

1 employees of the Robinson Nuclear Plant to protect the health and safety of the  
2 public. I guess the best testimony I can give about this plant is, as you know, I  
3 grew up about two-and-a-half miles from it. I've lived in Hartsville all my life.  
4 I live about three from it now. And I – I can tell you honestly that – that I don't  
5 think I've ever felt safer than having CP&L in our county.

6 A renewed operating license will allow the Robinson Nuclear  
7 Plant to continue to provide safe, reliable power and economic benefits to our  
8 local community for many years to come. I appreciate the opportunity to express  
9 my support for license renewal for the Robinson Plant. And, Chip, just let me  
10 say that – that I go all over the county, all over my house district. And people  
11 see me. They not only want to talk to me, but every time they see somebody in  
12 politics they want to complain about something. And that's all right, because  
13 that's – that's just part of the job sometime. But I can truthfully tell you, from the  
14 bottom of my heart, that – that I don't get complaints about this facility. We're  
15 proud to have it in Darlington County and we're so thankful that you all would  
16 come today and consider it for relicensing. Thank you so much.

17 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you very much,  
18 Representative Lucas.

19 Next we're going to hear from Dr. Rainey Knight, who is the  
20 superintendent of the Darlington County School Board. Dr. Knight?

21 DR. KNIGHT: Thank you. I, too, am so excited about being  
22 here today to talk to someone about all the good things that CP&L does for us.  
23 But the Robinson Nuclear Plant has been a valuable partner with us for several  
24 years. I've been here ten, and they've been – what I would like to highlight for  
25 you are three areas that I think that they have been very supportive.

26 First, financially. It's very important. As Representative

1 Lucas said, about \$8-plus million comes into the county; six-plus million comes  
2 to the Darlington County School District. And we only have about 25 million  
3 total for local revenue. So you can see that's a large percentage of revenue. If  
4 we did not have that six million, we would either distribute that among all of our  
5 residents of the county, who would not be very pleased with the property tax  
6 increases. Truthfully, what would happen would be we would have six million  
7 – \$6 million less. So our schools, our students, and our teachers would really  
8 feel the impact.

9 A second thing that I'd like to support – tell you that the way  
10 CP&L supports us is with the volunteers. The – the workers and employees in  
11 the Robinson Plant come to our schools. They are a big part of the Ambassador  
12 Program at North Hartsville. They work in our Cities and Schools Program.  
13 They work in our Junior Achievement Program in the high school. So they are  
14 very active volunteers, people who do not have children in our schools but are  
15 volunteering.

16 And third, which I think is the most important as a school  
17 superintendent, is the employees' commitment to their own children in their – in  
18 our schools, and to their children. Serve on our school improvement counsel;  
19 they serve on the PTAs, they work in the Booster Club, they sell fruit for the  
20 schools. In other words, they are working for our schools, for our children. And  
21 that makes for such a strong, strong community.

22 So, lastly I'd just like to say that I would hope that CP&L---  
23 and I say CP&L, you can see I'm back in the olden days with them---but the new  
24 – the relicensure of the Robinson Nuclear Plant we would hope would be a  
25 partnership that we would have long, long beyond me, just for the future  
26 generations of Darlington County. Thank you.

1 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you for those  
2 comments, Dr. Knight.

3 Usually we – we like to have the – some representatives from  
4 the company explain their rationale and – and vision behind the license renewal  
5 application. And we're going to first hear from Mr. John Moyer, who is the site  
6 Vice President for CP&L and Progress Energy at the H. B. Robinson Nuclear  
7 Plant. And then we're going to hear from Jan Lucas, who is the Superintendent  
8 of Environmental and Chemistry at the Robinson Plant.

9 Mr. Moyer?

10 MR. MOYER: I got a formal invitation to speak today, but if  
11 I wouldn't have, I would have come anyway.

12 (Laughter.)

13 MR. MOYER: Because I never turn down an opportunity to  
14 talk about this plant and the people.

15 I think the – I think the best indicator of our commitment to  
16 safe and reliable nuclear plant operation is our industrial safety record. We have  
17 worked at Robinson nearly nine million person hours without a lost time injury.  
18 We apply that same operating philosophy to our plant and to the environmental  
19 stewardship that we are charged with, and we're proud of our record.

20 When I talk about the plant, what I'm actually doing is talking  
21 about the people who work there. In my judgement – and I think I have the right  
22 to judge somewhat. I've been in this business about 40 years. In my judgement,  
23 this is the best, most professional group of men and women operating nuclear  
24 power plants that I have ever in my life had the pleasure to work with. And we  
25 get enormous support, as well, from our Chief Executive Officer, Bill  
26 Cavanaugh, Emerson Gower, our Vice President to the Southern Region, and

1 everybody in-between. Whatever we need, we get it.

2 With respect to our relationship with the public, there's a lot  
3 to be said about taxes. Nobody likes to pay taxes. But we see what our tax  
4 dollar does for this county and for this city. And in addition to those tax dollars,  
5 in our last United Way giving campaign this little plant of fewer than 500 people  
6 was responsible for \$1.1 million of charitable contributions. And it wasn't hard  
7 to raise that money. It was simply a matter of advertising the need, and the  
8 money was there.

9 While the NRC is by law required to remain neutral about  
10 these license renewal activities, I'm not.

11 (Laughter.)

12 MR. MOYER: And I'm not bashful about bragging about this  
13 plant. We reached a pretty unique club yesterday at Robinson. We're one of the  
14 handful of utilities in the business who have run 500 consecutive days since we  
15 closed the breaker after our last refuel outage. And that is a testament, not to  
16 me, but to the employees who work at that plant and whose philosophy is safe,  
17 reliable, conservative operation of a nuclear power station. I'm very proud of  
18 them. I'm proud to be part of them.

19 I've got lots of plaudits and accolades to talk about, but I don't  
20 think I will. I think that the important part of this meeting is to turn it over and  
21 get public comment, and we're certainly looking forward to getting it. I think  
22 Jan Lucas is going to talk to you this afternoon. She is a premier chemistry  
23 manager, and she is the steward of our environmental process at the H. B.  
24 Robinson Plant. And, Chip, I don't want to preempt your introduction, but if you  
25 don't mind, I'll introduce one of my favorite managers, Jan Stewart – or, I'm  
26 sorry, Jan Lucas.

1 MS. LUCAS: I've got it publicly now.

2 MR. MOYER: Oh, yeah.

3 MS. LUCAS: Thank you, John.

4 As John said, I'm Jan Lucas. I'm the Superintendent of  
5 Environmental and Chemistry at the Robinson Plant. I've worked for CP&L for  
6 21 years, and the past 16 of those years have been at the Robinson Plant. But,  
7 more importantly, for the past 16 years I've been a member of this Hartsville  
8 community. My children went to Hartsville Elementary School, the junior high,  
9 the high school. And, in fact, the last time I was in this room was in 1998 for a  
10 Coker College freshman orientation for parents. So I've been here, I've been a  
11 part of what goes on, and I'm proud of this community. And I take very  
12 seriously my responsibilities to protect our environment.

13 The Robinson Plant, and particularly my group, is very  
14 focused on being a good steward of all of our environmental resources: land,  
15 water, air. As Jay said, for the past 30 years in South Carolina and the PD we've  
16 been good corporate citizens. We continue to work with our state and local  
17 officials to improve the quality of life and to protect the environment for the  
18 future.

19 We're involved in some typical environmental activities like  
20 recycling, which many of you experience: paper, aluminum cans, batteries,  
21 printer toner cartridges. But I think we're also involved in some environmental  
22 activities that you may not be as familiar with. We've registered the land at the  
23 Robinson Nuclear Plant to protect the red-cockaded woodpeckers through the  
24 South Carolina Safe Harbors Program; we maintain wood boxes on the lake; we  
25 have many employees that volunteer on Saturday workdays to help improve our  
26 South Carolina state parks. And we encourage the public use of our lake for



1 boating and fishing and water fowl observation.

2 CP&L has spent the last two-and-a-half years doing an  
3 extensive study of the environmental impact for license renewal. And while  
4 we're here to renew the license to operate the Robinson Nuclear Plant, I'm also  
5 here to renew our commitment to the protection of the environment, and to  
6 continue to be the good steward of all the resources that you've entrusted us  
7 with.

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Jan.

9 Next, we're going to go to our next two speakers. First we're  
10 going to hear from Jacqueline Kirvan, and then we're going to go to Nancy  
11 McGee from the Hartsville Chamber of Commerce.

12 Jackie? Do you want to come up here? That's fine. Wherever  
13 you feel most comfortable.

14 MS. KIRVAN: Well, I can't say that I feel comfortable, but  
15 I'm here anyway.

16 (Laughter.)

17 MS. KIRVAN: The Robinson reactor is an old nuclear  
18 reactor. And with aging come problems of embrittlement and cracking of the  
19 metal parts which have been subjected to intense heat and radiation  
20 bombardment, and cause premature aging of the components. In 1982, after  
21 approximately ten years of operation, the NRC cited our Robinson reactor as one  
22 of the nation's worst cases of reactor vessel embrittlement.

23 Twenty (20) years of continued operation since that time have  
24 made embrittlement an even greater concern. If any accident or situation calls  
25 for putting emergency cooling water into the reactor, a flaw in the wall could  
26 cause a dangerous crack. So my question is: How do you address the

1 environmental consequences of an accident involving pressurized thermal shock  
2 at Robinson?

3 Shall I just – you don't answer, you just are accepting my  
4 question; right?

5 MR. CAMERON: Yeah, for the formal public comment  
6 period. But we do have NRC staff here who can talk to you about that – that  
7 particular issue, too. So I would just encourage you to – to be here after the  
8 meeting for that.

9 MS. KIRVAN: Okay.

10 MR. CAMERON: And...

11 MS. KIRVAN: I have a second issue.

12 MR. CAMERON: Yes. Yes, go ahead.

13 MS. KIRVAN: Can I go to a second issue?

14 MR. CAMERON: Yes.

15 MS. KIRVAN: The Robinson reactor was built without a  
16 cooling tower. Instead, Lake Robinson is used for this purpose. The resulting  
17 heat, the thermal pollution has made that lake a virtual desert in terms of aquatic  
18 life. And water flows from it into Black Creek. And I know this firsthand  
19 because our family was one of the first to build on Lake Robinson. We enjoyed  
20 that lake before the nuclear plant was built, and we have witnessed the changes.  
21 The condition of the lake is becoming worse. We are suffering severe drought  
22 conditions. Lakes all around are dropping – the lake levels are dropping. Last  
23 night I talked with someone on the Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
24 who told me our water table has now dropped ten feet. What effect is the  
25 drought causing for the use of Lake Robinson for cooling purposes, and are there  
26 plans to use groundwater resources for this purpose?

1 MR. CAMERON: Okay, and is that – Jacqueline, would you  
2 have the time, after we're done with the meeting, to perhaps talk to the NRC staff  
3 about the thermal shock...

4 MS. KIRVAN: Certainly.

5 MR. CAMERON: ...issue, and also to our experts on the – the  
6 aquatic and groundwater resources issue? And I would just ask the NRC staff  
7 and our expert scientists to touch base with you.

8 MS. KIRVAN: Thank you.

9 MR. CAMERON: And thank you for your comments.

10 Next we're going to go to – to Nancy McGee from the  
11 Hartsville Chamber of Commerce.

12 MS. McGEE: First of all, I would be remiss as a – as a  
13 community chamber exec if I forgot to reiterate my welcome to the NRC folks  
14 and say stay as long as you can and spend as much as your schedule allows while  
15 you're in our community.

16 The Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce Board of  
17 Directors has asked me to express their support for the license renewal for the  
18 H. B. Robinson Nuclear Plant. CP&L is a good corporate citizen, a valuable  
19 partner with our community, and specifically with our local chamber of  
20 commerce. Many Robinson plant employees are active in community affairs,  
21 in leadership roles in local schools, in civic clubs, and in community activities.

22 One example of those community activities is Christmas in  
23 April which the chamber coordinates. Each year business, community, and  
24 church organizations repair about 30 owner-occupied homes of poor, elderly,  
25 and handicapped citizens in our community. All this work is done by volunteers  
26 using supplies that are purchased with donated money. CP&L traditionally not

1 only makes a substantial donation, but they always seem to pick out the most  
2 difficult projects available. In April of this year, more than 40 Robinson  
3 employees from all the ranks of – of the plant teamed up to repair an elderly  
4 couple's house. They replaced the roof, they put on new doors, they power-  
5 washed and painted the house, and then they cleaned up and revitalized the yard.

6 Another Robinson plant employee that I know personally takes  
7 a lunch hour to share a meal and conversation with an elementary school  
8 youngster, just so that that child will have a caring adult there to talk to him  
9 weekly.

10 And the Robinson Plant is important to our local economy.  
11 The wages they pay throughout the community come back to us in the form of  
12 purchases at local businesses. CP&L's taxes do help support our schools. The  
13 Robinson Plant's a good neighbor, one in which our community feels very safe  
14 existing with. We ask that their license be renewed so that these mutually  
15 beneficial relationship can continue.

16 On behalf of our board and our chamber members, I thank you  
17 for the opportunity to speak during this relicensing process.

18 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you very much, Nancy.

19 Our next speaker – next two speakers, first we're going to ask  
20 Mr. Mal Hyman to talk to us, whom I believe is a professor at Coker College.  
21 And then we're going to go to Mr. Franklin Hines.

22 MR. HYMAN: Like to echo the sentiments of some of the  
23 previous speakers of how CP&L has been a valuable citizen in the community.  
24 But I feel compelled as a professor to ask some questions, and this seems to be  
25 the time to ask them.

26 Regarding security, the control room in the spent fuel storage

1 fuel aren't protected by the dome at the plant. What are the environmental  
2 consequences of an attack, God forbid?

3 I'd like to further the questioning by Jackie Kirvan on thermal  
4 shock. In reading through statements by Dr. Hanauer of the NRC, about a  
5 decade ago he was talking about these problems and reports, and said, "All  
6 things considered, the NRC report reached a reasonably comforting conclusion.  
7 It listed 40 pressurized water reactors in which pressurized thermal shock was  
8 an issue. No one does anything. We've got one reactor that's in big trouble, four  
9 others that are a little behind it." The reactor he was referring to was H. B.  
10 Robinson 2. And I'm wondering how we've dealt with this, what the fluents and  
11 flux scales are. I find this beyond what most in academe can deal with, since  
12 some of the questions deal with metallurgy, so perhaps I can better be up-to-  
13 speed. And I'd appreciate some input on this. Thank you.

14 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Professor Hyman. Just  
15 let me note that, even though you raised these in the form of perhaps questions,  
16 that there is an implied – obviously an implied comment and concern there, and  
17 that the NRC staff will be evaluating those concerns. To the extent that they fall  
18 within the safety evaluation, they will be considered by the people who are doing  
19 the safety evaluation. To the extent that they're environmental, then they will be  
20 treated in this process. So we thank both you and Ms. Kirvan for – for raising  
21 those concerns.

22 And the – the security issue that you raised is such an  
23 important – obviously an important, overarching question, I thought maybe it  
24 would be useful to just ask John Tappert to talk a little bit about the  
25 Commission's ongoing review on the – the homeland security issue and how all  
26 this ties into the license renewal application.

1 John?

2 MR. TAPPERT: Yeah. And – and the security issue does –  
3 does come up when we have these meetings, particularly in the aftermath of  
4 9/11, of course. And the way we approach that is not to look at that as a license  
5 renewal issue, but as an operating reactor issue. In other words, it doesn't  
6 necessarily apply to Robinson because they're coming up for license renewal, it  
7 applies to Robinson because they're a nuclear power plant operating today.

8 In that context, we've done a lot of things to help beef up  
9 security at these facilities. The Commission has launched a top-to-bottom  
10 review to look at all their security requirements and see how – how they should  
11 be changed in light of current world events. We've staffed up a new independent  
12 office within our organization just to focus on these security issues, and we're  
13 interfacing with the Office of Homeland Security.

14 We've also issued a number of orders to each power plant  
15 throughout the country which we call interim compensatory measures to help  
16 them increase their security profile, and these things involve increased staff,  
17 greater stand-off distances for possible vehicle bombs and the like. And we're  
18 also tightening, too, the – and perhaps you were aware that the attorney general  
19 has a scale of the various thresholds that went from yellow to orange and back  
20 to yellow again. We also have actions tied to these various threat levels.

21 So the security issue is a very important issue. It's a very  
22 "today" issue. But we're not really handling it in the context of license renewal.  
23 So when you see our environmental impact statement, you probably won't see  
24 a lot of discussion in that area.

25 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, John. And our  
26 representative from the Office of General Counsel just told me to let you know

1 that at one of the other reactors that's up for license renewal where there is an  
2 adjudicatory hearing going on, there was a contention – an issue raised in that  
3 proceeding as to whether the security issue, terrorist threats, should be  
4 considered not only, as John pointed out, as a operating reactor issue, but should  
5 be considered in the environmental impact statement on the license renewal of  
6 not only that particular plant, but if it – if it's going to apply to that plant, then  
7 it would be – it would apply to the environmental group used for any other plant,  
8 such as – such as Robinson.

9 Antonio, do you want to say anything more about that? This  
10 is – give us your name.

11 MR. FERNANDEZ: My name is Antonio Fernandez. I'm  
12 with the Office of General Counsel. And the only thing I would say for the  
13 members of the public to be aware that the Commission is considering that issue  
14 right now. It's before the commissioners. They've had the issue since December  
15 of last year, and they have yet to issue an opinion. But an opinion should be  
16 forthcoming, and their decision will basically decide what the Commission's  
17 obligations are under NEPA with regards to consideration of environmental  
18 impacts arising from a terrorist attack on a facility.

19 MR. CAMERON: Okay. And just to make sure that it – that  
20 it is clear, though, that regardless of what the Commission does on that  
21 particular issue from the environmental impact statement point of view, John's  
22 statement about the consideration of terrorist threats to any plant, Robinson  
23 included, as an operating reactor is still – still applies.

24 Okay, let's – let's go to – to Mr. Franklin Hines, who's a local  
25 business man. And thank you, Mr. Hines.

26 MR. HINES: Good evening. My name is Franklin Hines, as

1 was said, and I am a local businessman here in Hartsville. And I enjoy also  
2 being a part of helping to expand and help chart the course of destiny for some  
3 of our community by helping to grow and make it a better place to live. And I  
4 find that to be also a character trait of the CP&L group.

5 We have worked together over the years in many ways with  
6 CP&L. I know several of the employees there, and as a matter of fact, I have a  
7 very close relative that's been there about 18 years. And I know many other –  
8 other persons there. And – and I'm impressed with the quality and the  
9 professionalism that I find with the people I know that are working there and that  
10 operate that plant.

11 The Robinson Plant employees seem to be committed to  
12 operating the plant safely and – and protecting this environment. The employees  
13 also have committed to making a difference in our community, as was stated by  
14 some others before me such as the chamber of commerce, the school system, and  
15 other places where they are personally involved, even if beyond the – the value  
16 of the check that you send every year.

17 A renewing – a renewed operating license would allow the  
18 Robinson Plant to continue to provide safe and reliable economic benefit to our  
19 local community for many years to come, and I'm personally pleased and I  
20 appreciate the opportunity to express my support for the license renewal of the  
21 Robinson Plant. Thank you so very much.

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you very much.

23 Is there anybody else who – who we missed, who wanted to  
24 – to say anything?

25 (No response.)

26 MR. CAMERON: And since we – since we do have some



1 time and two of our speakers have raised the pressurized thermal shock issue,  
2 I've asked John Tappert to just provide us a little bit more on that, and then  
3 perhaps we can have some more extensive discussions at the end of the meeting.

4 John?

5 MR. TAPPERT: Yeah, just – Chip asked me to say a couple  
6 things about the pressurized thermal shock. And of course that is a very real  
7 concern, and the – the regulations were amended to address that in the '80s, I  
8 believe. And, of course, this is where the cold water coming to the pressurized  
9 vessel when it's hot, and you can actually have a fracture below the yield  
10 strength of the vessel.

11 And because it – it is such a potentially significant event,  
12 we've had requirements to ask the applicants to analyze these things, and they  
13 have coupon samples to verify the metallurgy of the vessel and make sure that  
14 they – there are – we don't approach any of these limits. And again, these things  
15 are verified as part of the safety review rather than environmental review, so I'm  
16 a little hesitant to go beyond that. But we could perhaps talk a little bit after the  
17 meeting to explore that a little further.

18 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, John.

19 As I mentioned before, we do have a number of experts with  
20 us from the national labs who are helping us to prepare the environmental impact  
21 statement, including in the areas of the aquatic resources. And we have NRC  
22 staff here from our Office of General Counsel. We also have our resident  
23 inspectors at the – the Robinson Plant who are – who are both right here. If you  
24 have the time, please take the – yeah, I should have. This is – this is Binoy.  
25 Why don't you introduce yourself. That's good.

26 MR. DESAI: Binoy Desai. I'm the Senior Resident Inspector

1 here at the Robinson Plant. I've been here for over five years. And I just want  
2 to add that part of my responsibility as the senior resident inspector is to work  
3 at the plant on a day-to-day basis. We have complements in headquarters, we  
4 have complement in the region. But Andy and I both come to work every day  
5 at the plant and we have access to all parts of the plant, just as any employee of  
6 CP&L.

7 Andy?

8 MR. HUTTO: I'm Andy Hutto. I'm the Resident Inspector.  
9 I work here with Binoy, and been here about four-and-a-half years. And, like  
10 Binoy said, our day-to-day activities are to inspect risk-informed activities of the  
11 plant as our way of showing that the plant is being operated safely.

12 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Binoy. Thank you,  
13 Andy.

14 Please, we're – we're going to adjourn for this afternoon.  
15 We're going to be here again at 7:00 tonight. Please feel free to – to talk to the  
16 NRC staff or other experts. And I would ask our experts if there is an area that  
17 you heard some concern about tonight, please talk to the people who – who  
18 raised that. And thank you again for – for being here. And we'll stand adjourned  
19 until 7:00 tonight. 6:00 open house again. Thank you very much.

20 (Whereupon, the hearing was concluded at 2:37 p.m.)  
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