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

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS THE ENVIRONMENTAL
REVIEW FOR LICENSE RENEWAL

AT ST.LUCIE, UNITS 1 AND 2

+ + + + +

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2002

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Council Chambers

Port St. Lucie City Hall

Port St. Lucie, Florida

The Public Meeting commenced at 1:30 p.m.

NRC STAFF PRESENTERS:

CHIP CAMERON

NOEL DUDLEY

MICHAEL MASNIK

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

(1:30 p.m.)

MR. CAMERON: Welcome to today's meeting.

My name is Chip Cameron. I'm the special counsel for public liaison at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and it's my pleasure to serve as your facilitator for today's meeting. And hopefully, I will be able to help all of you to have a productive meeting today.

Our subject for the meeting is the preparation of an environmental impact statement on Florida Power and Light's request to renew the operating licenses for the St. Lucie Nuclear Plant. And I'd just like to go over three brief items with you on meeting process before we get to the substance of today's discussion.

First of all, I'd like to talk about objectives. Then I want to tell you a little bit about the format and ground rules for today's meeting and lastly, to go over the agenda.

VIDEO PERSON: Can I interrupt? We haven't quite set up business.

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

Thank-you all for coming out today to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's public meeting on the

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1 preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement on
2 Florida Power and Light's request to renew the
3 licenses for the St. Lucie Plants.

4 As I mentioned, my name is Chip Cameron.
5 I'm the special counsel for public liaison at the NRC
6 and I'm going to serve as your facilitator today.

7 I just want to talk a little bit about a
8 couple of things, one being objectives.

9 One of our meeting objectives today is to
10 make sure that you understand the NRC's process for
11 evaluating the Florida Power and Light request to
12 renew the licenses and how you can participate in the
13 NRC process. And included in part of that process is
14 the review of potential environmental impacts that
15 might result from the renewal of the license.

16 And today's meeting is called a scoping
17 meeting. And scoping is a term that is used in
18 connection with the preparation of an Environmental
19 Impact Statement under the National Environmental
20 Policy Act.

21 The Environmental Impact Statement is a
22 critical, important document for the NRC to use in
23 deciding whether to renew the licenses at St. Lucie.
24 And scoping is a process that helps the NRC identify,
25 with your assistance, information, impacts,

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1 alternatives that should be looked at in the
2 Environmental Impact Statement that's being prepared.

3 And this brings me to the second objective
4 of today's meeting and the most important one, which
5 is to gather information from you on potential
6 environmental issues that should be investigated in
7 regard to the St. Lucie license renewal application.

8 We're asking for written comments on these
9 issues and the NRC staff will tell you a little more
10 about how to do that in a few minutes, but we're here
11 to talk to you today in person.

12 And I would just emphasize that as you
13 listen to members of the community and others who come
14 up to speak and offer formal comments to us, you may
15 get some information from those comments from the NRC
16 presentations, that will help you to prepare any
17 written comments that you want to send in to us on
18 these issues.

19 The two objectives of tonight's meeting,
20 providing information to you and listening to you are
21 reflected in the format and the agenda for today's
22 meeting. There's basically two major parts to the
23 meeting this afternoon.

24 The first part is going to be providing
25 information and we have two brief NRC presentations

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1 for you. One is going to be on the license renewal
2 process generally, and the second is going to be
3 specifically on the environmental aspects of the
4 license renewal process. And after each of those,
5 we're going to go on to you, to see if you have any
6 questions and we'll try to answer those questions for
7 you.

8 I wanted to introduce the NRC presenters
9 at this time before I go on and finish up with some
10 meeting details. And the NRC staff person who's going
11 to be giving us a background on license renewal
12 generally is right over here. It's Noel Dudley and he
13 is the license renewal project manager for St. Lucie.

14 He's worked at the NRC in various
15 capacities for the last eighteen years and he also was
16 a senior staff engineer for one of the commission's
17 advisory committees, the Advisory Committee on Reactor
18 Safeguards.

19 He's been a resident inspector at a
20 nuclear power plant, the Seabrook nuclear station.
21 And he's also a certified licensed operator licensing
22 examiner for pressurized water reactors.

23 Before he joined the NRC, he was a
24 supervisor at something called the Loss of Fluid Test
25 Facility or LOFTF, which is located in Idaho, I

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1 believe.

2 He was an officer in the nuclear navy and
3 he spent two years teaching physics and general
4 science in Kenya, East Africa, as a member of the
5 Peace Corps.

6 His graduate work was done at Idaho State
7 University and Villanova. He has a Bachelor's Degree
8 in Engineering Physics from Lehigh and a Bachelor's
9 Degree in Physics also from Lehigh.

10 Our next speaker is right over here and
11 this is Michael Masnik, and Mike is the environmental
12 project manager on the St. Lucie license renewal
13 application. And he's going to tell you a little bit
14 about the Environmental Impact evaluation process.
15 And Mike's been with the NRC for twenty-seven years.

16 He got his Bachelor's, B.S. at Cornell
17 University in Zoology and he has a Master's and a
18 Doctorate from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and
19 both of those are in Ichthyology, and I'm sure he put
20 that down just to test me on whether I can pronounce
21 that.

22 But he has a lot of experience in
23 environmental review, particularly in regard to the
24 St. Lucie Plant. Mike was part of the NRC team that
25 did the original licensing review for the licensing of

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1 the St. Lucie Plant.

2 He's worked in various positions at the
3 NRC. And he was involved for thirteen years in the
4 oversight of the cleanup at the Three Mile Island
5 Nuclear Plant and he's also had extensive experience
6 with the decommissioning of nuclear plants.

7 So we have some very capable people to do
8 the presentations and also we have other members here
9 from the NRC staff.

10 And we also have some expert consultants
11 with us from some of the national laboratories, that
12 are helping us to do the environmental review. And I
13 would encourage you to talk with them after the
14 meeting, if you have the opportunity to do that.

15 The first part of the meeting,
16 presentations, question/answer with you. Second part
17 of the meeting is an opportunity for the NRC staff and
18 all of you to listen to formal comments from the
19 public on the environmental issues.

20 And there is a sign-up sheet, sign-up
21 cards. If you wish to speak, just do that. And I may
22 not necessarily take the names in the order they were,
23 they came in with, but you will have an opportunity to
24 speak, and those of you who have any time constraints
25 and won't be able to stay for the whole meeting, we'll

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1 try to get you on early.

2 That leads me to the ground rules for
3 today's meeting. We have a lot of people who want to
4 talk today and we have a lot of information to give
5 you. So I want to make sure that everybody has a
6 chance to speak today and I would ask you to keep your
7 comments to five minutes. That's a ground rule. We
8 have a little bit of flexibility in regard to that,
9 but not much, in order to get everybody on. So I'll
10 give you a reminder if it seems that you're going to
11 be running over those limits.

12 The second ground rule is that I would ask
13 that only one person speak at a time. We want to give
14 our full attention to whomever has the floor. And
15 we're also taking a transcript of the meeting and that
16 transcript will be available to the public to review,
17 and it will help us to keep track of the issues that
18 are raised today.

19 So one person speaking at a time. When we
20 have the question/answer session, just raise your hand
21 if you have a question and I'll bring this talking
22 stick out to you. And please give us your name and
23 your affiliation, if appropriate, so that we can have
24 that on the transcript.

25 When we get to the formal comment part of

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1 the meeting, it probably will be more comfortable for
2 you to come up here to speak, and if you'd rather stay
3 in your seat though, I'll bring you this talking stick
4 out.

5 The focus today is environmental issues.
6 That's why we're out here trying to get information on
7 what we should look at in the preparation of the draft
8 Environmental Impact Statement. We know there are
9 other concerns besides environmental issues and we'll
10 be glad to hear those concerns.

11 One of the things you'll hear today is
12 that there is a safety side of the license renewal
13 evaluation where issues such as aging are looked at
14 and Noel Dudley is going to talk to that in a few
15 minutes.

16 There's the environmental review side.
17 Both of those come together along with the inspection
18 findings and that's what the staff uses to make an
19 initial recommendation on the license application
20 renewal to the Commission.

21 Even though we're here to focus on
22 environmental issues, if we do hear the so-called
23 safety side issues, we will make sure that those get
24 into the safety side evaluation process and they will
25 be on the record. And we'll also answer any questions

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1 you might have about those safety side issues.

2 And I would just thank you again for being
3 here. This is an extremely important decision that
4 the NRC is making here and we thank you for your
5 contribution to that.

6 And no conclusions have been reached in
7 regard to what the environmental impacts are going to
8 be. That will only happen after this meeting, after
9 the written comments that we hear and after our expert
10 team has done a lot of their environmental review.

11 We'll be back out here with a draft
12 Environmental Impact Statement that will have some
13 preliminary findings for you and we'll be back to
14 discuss those with you.

15 The last note and I'll get out of the way
16 here. This is one meeting that we're having with the
17 public on this particular license renewal application.
18 There will be other meetings.

19 I would just encourage all of you to try
20 to maintain some continuity with the NRC staff. If
21 you have any questions at any time, any information
22 that you need, please feel free to contact them. They
23 will give you their phone numbers and their e-mail
24 addresses, and anything that we can help the public to
25 understand about this process and any concerns, we

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1 want to do that.

2 And with that, let me thank you and go to
3 Mr. Noel Dudley, who's going to talk to us about the
4 license renewal process in general.

5 MR. DUDLEY: Thank-you, Chip.

6 As Chip mentioned, I am Noel Dudley, the
7 project manager for the safety review of St. Lucie
8 Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2 license renewal
9 application.

10 As you may know, Florida Power and Light
11 submitted the license renewal application on November
12 30th, 2001.

13 The operating licenses for St. Lucie's
14 Units 1 and 2, currently expire in 2016 and 2023,
15 respectively.

16 The licensee renewal process that I will
17 overview for you today, confirms that the licensing
18 basis at the time of original plant construction, as
19 revised over the years, will continue to be valid for
20 the period of extended operation.

21 The Atomic Energy Act provided that the
22 Nuclear Regulatory Commission is responsible for
23 public health and safety, protection of the
24 environment, and the common defense and security. It
25 is also provided that each power reactor would have a

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1 forty year license term. But the Atomic Energy
2 Commission went on to say that these licenses could be
3 renewed. The original forty year license term was
4 based primarily on anti-trust and economic factors,
5 not on the technical limitations of the plant design.

6 However, having established a forty year
7 license term, the Commission realized in the early
8 1980's that it would have to establish a process for
9 making license renewal decisions. Consequently, the
10 Commission developed and approved a new regulation
11 concerning the process for renewing power reactor
12 operating licenses. The regulation is formally
13 referred to as 10 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 51
14 -- or Part 54, "Requirements for Renewal of Operating
15 Licenses at Nuclear Power Plants."

16 There is a companion regulation that
17 provides the scope of the environmental review, and
18 it's referred to as 10 CFR, Part 51, "Environmental
19 Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and
20 Related Regulatory Functions."

21 Applications for license renewal are
22 submitted years in advance for several reasons. If a
23 utility decides to replace a nuclear power plant, it
24 could take up to ten years to plan and construct new
25 generating capacity to replace that nuclear plant. In

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1 addition, plans to replace or recondition major
2 components are early considerations for license
3 renewal.

4 Licensees considering license renewal
5 evaluate the requirements for additional plant
6 inspections and maintenance practices for the period
7 of extended operation. A licensee then must decide
8 whether to renew a plant license or to begin
9 decommissioning the plant at the end of the present
10 license term.

11 The process that the NRC provides for, as
12 Chip mentioned, essentially runs in two parallel
13 paths. I'll be talking about the top path and Dr.
14 Masnik will be talking about the lower path.

15 The process: There is a safety review
16 that looks at the scope of license renewal issues
17 associated with aging management programs for passive,
18 long-lived systems, structures, and components. The
19 Commission believes the ongoing regulatory process is
20 adequate to monitor the management of active
21 components, the current licensing basis, and the
22 provisions for programs such as emergency planning and
23 security plans.

24 There are plant processes that provide
25 constant attention to things. However, those

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1 processes do not explicitly look at the plant's design
2 capability to cope with long-term degradation of
3 equipment due to aging effects.

4 So the license renewal application focuses
5 on those inspection programs and maintenance practices
6 that are used to maintain the margins of safety for
7 safety-related equipment. The application also
8 evaluates non-safety related components and structures
9 that could adversely affect the reliability of the
10 safety related components.

11 Separately, the NRC conducts an
12 environmental review and you'll hear more details
13 later.

14 The NRC staff prepares a Safety Evaluation
15 Report and an Environmental Impact Statement. These
16 products, taken together with two other products, form
17 the basis for the Commission to renew a license.

18 One of the other products is produced by
19 the Commission's Advisory Committee on Reactor
20 Safeguards. The ACRS is an independent body of
21 experts from the industry, national laboratories and
22 academia, who have expertise in a variety of technical
23 areas.

24 The ACRS reviews the technical quality of
25 the license renewal application and the Safety

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1 Evaluation Report. It then writes a report to the NRC
2 chairman, Dr. Meserve.

3 There is also an NRC inspection program
4 that verifies certain key elements of the staff's
5 safety findings. Collectively, the Commission's
6 decision on a license renewal application will rely on
7 a Safety Evaluation Report, an Environmental Impact
8 Statement, the ACRS report, and the NRC Inspection
9 Reports.

10 These activities are scheduled over about
11 a twenty-five month period, assuming there is not a
12 hearing. Had there been a hearing petition, which was
13 submitted and granted, then the schedule would have
14 been about thirty months to complete the review
15 process.

16 I will be available after the meeting if
17 there are any questions that you have about the aging
18 management program review, the specifics of the safety
19 review process, or the ultimate contents of the safety
20 evaluation report.

21 Unless there are any particular questions
22 you have about the overall process, I will turn the
23 meeting over to Michael Masnik to go through the
24 environmental review for this licensing action.

25 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Let's find out if

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1 there are indeed any questions about the overall
2 license renewal process, some of the information that
3 Noel has given us today.

4 Any questions?

5 Yes, sir, and if you could just tell us
6 your name, please, too.

7 MR. DOYLE: My name is Glenn Doyle.

8 MR. CAMERON: Great.

9 MR. DOYLE: I was wondering why you
10 separated the safety review from the environmental
11 review.

12 MR. CAMERON: All right, thank-you.

13 MR. DUDLEY: I may need some help on the
14 environmental side, but there's specific requirements
15 for how you do an Environmental Impact Statement, and
16 there's a separate requirement -- set of requirements
17 for the technical equipment evaluation.

18 So there are two separate methodologies
19 for reviewing the application. And the application
20 itself is put together in two separate parts. One is
21 technical information about the design of the nuclear
22 power plant and the other one is about the
23 environmental impacts of the nuclear power plant being
24 placed in the environment.

25 MR. CAMERON: Okay. I think we have more

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1 information on that question for you.

2 Barry?

3 MR. ZALCMAN: My name is Barry Zalcman,
4 staff.

5 Very good question. I think it's
6 important to differentiate between the NRC's
7 responsibility under the Atomic Energy Act, which is
8 what Noel referred to as the organic statute that lays
9 out our responsibility looking at safety issues and
10 our responsibility also under the National
11 Environmental Policy Act, or Part 51 regulations that
12 we'll be talking about today, dealing with the
13 environmental review responsibilities that we have.

14 Our principal mission within the agency is
15 the health and safety of the public, but insofar as we
16 have that mission, the actions that we take, we'd also
17 consider the environmental protection requirements.

18 But we have dual obligations under
19 different statutes. The Atomic Energy Act and the
20 Energy Organization Act deals with our principal
21 safety responsibilities and the National Environmental
22 Policy Act deals with our environmental
23 responsibilities as well.

24 A VOICE: And who wrote that paper?

25 MR. CAMERON: Let's get you on the

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1 transcript. And this is, it's Mr. Doyle again?

2 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

3 Thank-you for your time and I just
4 wondered who wrote the National Environmental Policy
5 Act.

6 MR. CAMERON: Barry, do you want to give
7 us a simple answer on that?

8 MR. ZALCMAN: I would, I would -- it was
9 written by Congress. It was enacted in 1969. Signed
10 into law by President Nixon on January 1st, 1970.

11 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank-you.

12 Yes. Let's go over here.

13 MR. ONCAVAGE: Thank-you.

14 This is Mark Oncavage.

15 Shouldn't the safety review have the same
16 type of public access that the environmental review
17 has?

18 MR. CAMERON: Noel, do we answer that or
19 should we -- Barry, you want to take a crack at it,
20 because I think that that's the type of
21 over-arching question that you need to address.

22 MR. ZALCMAN: Our safety response -- this
23 is again Barry Zalcmán -- Our safety responsibilities
24 against -- under the Atomic Energy Act are unique from
25 our responsibilities in environmental space.

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1 Congress has given us tremendous authority
2 and deference to our technical review responsibility.
3 It is an open process in that we do perform safety
4 evaluations. We issue those safety evaluations so the
5 public is aware of what we're doing in safety space.

6 We also have an open access to the agency
7 through a variety of different forms, either a
8 petitioning process or some other mechanism to seek
9 engagement and some of those lead to hearing
10 processes.

11 So, as Noel mentioned in his opening
12 remarks, there are opportunities for the public to
13 participate. Again, it's a different statute, it's a
14 different framework, but we do have access and
15 engagement with the public.

16 I will tell you that our reports are
17 issued, the public is aware of them and our meetings
18 that we conduct with our applicants or with our
19 licensees are also open meetings. Our inspection
20 activities also are open opportunities where the
21 public engage in dialogue with the agency. So it is
22 different and yet the public does have access to us as
23 well.

24 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you.

25 MR. DUDLEY: And I would like to add a

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1 little bit more from the safety side.

2 It is, as part of the safety review, we do
3 conduct scoping and screening audits on site. We
4 conduct scoping and screening inspections on site.
5 And those inspections are followed up by an exit
6 meeting at the end of the inspection, which is held in
7 this area and is open to the public, so the public can
8 hear and participate in what was found during those
9 inspections and audits.

10 In two weeks, the 15th, 16th and 17th,
11 I'll be back on site with a scoping and screening
12 audit team that will look at the methodology that was
13 used in developing the application. And that will be
14 followed by an exit meeting at the training center, I
15 believe we've got that scheduled for now.

16 And there's a meeting notice that has been
17 published in the Federal Register notice and I believe
18 some of you in the room are on concurrence to receive
19 those meeting notices. And you're more than welcome
20 to participate and observe the interaction between the
21 NRC and the licensee, and to provide comments at those
22 meetings.

23 MR. CAMERON: Noel, how can people easily
24 get access to all of the list of meetings, the
25 schedule of meetings on the safety side, because I

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1 think that that would be relevant information, not
2 only to Mr. Oncavage, but to others, if they want to
3 check on when those meetings are? Hopefully they
4 don't have to go and read the Federal Register.

5 MR. DUDLEY: That's correct.

6 There's a listing of all NRC public
7 meetings on the website, www.NRC.gov. And you will
8 find a listing of public meetings and at those public
9 meetings there's -- on each agenda, there's a specific
10 line item to receive public comments.

11 Many of those meetings in the safety side
12 are held up in Washington, D.C., where we go over some
13 of the more technical details of the review of the
14 application.

15 The inspections for whether the programs
16 described in the application are indeed justified by
17 technical reviews and are in place at the site, are
18 done by our inspection activities on the site. And
19 those meetings are few -- there are fewer of those
20 meetings than there are technical meetings in
21 Washington.

22 MR. CAMERON: And those meetings that are
23 in Washington that might be difficult for people to
24 attend, if they want to read a summary of those
25 meetings, is that something that the NRC makes

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1 available on the website?

2 MR. DUDLEY: I may need some help on
3 this.

4 Do we put the transcripts for public
5 meetings on website?

6 MR. CAMERON: Mike?

7 DR. MASNIK: Mike Masnik, NRC, yes.

8 When we hold public meetings in Washington
9 and -- I'm sorry, when we hold meetings in Washington
10 with a licensee, the project manager will publish a
11 meeting summary, and typically the guideline is to
12 have that published and out within thirty days of the
13 meeting, and that becomes part of the record. It's in
14 the docket and it would show up in our information
15 management system, which is the ADAMS portion of our
16 net access.

17 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank-you, Mike.

18 And again, I'll just remind everybody that
19 if you do have questions about meetings or anything
20 like that, feel free to call Dr. Masnik, Mr. Dudley or
21 any of the others of us.

22 Yes, sir?

23 MR. SMILEN: Right.

24 My name is Stan Smilen. I met you at
25 Turkey Point, where I was the only member of the

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1 public who actually came forward.

2 And I did inform the advisory committee at
3 the time that I felt it was remarkable that there was
4 no municipality or county government entity
5 represented at that meeting. Because my understanding
6 was that this is supposed to be an adversarial process
7 and that government entities can step forward as
8 intervenors, provide special counsel and technical
9 consultants.

10 Now, it strikes me that the public is
11 being reassured that all is well, that the NRC is
12 handling this matter, the FPL is coming forward and
13 consideration is being given to the proposals. But
14 there's no responsible rebuttal being offered to the
15 presentation that's being made by the FPL other than
16 the technical people on the NRC.

17 But the problem is that the NRC has a dual
18 mandate from the Congress and one is to promote
19 nuclear power, and the other is to regulate safety.

20 Am I right or wrong?

21 DR. MASNIK: No, the --

22 MR. SMILEN: Wait, let me just say it
23 (inaudible).

24 I spent thirty-six years in the airline
25 industry, and one of the problems with the FAA is that

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1 they were given a dual mandate by the Congress to
2 regulate the safety of the airline industry and also
3 to promote a nation. When the CAB folded, the FAA got
4 that mandate, and the two came in conflict and safety
5 was compromised in that industry.

6 Now the same charges are being made
7 against the NRC by the Union of Concerned Scientists.
8 I know this is a lengthy question, but let's get it
9 out in the open. I think it's an important question.

10 How does a government entity become
11 involved as an intervenor in this process?

12 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Mr. Smilen, I think
13 that we have some answers to your questions and I
14 might address the adversarial issue, and I'm going to
15 have Barry address the promotion/regulation issue.

16 Barry?

17 MR. ZALCMAN: Let me address that first.

18 It's a very interesting point. It's an
19 issue that I think Congress had struggled with when
20 they first passed the Atomic Energy Act. The Atomic
21 Energy Commission at that time did have that dual
22 role.

23 In the mid-seventies, promulgated with the
24 1974 Energy Reorganization Act, Congress removed the
25 opportunity from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and

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1 created the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to perform
2 that regulatory function.

3 The promotional side of nuclear power is
4 not part of the NRC's mandate. In fact, it created an
5 energy research and development administration at the
6 time, which has subsequently been absorbed into the
7 Department of Energy.

8 So the promotional side of nuclear power
9 has nothing to do with the NRC's mandate. As a matter
10 of fact, we are not promoters of nuclear energy, we
11 are regulators of nuclear energy.

12 So the issue that you raised with the FAA,
13 while it is important, I think Congress recognized
14 that and did act to make that change in the
15 mid-seventies.

16 MR. CAMERON: Okay. And we may have
17 another question and I would just mildly remind you
18 that sometimes questions can really be comments.

19 This question that was raised alerts us to
20 a couple of issues that I think people need to know
21 about. One that Barry had already answered and I'm
22 going to answer another part of that for you. And
23 then we'll go to you, sir, okay, to see if you have a
24 question that we can help you with.

25 But all of these meetings on the safety

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1 issues, local government is routinely notified of
2 every meeting, so local governments in the area know
3 about those meetings and can attend those meetings if
4 they want to. And the NRC staff will always make
5 themselves available. If there is a local government
6 that has concerns about a particular issue, the staff
7 will sit down and talk to them about that.

8 But I wanted to address the -- Mr.
9 Smilen's understanding of the fact that the process is
10 supposed to be an adversarial process.

11 And I'm going to take off my facilitator's
12 hat for a second and put on my attorney's hat, and
13 just note that the hearing that is offered, that Noel
14 mentioned, on any of these license renewal
15 applications, that hearing is an adjudicatory hearing.
16 It's like a trial basically with evidence, witnesses,
17 cross-examination. And like any trial, it's
18 classically, it is an adversarial proceeding.

19 The meetings that the NRC staff, either on
20 the safety side or the environmental side, have with
21 a license applicant are very, very searching,
22 important meetings, but I wouldn't classify them as
23 adversarial in the terms of an adjudicatory hearing.

24 The staff is there to find out
25 information, to give information to the licensee about

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1 things that they might have to do to meet the
2 regulations. But I just wanted to clarify that and
3 hopefully I didn't confuse things any more.

4 Sir?

5 MR. DUDLEY: I would just like to make
6 one other comment on Mr. Smilen's comment about
7 independent experts reviewing the process and Congress
8 was very concerned about this.

9 Even when they had the Atomic Energy
10 Commission, they established a precursor to the
11 Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, whose intent
12 was to do a third-party, independent review of the
13 technical work being done by the Atomic Energy
14 Commission staff, so that there was experts who were
15 independent and not connected with production of the
16 products or regulations, review those regulations and
17 provide their recommendations back to the Atomic
18 Energy Commission.

19 And that concept of having an independent,
20 technical body reviewing the work done by the
21 technical NRC staff, was carried forward by the ACRS,
22 and that is a statutory group that was mandated by
23 Congress and funded by Congress.

24 So there is an example of a review group
25 that is funded by a federal mandate.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thanks for adding
2 that.

3 So we're just going to make this the last
4 question in this part and we need to get Mike Masnik
5 on to talk about environmental, and then we'll go back
6 out to you. So go ahead.

7 MR. LESLIE: Frank Leslie.

8 This is a non-adversarial question and
9 suggestion.

10 Is there or could there be a subscription
11 e-mail list that could be used to alert us to new
12 publications, particularly about the St. Lucie Plant?

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you, Mr. Leslie.

14 I'm going to go to Mike Masnik on this
15 one.

16 Mike?

17 DR. MASNIK: I'm going to address
18 contacting us and certainly if you have a request that
19 you would like to be notified of certain meetings, I
20 think we can accommodate that. But at the end of my
21 talk, I'll talk a little bit about -- we have a
22 website set up and we also have a web address that you
23 can communicate with me, so --

24 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thanks, Mike, and
25 Mike -- thank-you, Noel, for, you know, bringing Mike

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1 up.

2 We'll go back out to you for questions and
3 then we're going to hear from you.

4 We do have a lot of speakers today, so I
5 just want to make sure we get everybody on before the
6 next meeting starts.

7 DR. MASNIK: Thank-you, Chip and Noel.

8 As Chip mentioned, my name is Mike Masnik
9 and I'm the environmental project manager responsible
10 for the environmental review of the NRC's license
11 renewal effort for St. Lucie Plant.

12 As was mentioned, with me tonight, we have
13 a number of environmental experts, both from NRC in
14 headquarters, as well as the region, and several of
15 our national laboratories throughout the U.S.

16 We arrived early this week and have been
17 conducting an environmental audit on a number of
18 disciplines ranging from aquatic ecology to
19 socioeconomics, to radiation protection. You can
20 recognize us. We're the ones with the suits, and
21 ties, and name tags.

22 The National Environmental Policy Act or
23 NEPA, was passed as Barry mentioned, in 1969 and is
24 one of the most significant pieces of legislation
25 enacted in the 20th Century.

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1 For the first time the federal government
2 was required to consider the impact of its actions on
3 the environment. And as you can see from the slide,
4 NEPA prescribes a process, it requires consideration
5 of impacts, and requires the evaluation of
6 alternatives.

7 The requirements of NEPA fall on the
8 federal agency that's taking the federal action and in
9 this case, it's the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

10 The NRC has elected to prepare an
11 Environmental Impact Statement or in shorthand, an
12 EIS, as part of its review for extending the operating
13 license for St. Lucie for an additional twenty years.

14 What NEPA does not require is of equal
15 importance. For example, NEPA does not require that
16 the alternative with the smallest impact to be chosen
17 and, nor does it require the federal agency to hold
18 adjudicatory hearings on the impacts of the proposed
19 action.

20 As I mentioned here, our focus is on the
21 environmental impacts of a twenty year renewal of the
22 St. Lucie operating licenses. That renewal has been
23 requested by the licensee, or Florida Power and Light.

24 We also consider the impacts,
25 environmental impacts of alternatives to the proposed

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1 action, that could be available at this site, and they
2 also include the no action alternative, or in other
3 words, simply not approving the request for license
4 renewal.

5 What else does NEPA require?

6 NEPA was designed to disclose information.
7 The intent is for the federal agency to both inform
8 the public and to involve and gather information from
9 the public that might be helpful to us in reaching our
10 decision.

11 Finally NEPA requires the federal agencies
12 to be candid in our discussion of impacts and to
13 consider ways in which potential impacts could be
14 mitigated.

15 At this point in the review, we are in the
16 process of gathering information that we need to
17 prepare the Environmental Impact Statement. In the
18 jargon of NEPA, we are performing what we call
19 scoping.

20 This public meeting is part of our scoping
21 process, with the purpose of providing you, the public
22 and other governmental agencies, an opportunity to
23 participate in the preparation of the Environmental
24 Impact Statement by sharing with us any information
25 you might believe that had some bearing on our

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1 environmental evaluation, in particular, looking for
2 information that may not be readily available or
3 concerns that members of the public have, that may not
4 have been addressed by the licensee in their
5 environmental report, which is included as part of
6 their license renewal application.

7 We want to consider any information
8 provided to us to see if it warrants further
9 evaluation by us in the development of the draft
10 Environmental Impact Statement.

11 What then is this NEPA scoping process?

12 Well, as the slide states, it's a formal
13 process that defines the proposed action and
14 identifies specific issues that should be analyzed in
15 depth by the staff.

16 Scoping should also identify issues that
17 have been overlooked and there is where we need your
18 help.

19 Scoping also helps the staff eliminate
20 issues that are not relevant to the proposed action.
21 It also identifies other environmental reviews that
22 are ongoing and that may involve the proposed action.
23 And it also identifies local, state, tribal and
24 federal entities that have a stake in the decision and
25 should be consulted.

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1 Now once we gather all this information
2 and we perform our analysis, and we prepare our
3 Environmental Impact Statement, we need to make a
4 decision as to whether the NRC should, from an
5 environmental perspective, allow the re-licensing of
6 the facility.

7 This next slide provides what we call our
8 decision standard.

9 It states what we are trying to decide,
10 the decision we're trying to reach, which is whether
11 or not the environmental impacts of the proposed
12 license renewal are so great, that they're great
13 enough to preclude license renewal as a reasonable
14 alternative.

15 And I want to emphasize that if we were to
16 decide in the end that the license renewal is
17 acceptable from an environmental perspective, all that
18 means is that it would be okay from an environmental
19 point of view, for the licensee to operate for an
20 additional twenty years.

21 We don't determine whether or not they
22 actually will operate for the additional twenty years.
23 Those decisions are made elsewhere, and particularly
24 by the licensee themselves, and by state regulators.

25 It is possible that the licensee could

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1 determine after all of this that it's not economically
2 feasible to continue operating the plant. That's
3 their decision. We are simply determining whether
4 continued operation, through the license renewal
5 period, is acceptable environmentally.

6 Now this slide gives a little bit more
7 detail on the environmental review schedule for St.
8 Lucie.

9 The licensee's application was received on
10 November 29th, last year. On February 28th of this
11 year, we issued a notice of our intent to perform
12 scoping, which is what we're doing now, and as well as
13 our intent to develop an Environmental Impact
14 Statement for the proposed action.

15 The scoping phase of our environmental
16 review will end on April 30th of this year. After
17 that we will complete development of a draft
18 Environmental Impact Statement and we expect to issue
19 the draft for public comment in October of this year.

20 We'll also come back to you here in early
21 December for another public meeting, to focus on the
22 draft Environmental Impact Statement and give you an
23 opportunity to provide us any comments you might have
24 on the document.

25 After receiving and evaluating those final

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1 comments, we'll then develop a final Environmental
2 Impact Statement, which we expect to issue in July of
3 2003.

4 Now we gather information for our
5 evaluation from a number of different sources,
6 including the documents sent to us by the licensee.
7 We also meet and correspond with federal, state and
8 local government officials, and interested people from
9 the local community, which might have information that
10 might be helpful to us in our environmental
11 evaluation.

12 We also visit the site, which is another
13 part of what we're doing here this week, getting
14 familiar with the local environment, examining
15 features of particular interest, and observing
16 firsthand how the site interacts with the environment.

17 Our review team focuses on many
18 environmental interests. This slide shows the sort of
19 areas we're looking at, everything from air, water, to
20 under the ground.

21 We also look at issues such as
22 socioeconomics, how does the plant affect people's
23 lives economically, and we consider environmental
24 justice, which focuses on the question of whether
25 there are minority or low income population groups

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1 that may be disproportionately impacted by the
2 proposed licensing action.

3 Just listing a few key dates from the
4 earlier slide, our schedule is to complete the scoping
5 process by April 30th of this month, when the public
6 -- then that's when the public comment period ends.
7 After that, I indicated we would issue our draft
8 Environmental Impact Statement in October, and we
9 expect to issue a final document in July of 2003.

10 Now, I'm the agency's primary point of
11 contact for the environmental review. Note that the
12 slide includes my phone number.

13 However, if you do have comments that
14 you'd like to submit, we need your input in a form
15 that we can use, either in writing or as Chip has
16 indicated, verbal comments given here at today's
17 meeting. The transcription of today's meeting will
18 then form the basis of the written record of your
19 comments.

20 Now arrangements have been made for
21 documents associated with the license renewal
22 environmental review to be locally available to you.

23 The Indian River Community College Library
24 has been kind enough to make some shelf space
25 available for documents related to our environmental

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1 review. You need to go into the library, ask at the
2 front desk and they'll direct you to the carrel, which
3 has, at this point, a couple of feet of information
4 related to the license renewal application.

5 The library will continue to receive
6 documents that are generated in the course of this
7 review.

8 Also, as I just mentioned a few minutes
9 ago, our documents will be available in the document
10 management system, that can be accessed through our
11 internet web page. The web page or the website is
12 given on the slide. I think you can read it. If you
13 can't, it's on the handout, but it's www.nrc.gov

14 And that will walk you through to our
15 document management system, which then will allow you
16 to see all the documents.

17 Now if you want to submit comments to us,
18 other than the transcribed verbal comments today, you
19 have a couple of other options. You can write us a
20 letter and the address that you would use is on this
21 slide, right here.

22 I want to caution you though, since last
23 fall's anthrax incident, mail delivery to Washington,
24 D.C., to federal agencies, has been extremely slow.
25 Some of my mail that was mailed to me in late fall,

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1 took over two months to get to me.

2 If you plan to submit written comments,
3 please send them by e-mail to the address on the
4 slide, which is right down here. We've set up a
5 special electronic mailbox for just this application
6 and I'll be checking that every day.

7 If you are unable to send messages to me
8 or comments to me by e-mail, and you still plan to
9 mail your comments, I ask that you call me at the
10 number on the previous slide and let me know that
11 you've submitted it. I will probably ask you to fax
12 me a comment -- or fax me a copy of your comments, and
13 in any event we'll try to work something out, so that
14 your comments will be received by the NRC in a timely
15 fashion.

16 And, of course, you certainly can stop by
17 in person to deliver your comments to me if you're in
18 the Rockville, Maryland area, however, we haven't had
19 too many people take advantage of that option, but it
20 is available to you.

21 That concludes my presentation. If
22 anybody has any specific questions for me concerning
23 the process, we can take those now, Chip.

24 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank-you very much,
25 Mike.

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1 Questions on the environmental aspects of
2 the process, what types of issues are going to be
3 looked at.

4 Yes, sir?

5 MR. THEODORE: Nick Theodore.

6 One of the questions I have, were you
7 taking into consideration site storage of spent fuel
8 and (inaudible) ways to the facility? I know
9 Barnville seems to be near capacity and the facility
10 out in Nevada is becoming an issue in the press lately
11 about opposition to storing such items there.

12 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you, sir.

13 Mike?

14 DR. MASNIK: The issue of storage of
15 waste on the site is an issue that is considered
16 during our environmental review.

17 If you look on that back table -- I know
18 everybody will turn around -- but there is a poster
19 with a number of -- a series of pictures on it, and
20 that poster has the ninety-two issues that the site
21 routinely reviews when it does an environmental
22 review, such as for license renewal.

23 So the answer to your question is, it is
24 considered. It's considered in a generic fashion, but
25 it is considered.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Does that answer your
2 question, sir?

3 MR. THEODORE: Pretty much.

4 If you take in consideration say, for
5 example, there's parts, maybe fourteen refuelings in
6 each unit over the next twenty years, renewal, the
7 storage of that material at that point.

8 DR. MASNIK: The Commission has addressed
9 this issue of fuel storage on site and a licensee has
10 a number of options open to them.

11 Granted there is no permanent repository
12 for high level waste at this time and, you know, the
13 Department of Energy is working to develop a
14 repository, but the licensee has on-site storage in
15 their spent fuel pool and if they should run out of
16 space, they can also store the waste on site in dry
17 storage, that a number of facilities throughout the
18 U.S. have embraced dry storage and have built dry
19 storage facilities.

20 So there are a number of options open to
21 the government. Hopefully in the next number of
22 years, we will have a high level waste repository.

23 MR. CAMERON: Mr. Smilen.

24 MR. SMILEN: Right, Mike. I was
25 introduced to you before the meeting. We did have a

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1 discussion.

2 MR. CAMERON: Would you stand a little
3 bit away.

4 MR. SMILEN: Right, okay, I'm sorry.

5 And I was looking at the website last
6 night for the Union of Concerned Scientists. One of
7 the things that they don't like to do is engage in
8 private discussions, so I'm going to raise one or two
9 of the same questions that we did discuss, because in
10 Florida, we have Sunshine laws and these matters
11 really should be discussed in a public forum.

12 I asked you, would the stored nuclear fuel
13 rods, the spent fuel rods, have to be moved through
14 any of the communities here,

15 And inasmuch as Florida Power and Light
16 has said that they plan to reprocess this fuel, and in
17 their press release that was related to their proposed
18 merger with Entergy (phonetic), they said that they
19 were going to reprocess the fuel to produce MOX,
20 multi-oxide fuel, which contains uranium and plutonium
21 and then is burnt in nuclear power plants.

22 Now, in New York City you can't move
23 uranium fuel rods or spent fuel rods through the five
24 boroughs of New York. There are other cities that
25 don't allow you to do that.

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1 And considering that we have this
2 tremendous population explosion and the projected
3 population of seven-and-a-half million people in the
4 tri-county area for the next twenty-eight years, and
5 we're going to have fifteen million people living
6 south of Fort Pierce in the next thirty years, how do
7 you propose to make this compatible, this operation
8 moving fuel through these communities to get them on
9 ships to send them to Europe to be reprocessed, as FPL
10 is proposing?

11 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thanks, Mr. Smilen.

12 And Mike, I would just ask you to not only
13 try to answer the question, but also to put it --
14 address the context of this question and the license
15 renewal application.

16 DR. MASNIK: Well, the easier part of
17 this is to address the questions directly.

18 First of all, movement of spent fuel is
19 something that's done on a routine basis in this
20 country at a, you know, I wouldn't say daily, but
21 practically daily basis. We move both spent fuel and
22 new fuel quite often.

23 We have a whole section within our
24 organization that provides oversight. It's called a
25 Spent Fuel Program Office. There are canisters that

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1 have been designed to withstand natural disasters and
2 accidents, and fuel is moved on a regular basis.

3 I'm not aware of any plans on the part of
4 the licensee to use mixed oxide fuels. I'm also not
5 aware of any reprocessing by any North American entity
6 in North America. We abandoned the proposal for
7 reprocessing in this country back during Jimmy
8 Carter's days.

9 So, again, these are questions that are a
10 little outside the scope of our license renewal
11 application.

12 MR. SMILEN: Can I just add one comment
13 here?

14 DR. MASNIK: Sure.

15 MR. SMILEN: It appears to me that you're
16 not aware --

17 MR. CAMERON: Mr. Smilen, we're going to
18 have to get you on the record. But I would also --
19 there's going to be an opportunity to make some
20 comments later on, okay?

21 MR. SMILEN: (Inaudible).

22 MR. CAMERON: Well, could we just ask --
23 I'll have to ask you to make it really brief, because
24 we need to go on.

25 MR. SMILEN: Florida Power and Light made

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1 a press release relating to their proposed merger with
2 Entergy and said that they were going (inaudible) to
3 reprocess nuclear to facilities (inaudible). And that
4 FPL consulted (inaudible) extracted (inaudible) spent
5 fuel, FPL can even keep or sell reprocessed uranium
6 and MOX fuel, a mixture of uranium and plutonium. And
7 the high level waste is returned to FPL through a
8 disposable national repository, if a national
9 repository becomes available.

10 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

11 DR. MASNIK: First, let me just respond.

12 I said that we have not embraced
13 reprocessing in this country. We have some folks here
14 from FP&L. Perhaps maybe one of them would like to
15 address this issue directly.

16 MR. CAMERON: Let me go to -- if you're
17 going to give this -- Mr. Ross, our resident, is going
18 to give us some information and then I usually don't
19 like to do this, but if there is an impression that
20 FPL is going to be doing something with MOX, I think
21 it's important to allow the FPL representatives to
22 clear that up, so that we'll go on to them after we
23 hear from Mr. Ross.

24 And tell us what you do, too.

25 MR. ROSS: I'm Thierry Ross. I'm the

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1 senior resident on-site inspector for the St. Lucie
2 Nuclear Plant, for the NRC.

3 Some of your questions are very valid
4 questions. They're national questions and to that
5 degree, that there are generic issues that are
6 addressed countrywide, that has to do with, for
7 example, the storage, long-term storage of spent fuel.

8 Currently, at the St. Lucie Nuclear Power
9 Plant, the only license option they have is spent fuel
10 pools, the on-site pools they use to store their fuel
11 since the plant was originally licensed.

12 They have currently not submitted any
13 license for dry spent fuel storage on the facility.
14 They have submitted no license for the burning of MOX
15 fuel. They have submitted no application or license
16 for other opportunities or options to dispose of their
17 spent fuel at that facility.

18 To that degree, these are concerns. The
19 utility recognizes that in the next decade, that there
20 are some actions they're going to have to take to be
21 able to accommodate the continued generation of spent
22 fuel at their facility.

23 There are a number of options that they
24 have for which they have not come public on, that they
25 can do within their existing license, such as expand

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1 the capacity of their current spent fuel pools.

2 Other options obviously involve dry cask
3 storage on the facility. They could use the private
4 facility storage out in Utah or Yucca Mountain. But
5 they have not committed to any of those other options,
6 many of which would require a separate licensing
7 process, distinct and different from the license
8 renewal process.

9 For example, if they wanted to put dry
10 casks on their property, that would require a totally
11 separate licensing process that would also engage the
12 public, for which they would submit an application for
13 their license to be able to do that.

14 The utility has not made any overture at
15 this time, if that's what they intend to do. At this
16 current point in time, those kind of questions,
17 although academic and important, certainly to the
18 company in the future, but at this point they are only
19 licensed to store their fuel in spent fuel pools and
20 that's the only three options they've communicated to
21 the agency.

22 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

23 And I'm going to -- we have -- we need to
24 get to the comment, public comment part of this. We
25 have one more question over here.

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1 And I'm going to ask the FPL
2 representatives if they want to, after the meeting is
3 over, to have a discussion with Mr. Smilen about that
4 particular Union of Concerned Scientists report. But
5 I think that Mike and Terry gave us, at least some
6 useful information on that.

7 Mark?

8 MR. ONCAVAGE: Dr. Masnik, what issues
9 will the Environmental Impact Statement not address?

10 DR. MASNIK: Well, if we restrict it to
11 issues related to the license renewal, clearly issues
12 related to, as Noel said, the aging management program
13 and safety issues are outside the scope of this
14 document.

15 Again, the NRC, in development of their
16 generic Environmental Impact Statement over, I guess
17 a six or eight year period, looked at environmental
18 impacts at many, many of the nuclear power plants
19 across this country, and came up with approximately --
20 well not approximately -- ninety-two issues. And
21 those ninety-two issues are the ninety-two issues that
22 we evaluate during our environmental review for
23 license renewal.

24 If there are other issues, environmental
25 issues that have not been evaluated, then I think it's

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1 why we're here today. We need to know what it is.

2 But for me to speculate on what issues
3 that we miss, that we don't cover, I really can't do
4 that, other than saying that it is the safety review
5 that is not included in the environmental review and
6 vice-versa.

7 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thanks, Mike.

8 And we need to get on with our formal
9 public comment part of the meeting. And to give you
10 sort of a preview of how we're going to do that, we're
11 going to go to local government officials first and
12 then we're going to ask the licensee, FPL, to come up
13 and tell us about their license renewal application.
14 And again, everybody trying to adhere to the five
15 minute guideline, because we do have a lot of people.
16 And then we're going to go on to everybody else to
17 hear their comments.

18 And the first person I'd like to have come
19 up is Mr. Doug Anderson, who is the administrator of
20 St. Lucie County. And then we're going to go to
21 Sheriff Mascara. And then we'll go on from there.

22 MR. ANDERSON: Good afternoon. I'm Doug
23 Anderson, County Administrator for St. Lucie County.
24 And I do have handouts here [Attachment 3b]. If
25 anyone wants one I'll leave them up here to back up

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1 what I'm going to be talking about.

2 What I'm here to speak about today is the
3 economic health of St. Lucie County, of which the St.
4 Lucie Power Plant is a key contributor.

5 In 1994, the unemployment rate in St.
6 Lucie County was 13.4 percent. This past calendar
7 year, 2001, we got that down to 7.5 percent and we've
8 cut it basically in half since 1994.

9 I know that the St. Lucie Power Plant
10 employs approximately, I believe it's twelve hundred
11 people. That was the number I was given yesterday.

12 In St. Lucie County, we have an aggressive
13 economic development program. In the past three
14 years, we have created over three thousand new jobs in
15 this community, of which, as of January, 2, 850 of
16 those jobs have been filled.

17 If the St. Lucie Power Plant were to leave
18 St. Lucie County, it would be difficult, we feel, to
19 have those twelve hundred jobs absorbed into our
20 community, and also our unemployment rate would start
21 going back up, it would go back up.

22 I have submitted a breakdown of where
23 these jobs are that have been filled, to back up my
24 numbers. The source would be electronics of 120 QVC.
25 It's up to over a thousand jobs now.

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1 Also in St. Lucie County we've been
2 working very hard to bring up the value of new
3 construction in the unincorporated area of the county
4 and that's what we're responsible for, the county
5 government is the unincorporated area.

6 Each city of Ft. Pierce and Port St. Lucie
7 are responsible for their economic increases, the
8 (inaudible), but we're responsible for the county.

9 The average building permit valuation in
10 the county back in 1996, '97, was around -- for the
11 total value of building permits issued was 80 million
12 dollars. In '01, '02, we're approaching 140 million
13 dollars in building permit valuations.

14 The first quarter of this year, '01, '02,
15 versus the first quarter of last year, '00 to '01, we
16 had about 20 million dollars in building permits
17 issued in the unincorporated area of the county. This
18 year we've issued about 50 million in the first
19 quarter. We've more than doubled the value of the
20 building permits issued in this county in one quarter.

21 The single family building permits, which
22 everyone is interested in, of which a lot of the FPL
23 people, they live in our county, most of them probably
24 live in our county, in 1996, '97, we issued about 350
25 building permits. '01, '02, that fiscal year we have

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1 gone over 400.

2 Single family building permits, first
3 quarter for last year -- could be the first quarter of
4 this year was a little over 90 -- last year. This
5 year we went up over about 105.

6 This is very important. The average value
7 of new home construction in the unincorporated area of
8 the county back in '95, '96, we were -- the average
9 house, the permit value of an average single family
10 home was \$90,000. This year we're going over
11 \$140,000. We've increased it by \$50,000 since '95,
12 '96. That's the average home being built in the
13 unincorporated area. And FP&L has good paying jobs.

14 That summarizes where I'm at. I do want
15 to say that in St. Lucie County, we are number two in
16 the State of Florida now, and Jim Reader (phonetic)
17 from the Palm Beach Post is here. He'll back me up on
18 this because he called me on it once (laughing).

19 But anyway, in the -- in St. Lucie County
20 -- we're number two now in the State of Florida for
21 the percentage of new jobs created. We're slightly
22 behind Tampa, Hillsboro County, which is number one.
23 But considering an area of our size and what we're
24 doing in this county is quite remarkable. And once
25 again, we feel that FP&L contributes to that.

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1 And with FP&L here, some people say that
2 it has a negative impact on the economic development.
3 We don't feel that's true. We feel that, if anything,
4 it contributes to our economic development. It does
5 not hinder it, because our construction in this county
6 is going out of sight.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you very much, Mr.
8 Anderson.

9 And, as I mentioned, we're going to go to
10 Sheriff Mascara now and then we're going to go to
11 Mayor Minsky of St. Lucie.

12 SHERIFF MASCARA: Good afternoon.

13 In the light of September -- first of all,
14 for the record I'm Ken Mascara, Sheriff of St. Lucie
15 County.

16 In the light of September 11th, this
17 nation has become very safety conscious. The leading
18 focus of that, of course, is terrorism. Since
19 September 11th, I could tell you that threat
20 assessments throughout our nation have centered on
21 power plants and other things that would affect our
22 daily lives, but I'm here to tell you that before
23 September 11th, Florida Power and Light and our
24 nuclear power plant had avenues in place to address
25 anything that could possibly face our power plant,

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1 including a terrorist attack.

2 We had partnerships in place with not only
3 the Sheriff's Office, not only the fire department,
4 which you'll get to hear later from Chief Sizemore,
5 but other law enforcement agencies to address anything
6 that could possibly affect the power plant and in turn
7 that would affect our lives here on the Treasure
8 Coast.

9 I know that our agency trains very
10 consistently with members of the power plant. We have
11 places and avenues to respond to, as a team, to
12 address anything that can come about from our power
13 plant here. And I could tell you that this power
14 plant is really the epitome of the way other power
15 plants should work in that kind of response.

16 I know I've been very fortunate. In the
17 last year we've had two exercises in which our agency
18 has taken -- partaken with their personnel, one of
19 which was viewed by Senator Graham and he left this
20 area with a great deal of confidence, that not only
21 Florida Power and Light, but the agencies involved
22 here on the Treasure Coast can respond to anything
23 that we can face.

24 And I think Florida Power and Light needs
25 to be proud of that. I know I'm proud of that. But

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1 more importantly, the citizens of this county need to
2 be proud that the power plant in their backyard is
3 safe and even in the wake of a terrorist attack, we
4 know what to do and how to address it.

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you very much,
6 Sheriff Mascara.

7 SHERIFF MASCARA: Thank-you.

8 Any other questions or --

9 MR. CAMERON: No, I think we'll go on --

10 SHERIFF MASCARA: Okay.

11 MR. CAMERON: -- to the Mayor.

12 SHERIFF MASCARA: Okay, thank-you.

13 MR. CAMERON: I think if we stop for
14 questions after everybody, we'd be here for a long
15 time, but thank-you very much.

16 Mayor Minsky.

17 MAYOR MINSKY: Thank-you. Good
18 afternoon.

19 I'm Mayor Bob Minsky. And I have the
20 privilege, I guess, you might want to call it that
21 way, but I used to work out at the power plant back in
22 the '80's. And I was working with security out there
23 at Wackenhut. And every once in a while I turn the
24 lights out and check, and I still don't glow, so I
25 feel things are still pretty safe.

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1 But while I was working out there and all
2 these years, safety has always been the primary
3 concern. And even back then when we didn't have all
4 this sophisticated equipment out there, we were
5 constantly checked on a yearly basis, to make sure
6 that our security was in place.

7 And, as Mayor, that's one of the things
8 that I'm always concerned about, of course. It's
9 important to have electric power. It's important to
10 our economy, but the main thing is, and the concern of
11 most people coming here, they're all -- the first
12 question usually is, is it safe.

13 Well, I know for a fact, because I've
14 tracked it quite a bit, that this plant is probably
15 one of the safest and one of the best operating plants
16 in the country. It's been that way for quite a few
17 years.

18 I've been out there while they were
19 building it and all I can say is I'm real glad it's
20 here, but I'm also very glad that the NRC gave us this
21 opportunity to be involved with this process. I think
22 it's important because we are a large population
23 center. We have 95,000 people in the city and a lot
24 of them are concerned about it. And hopefully that
25 this process will reassure them that it is safe and

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1 it's a nice thing to have.

2 Thank-you.

3 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you very much, Mayor.

4 Let's go to Arlise Hall and then we'll go
5 to Chief Sizemore.

6 Is Arlise here? Arlise?

7 MS. HALL: Good afternoon.

8 My name is Arlise Hall. I want to just
9 let you know, first of all I'm not a rocket scientist,
10 but I want you to know that it was my decision to come
11 here today in support of the license renewal of the
12 St. Lucie Plant.

13 There are a multitude of reasons why the
14 plant should continue to operate. However, all those
15 reasons certainly would not exist if the plant did not
16 prove itself to face each and every day. I'm here to
17 let you know that they have and they're continuing to
18 do so each and every day, as being meticulously neat
19 performances, standards set at the highest of quality
20 levels.

21 And for some backup if you may -- or
22 definite assurance, there are experienced and watchful
23 inspectors from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that
24 make certain that safety is always a priority and at
25 the very top of the list for operations and that's

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1 done daily.

2 And to add to that, St. Lucie County or
3 St. Lucie Plant, has been consistently evaluated with
4 an excellent safety record. St. Lucie's safety
5 inspection record has been rated as one of the most
6 reliable nuclear power plants, not only in the U.S.,
7 but also in the world. All the St. Lucie Plant safety
8 indicators on the top performance band.

9 I feel that safety is not just a slogan
10 there at St. Lucie Plant, but it's a way of life. Why
11 so? Because the main reason is that the employees who
12 work there, they live here in this community. They
13 are dedicated to making certain that the plant is
14 safe, not only for themselves, but for their families,
15 their friends and for us, their neighbors.

16 There are about 800 or more employees that
17 work at the power plant. Preventive maintenance is
18 conducted daily according to regular schedules. At
19 least every 18 months, each unit at the plant is shut
20 down for routine refueling and additional maintenance.

21 The State of Florida, Department of
22 Health, Bureau of Radiation and Control, independently
23 monitors levels at locations surrounding Florida Power
24 and Light's nuclear power plants and the agency also,
25 they sample new plant soil and other water to confirm

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1 that they're testing their findings.

2 I strongly believe that the St. Lucie
3 Plant has a proven safety record and one which the
4 employees can continue to build on in the future. I
5 definitely support and certainly speak for my friends
6 and my neighbors for the license renewal at the St.
7 Lucie Plant.

8 Thank-you.

9 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you, Arlise.

10 Let's next hear from Chief Sizemore and
11 then go to Jim Campbell, who is with Martin County
12 Emergency Services, and then hear from Judy Miller of
13 the St. Lucie County School Board.

14 This is Chief Sizemore.

15 CHIEF SIZEMORE: Good afternoon.

16 My name is Jay Sizemore. I'm the Fire
17 Chief of St. Lucie County. And I'd like to speak
18 today on our aspect of the safety of the St. Lucie
19 Nuclear Power Plant.

20 I personally feel that I can speak
21 firsthand on the safety issue. I've been involved in
22 the fire district here in St. Lucie County since 1976,
23 and have been participating in the drills and the
24 training exercise at the power plant since then .

25 It's kind of ironic. I was looking

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1 through some old newspaper clippings the other day and
2 here was a picture from 1976, as a rookie,
3 participating in one of the drills out there. So we
4 go back a long time.

5 We take a lot of pride here in St. Lucie
6 County with our safety aspect at the power plant. We
7 are the only fire department in St. Lucie County, so
8 the first responder aspect of it lies on our
9 shoulders.

10 We train yearly. We have mandatory
11 training sessions every year for all of our employees
12 dealing with the power plant on the island. We also
13 do semi-annual training along with the power plant and
14 it's overseen by the NRC. We just conducted one this
15 year and passed with glowing reviews there.

16 We're very proud of it. Our relationship
17 with FP&L and the power plant, I believe is second to
18 none. Their personnel, they train with us, we do it
19 hand in hand. If we have questions, they're always
20 open to us. The plant is open to us for training on
21 site, off site.

22 And as the one agency that is responsible
23 again for that first response out there, we feel very
24 comfortable with the training that our people receive,
25 the training that FP&L provides for us.

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1 On a personal note, I personally feel very
2 comfortable. I live within two miles of the plant,
3 don't have a problem with that. As the Fire Chief in
4 St. Lucie County, I don't have a problem with it. I
5 don't have a problem with sending my employees into
6 that plant.

7 Again, the training is redundant, it's
8 year after year, after year, and I believe that it is
9 second to none. And we certainly, as the fire
10 district, would support the re-licensing of the plant.

11 Thank-you.

12 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you, Chief Sizemore.

13 Mr. Campbell?

14 MR. CAMPBELL: Good afternoon.

15 My name is Jim Campbell. I'm Martin
16 County's radiological emergency plan administrator.
17 I work for Martin County Emergency Services. I'm
18 representing Martin County today.

19 Director Wolfberg was unavoidably called
20 away and as a matter of fact, should be taking off for
21 Oklahoma as we speak, so he sent me in his place to
22 speak in support of the re-licensing of St. Lucie
23 Plant.

24 A clean industry that brings 800 or so
25 paying, high paying jobs to the local economy, is just

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1 a phenomenal asset to have in this area. It benefits
2 all of us from Palm Beach County to Indian River
3 County, with lots of dollars that go into the local
4 economy.

5 That number of employees who have money
6 and time participate actively in local charities and
7 support our local PTA's and schools in a number of
8 ways that we just don't see, but it happens all the
9 time.

10 And I take real offense in the Chief's
11 comment in regarding he has the number one
12 relationship with Florida Power and Light as far as
13 working on emergency preparedness, because I think we
14 do in Martin County.

15 We have a phenomenal working relationship
16 with emergency preparedness in the plant. They
17 support both counties with money, with training, with
18 personnel, with information, with all sorts of things
19 that help our operations.

20 I've been in emergency management for 25
21 years overall. And I've been EOC's, emergency
22 operation centers, throughout the state and other
23 areas, and I know that St. Lucie and Martin County are
24 more well prepared because of the support and the
25 mandates that come with having a local nuclear power

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1 plant, it forces us to be better, to serve all the
2 local people and it's just a phenomenal asset to have
3 in the area.

4 That's it.

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you, Mr. Campbell.

6 Next, let's go to Judi Miller and then
7 we're going to hear from Florida Power and Light, and
8 then hear from Mr. Bob Bangert and Mr. Frank Leslie.

9 MS. MILLER: Thank-you.

10 Like Arlise, I'm not a rocket scientist.
11 I'm here as a community member and I'm here to tell
12 you about the good neighbor that I think that Florida
13 Power and Light has been over all of the years I've
14 been in the community.

15 I've lived in St. Lucie County 27 years
16 and I think you, who are representing the NRC today,
17 have a big decision to weigh in the comments the
18 community members are bringing to you, because indeed
19 the decision that you make is going to impact our
20 future, you know, I think certainly from an economic
21 standpoint that Chief Sizemore has talked about and
22 Doug Anderson, and so many of the others.

23 I've looked at the tax rolls and FP&L on
24 the tax rolls brings a billion eighty million dollars
25 in assess valuation. That's the size of business that

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1 would be very hard to replace in St. Lucie County, not
2 to mention the unemployment that could result if they
3 were to leave.

4 I also think though, that if you had the
5 chance to look at St. Lucie County and know anything
6 about it all, you know the phenomenal growth that's
7 taken place over the last several years here,
8 particularly in Port St. Lucie. And when you have
9 growth like that, you know you need electricity. You
10 have to have it.

11 And, you know, when I look at the options
12 that are out there, I'm looking for the kind of
13 electricity that shows the least amount of pollution
14 and I'm very, very pleased to be able to say that we
15 have a nuclear power plant in St. Lucie County and
16 that it's got the controls against pollution that it
17 has.

18 Of course, I'm also looking for safe and
19 affordable electricity and to me, you know, as a 27
20 year member of St. Lucie County as a resident, I
21 really believe they provided that. But they've also
22 been a major network of support to our community.

23 And as a School Board member, I can tell
24 you all the things they're involved in, in the school
25 system, in education, the Energy Encounter plant that

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1 brings thousands of kids in each year to educate them
2 about science and electricity.

3 And I am also Executive Director of Big
4 Brothers, Big Sisters, so I see all the good
5 involvement they have in the social services in this
6 community. United Way wouldn't be the same without
7 them. Certainly our own personal experience at Big
8 Brothers, Big Sisters would not be the same.

9 They've worked for hundreds and thousands
10 of people in this community every year. And, you
11 know, to me being a good neighbor is giving back to
12 the community and FP&L has certainly done that. And
13 I appreciate NRC's opportunity today to let the people
14 speak.

15 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank-you very much,
16 Judi.

17 Everybody has some background on the
18 application. It's important to hear directly from the
19 company and we're going to hear two presentations.
20 The first by Mr. Don Jernigan, who is the
21 vice-president for the St. Lucie Plant and then we're
22 going to go to Mr. Tom Abbatiello, to talk about
23 environmental aspects.

24 All right, Don.

25 MR. JERNIGAN: Good afternoon and

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1 thank-you, Mr. Cameron.

2 My name is Don Jernigan. I am the site
3 vice-president of Florida Power and Light Company's
4 St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant.

5 I'd like to thank the staff of the Nuclear
6 Regulatory Commission and the City of Port St. Lucie
7 for holding this meeting today.

8 This is a very important meeting to
9 identify the environmental aspects of the license
10 renewal initiative as it relates to the St. Lucie
11 County. FPL welcomes the insight and the input from
12 the community and I'd like to thank everyone here
13 today for attending and participating in this very
14 important process. I also appreciate this opportunity
15 to speak to you.

16 Assisting me today is Tom Abbatiello, the
17 environmental lead for the license renewal project and
18 we'll be using this time to provide a brief overview
19 of FPL's approach to the proposed renewal of the St.
20 Lucie Plant licenses.

21 First I'd like to tell you a little bit
22 about myself. I graduated from the Florida State
23 University with a Bachelor of Science in Physics and
24 earned my MBA from the University of Miami. I've got
25 more than twenty years of experience in the nuclear

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1 power industry.

2 I hold a senior reactor operator's license
3 from another nuclear power plant and have served as an
4 officer in this country's Navy's nuclear power program
5 for over five years.

6 I joined FPL's Turkey Point Nuclear Power
7 Plant located south of Miami in 1991 and held a number
8 of technical positions before becoming the plant
9 general manager at that facility. And like St. Lucie
10 Plant, Turkey Point is widely recognized as one of the
11 top performing nuclear power plants in the world.

12 I came to St. Lucie Plant in 2001 as a
13 site vice-president and I can tell you I'm very
14 excited to be here at this site and in this community.

15 On a personal note, my wife and I consider
16 this a wonderful location to live and work. We have
17 two children, both of them are away at college, but
18 enjoy coming here to visit mom and dad and ask for
19 more money.

20 And since this our home, I care very much
21 about the community we live in. The prosperity and
22 well being of this community is extremely important to
23 me.

24 And thinking about extending the
25 operations of the St. Lucie Power Plant, I believe the

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1 process involves more than just renewing the plant's
2 licenses. It's about renewing our future in the
3 community as well, and here are a few reasons why.

4 St. Lucie is one of the top performing
5 plants in the country and supplies a source of safe,
6 clean, reliable and low cost power to the people of
7 the Treasure Coast. We're one of the largest
8 employers in the St. Lucie and Martin County areas,
9 with over 800 full-time employees. But more
10 importantly our people do more than just work at the
11 power plant. They're involved in the community.
12 They're part of this community.

13 St. Lucie Power Plant also provides clean
14 energy and it's through our operations as a nuclear
15 facility that we avoid the production of greenhouse
16 gases, which many scientists believe contribute to
17 global warming.

18 And with these points in mind, let me show
19 a little more information about our power plant.

20 The St. Lucie Plant is a two-unit site
21 located on Hutchinson Island about eight miles
22 southeast of Ft. Pierce, and at full power, the plant
23 generates about 1,700,000 watts of electricity, which
24 is enough electricity to meet the annual energy needs
25 of more than 500,000 homes.

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1 Over the years, St. Lucie Plant has
2 demonstrated both high levels of safety and
3 reliability. It has consistently received high rating
4 marks by the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations and
5 both our regulators and our peers have recognized St.
6 Lucie as a top performing power plant.

7 And as I mentioned earlier, St. Lucie
8 Plant also provides an economical source of
9 electricity for our neighbors and friends on the
10 Treasure Coast. And even if you add the future costs
11 of operation and maintenance, including the license
12 renewal process, the St. Lucie Power Plant remains a
13 very cost effective supplier of electricity.

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

21 Today nuclear power plants have an option
22 to renew their operating license, continuing to
23 provide that valuable service to our community.

24 The preparation of a license renewal
25 application is a major undertaking. Thousands of work

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1 hours have been used to generate the information and
2 to verify that St. Lucie will continue to be a safe,
3 reliable and environmentally beneficial plant in the
4 future, a very profitable application and of the team
5 that has developed it.

6 For more than 25 years our employees have
7 worked hard to sustain this option for continued
8 operation of both St. Lucie units well beyond their
9 forty years of operation, through their dedication to
10 the highest of maintenance standards and commitment to
11 safety.

12 Not only have our employees worked to keep
13 license renewal as an option, but they have also
14 worked to keep the community involved in this process.
15 Our employees from many departments have met with our
16 neighbors in the surrounding communities to share
17 information about the plant and the license renewal
18 process.

19 Our people have spoken to more than two
20 thousand individuals at at least 75 meetings and
21 gatherings. And that information that we have
22 received showed very strong support for the re-
23 licensing of the St. Lucie Plant to ensure it's
24 continued safe operation and maintain it as a member
25 of this community.

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1 I'd like to thank all of our neighbors for
2 the warm reception that you've shown us in inviting us
3 to share this information with you, and it's given us
4 the opportunity to hear what was important to you, and
5 will help us in continuing our relationship with the
6 people of the St. Lucie community.

7 I'd like to also just add that earlier
8 there were some comments about the use of MOX fuel and
9 reprocessing of fuel at the St. Lucie Power Plant.
10 FPL has never had any intention to use reprocessing
11 facilities as a resident has stated earlier. We are
12 only licensed to store fuel on site and have no desire
13 or plans to deal with the issue of MOX fuel at FPL
14 facilities.

15 And in closing let me say that during my
16 career in the power industry, I have had the
17 opportunity to look at different forms of power
18 generation and delivery, and I believe that the
19 renewal of the St. Lucie Plant licenses is the
20 preferred option for meeting the growing energy needs
21 in this area.

22 I'd like to turn the presentation over to
23 the environmental lead, Tom Abbatiello, for some
24 additional information on the environmental aspects of
25 our application.

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1 Tom?

2 MR. ABBATIELLO: Thanks, Don.

3 Good afternoon everyone.

4 It's an honor to be here today
5 representing the dedicated employees of FPL's St.
6 Lucie Plant as we pursue renewal of the plant's
7 operating licenses.

8 Our employees want to remain a part of
9 this community and obtaining renewed licenses is a
10 necessary step to ensure we were able to continue as
11 active and beneficial members of this community.

12 As Don said, my name is Tom Abbatiello.
13 I am the environmental lead for the St. Lucie Plant
14 license renewal project. I began work in the Navy
15 nuclear industry in 1968, after receiving a Master's
16 Degree in Engineering from Rensilier Polytechnic
17 Institute. I joined FPL in 1986.

18 My wife and I live in Palm City and we're
19 extremely fortunate to be able to live and work in a
20 beautiful area like this. We also believe it is
21 important to give back to the community. I am pleased
22 to be a part of a group of FPL employees who
23 contribute to local agencies through the United Way.

24 Our employees also mentor students and
25 volunteer in local schools and we support the St.

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1 Lucie County Education Foundation in its scholarship
2 program.

3 FPL employees are also involved in helping
4 the community through other organizations, such as
5 Scouts, Little League, civic groups and church
6 programs.

7 Our plant's information center, called the
8 Energy Encounter, hosts about 40,000 visitors
9 annually, including 15,000 students who visit on
10 educational field trips.

11 As you can see, the people who work at St.
12 Lucie Plant are an integral part of the local
13 community. As members of that community and your
14 neighbors, safety is our highest priority.

15 The St. Lucie Plant team is made up of
16 highly trained professionals who have a strong
17 commitment to safely operating the plant. Our
18 employees work hard and are dedicated to high
19 standards of excellence and continuous improvement.

20 I'm equally proud of the work we do to
21 preserve and protect the environment. FPL has made a
22 long standing commitment to the protection of
23 Florida's environment.

24 Our display in the lobby shows the broad
25 range of involvement and lists just a few of the

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1 environmental awards we have received. These awards
2 include the William Bankard Award of Excellence in
3 Marine Environmental Protection and the National Land
4 Management Award.

5 In February of this year, FPL joined the
6 EPA's New Voluntary Climate Leader's Program as a
7 charter partner. This program is aimed at reducing
8 greenhouse gas emissions.

9 Simply stated, our commitment to the
10 environment at the St. Lucie Plant is an integral part
11 of the FPL culture. Locally, our environmental
12 programs are well known.

13 The St. Lucie Plant, which looks out on
14 the Atlantic Ocean, maintains a strong commitment to
15 sea turtle protection.

16 Our sea turtle program involves around the
17 clock efforts, including scientific research and data
18 gathering, participation in the sea turtle stranding
19 and salvage program, participation in the sea turtle
20 beach nesting surveys and our free guided turtle walks
21 for the public. Some of you may have been on one of
22 these walks that we conduct annually during the
23 nesting season.

24 One aspect of our sea turtle program is
25 our research, which involves examining the turtles

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1 that have entered the plant's intake canal. Expert
2 biologists measure, weigh, and electronically tag
3 these turtles.

4 This unique research data is highly valued
5 by other research biologists in the scientific
6 community. The data gathered clearly shows that the
7 sea turtle population is steadily growing. Our sea
8 turtle protection and education programs are making
9 positive contributions to this trend.

10 Aside from the continued environmental
11 programs, the renewal of the St. Lucie Plant licenses
12 is important to meeting the energy needs of Florida's
13 population, which is growing approximately two percent
14 per year, and as we can here in Port St. Lucie, this
15 area is rapidly expanding.

16 Electricity consumed per customer has also
17 increased. FPL must provide power plants to meet the
18 growing demand for energy. It's also important that
19 power plants be close to where the electricity is
20 needed, to ensure the quality of power and the
21 stability of the system.

22 Another benefit of the St. Lucie Plant
23 licenses is our ability to continue providing clean
24 energy, without using additional land for new power
25 plants. In fact, nuclear power plants prevent

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1 substantial amounts of carbon emissions and other
2 pollutants from going into the air we breathe. A
3 positive impact on air quality will continue during
4 the period of extended operation.

5 Part of the process to renew our licenses
6 included evaluating alternatives to license renewal.
7 We studied the alternatives for generating electricity
8 and renewing the operating licenses of St. Lucie Plant
9 continues to make sense.

10 St. Lucie Plant's license renewal has the
11 least environmental impact for providing electricity
12 to this region. Keeping St. Lucie Plant as a part of
13 this community is also important to the social and
14 economic well being of our neighbors.

15 The estimated economic impact of plant
16 operation is more than 80 million dollars annually.
17 The involvement of the St. Lucie Plant employees in
18 the community, as I discussed earlier, helps to make
19 our area a better place to live.

20 The St. Lucie Plant employees want to
21 remain a part of this community and as your neighbors,
22 share an interest in the well being of the community
23 and the protection of the environment. We are
24 committed to safely and reliably operating the St.
25 Lucie Plant in an environmentally responsible manner

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1 long into the future to meet the environmental and
2 energy needs of Florida.

3 Thank-you.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you very much, Tom.

5 Now we're going to go to Mr. Bob Bangert.

6 And I'm going to ask, after that, Mr.
7 Charles Brown to come down, and then Mr. Frank Leslie,
8 and then we'll go on from there.

9 Mr. Bangert?

10 MR. BANGERT: Thank-you. I won't use any
11 power point.

12 Good afternoon, members of the Commission.

13 For the record, my name is Bob Bangart and
14 I represent the Conservation Alliance of St. Lucie
15 County. I appreciate the opportunity to speak about
16 the environmental record of FP&L.

17 I have lived in St. Lucie County for the
18 life of this plant. It was interesting to hear how
19 the economic value of FP&L has been to the community.

20 On the risk of dating myself, Arthur
21 Godfrey said quite a while ago that he had just
22 finished paying his income tax and he was proud to
23 live in a country where he could pay his income tax,
24 but that he could be just as proud for half the money.
25 I feel the same way about my monthly FP&L bills, with

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1 all this economic -- I could be just as proud of FP&L
2 for half the price of my electricity.

3 Before I make any remarks as to their
4 environmental record, I would like to make one
5 personal statement on a different aspect of their
6 reliability.

7 They did a study of my home many years ago
8 and found several ways that I could reduce the amount
9 of electricity that I was using. Not only did they
10 find ways of cutting my bills, they also helped me pay
11 for the things that would do the job. To me, any
12 company that shows me how to conserve energy and helps
13 me to do it, is unheard of in our present day. I wish
14 our federal government would be as concerned with
15 conservation of resources as I have found FP&L to be.

16 FP&L has been a dependable steward of our
17 resources in St. Lucie County and have always tried to
18 balance the manufacture of power with the protection
19 of the beautiful environment treasures that we are so
20 blessed with in St. Lucie County.

21 They have studied our unique ecosystems
22 and have spent millions to protect and enhance them.
23 I read somewhere, on a scale comparing fossil fuel
24 plants with nuclear plant, the fossil plants pollute
25 at the rate of 30 to 45 percent and the nuclear plant,

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1 in comparison, about 3 percent.

2 If you travel down A1A past this plant,
3 you are immediately impressed with the cleanliness of
4 this FP&L plant. The company operates more than 30
5 different environmental monitoring stations that
6 sample the air and the water, to ensure that they meet
7 and do better than federal, state and county
8 standards.

9 In regard to the total property controlled
10 by FP&L in this area, the power plant takes up a
11 relatively small percentage. The balance is
12 maintained in its natural state. They have a nature
13 trail where residents and visitors alike can learn
14 more about the plants and animals that make their home
15 in our area. They even supplied biologists to take
16 groups to view nesting sea turtles and learn more
17 about them.

18 I believe FP&L has demonstrated through
19 their actions over the past twenty years, their
20 commitment to provide best in class electric service,
21 while at the same time preserving our environment.
22 Protection of the environment is the same as
23 protection of my family and me as well.

24 I sincerely recommend the renewal of their
25 license for an additional twenty years and hopefully

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1 I'll still be here when this issue comes up again.

2 Thank-you.

3 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you, Mr. Bangert.

4 Now let's go to Mr. Charles Brown.

5 MR. BROWN: Good afternoon.

6 For the record, my name is Charles Brown.

7 I'm here as a resident of St. Lucie County and I am
8 also the CEO of the United Way of St. Lucie County.

9 I've been in the community for a very
10 short period of time and one of the first challenges
11 I had was to find out who our corporate leaders were.
12 And I'd like to talk to you just a moment about FP&L.

13 I have the distinct privilege of working
14 with several of their employees and mainly Rachel
15 Scott for the last month, almost a year now, in our
16 United Way campaign.

17 And in the interest of time I'm going to
18 put away my normal twenty minute speech that I
19 normally have when I go out to the company and I'm
20 told that I only have about four or five minutes.

21 I first met Rachel almost a year ago and
22 one of the most pleasant people that you will ever
23 want to meet. And I have found that to be true with
24 most of the employees at the Florida Power and Light.
25 I had the distinct privilege of going out and meeting

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1 them earlier on, prior to the 9/11 event.

2 And one of the things that I can truly say
3 that I feel very secure in the fact that knowing that
4 that plant is secure and our children are secure, and
5 what I mean by that, I had the opportunity to be at
6 the School Board at a meeting -- not -- I'm sorry,
7 correction, not at the School Board, but at the -- one
8 of the schools, where they had all of the schools'
9 principals at a meeting. And Florida Power and Light
10 had a representative to come over and talk to the
11 principals about the evacuation plan and also about
12 the security of the plant out there.

13 And it left me, leaving that meeting that
14 day and going home and talking to my wife, letting her
15 know that our daughter was very safe, that FP&L have
16 a wonderful evacuation plan for our children and for
17 the people who lived and worked around the plant.

18 I have the distinct privilege of working
19 with those employees out at FP&L for about nine
20 months. For the last five years on an average, they
21 have been good corporate citizens and good employees.
22 They have donated on an average of over \$103,000 a
23 year for the last five years. Not only have they
24 donated their time and money, but they have given of
25 all of their energies to this community to make it a

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1 better place to live.

2 We have loan executives that are loaned to
3 us who go out and meet with companies and give
4 presentations. And if it wasn't for those type of
5 loan executives that we get from FP&L, this United Way
6 would not be able to do the things that they do in
7 this community.

8 I'm very happy to have come to this
9 community. I had an opportunity to go to several
10 other communities and I did a little research before
11 I came here. And I was told that the Treasure Coast
12 and St. Lucie County was a place that you really want
13 to be a part of, and I'm very happy to be a part of
14 this, and especially to be a part of and working with
15 a corporation such as Florida Power and Light.

16 And I'm here today on behalf of our United
17 Way and on behalf of myself as a resident, to support
18 the renewal of the Florida Power and Light licensing,
19 and I hope that everything will work out for them in
20 this community.

21 It will have a great impact on us if we
22 would have to be without this corporation in our
23 county. I just can't see us doing without them. It
24 will cost us more money to bring in something equal to
25 what they are providing for us and to redevelop and

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1 build, and I just cannot see that happening.

2 And I hope that those of you who may be in
3 here, who oppose it, will look at all of the evidence
4 that people have presented to you today and think a
5 little bit different about keeping and how they will
6 impact our community if they're not allowed.

7 There are a lot of kids and a lot of
8 families that need their help and support economically
9 for jobs and for the needy.

10 So thank-you very much. I hope I didn't
11 go over my time.

12 MR. CAMERON: No, you're fine. Thank-
13 you. Thank-you, Mr. Brown

14 Let's go to Mr. Frank Leslie next and then
15 we'll go to Mr. Grande and to Mark Perry, and then
16 Mark Oncavage will be our next three speakers.

17 MR. LESLIE: Thank-you, Mr. Cameron.

18 MR. CAMERON: You're welcome.

19 MR. LESLIE: I'm Frank Leslie. I'm an
20 unemployed systems engineer. I retired some three
21 years ago. I guess I really shouldn't say unemployed,
22 because I seem to be working much harder now that I'm
23 retired than I was when I was working at Harris
24 Corporation.

25 I'm here to particularly address the

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1 aspects of secondary environmental effects, what
2 happens if the null action is chosen and the plant
3 license is not extended. I'm concerned about the
4 alternative power that will be needed, far more power
5 than what's needed right now.

6 There is a continuing population influx
7 into the state, Florida's growing. More and more
8 people wanting more power, wanting dependable power
9 and wanting clean power. Well, if they don't go ahead
10 and do the license extension, then some other form of
11 power will be needed. Where do we turn for that?

12 At the moment, the longest expectancy is
13 for coal to last another one hundred, perhaps four
14 hundred years, depending on which scientist you want
15 to believe. It's much worse with petroleum. And
16 we're going to see an interesting clash as a lot of
17 natural gas combined cycle plants begin to come on
18 line and they're contending for the natural gas that's
19 now being used to heat those homes of the poor folks
20 left way up in the north in the winter. I guess not
21 all of them come down here to Florida.

22 And accordingly, there are aspects that
23 should be compared for the non-license renewable
24 aspect in the EIS scoping to include coal plants, oil
25 fired plants, the natural gas plants that are far

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1 lower in pollution, but there's a lot of limit as to
2 how much there is. It's all fossil fuel. It's stored
3 up over millions of years. Still being made to some
4 extent, but not at any rate that the human population
5 can perceive.

6 The other aspect of renewable energy is
7 also very difficult. For Florida you'd think, well,
8 it's the sunshine state, but we don't get as much as
9 Arizona. We have sea breeze storms, cloud cover,
10 roughly five hours on the average of sunlight, direct
11 blue sky sunlight a day. That's quite a limitation.

12 As much as I'm a wind energy fan, there's
13 not a lot of wind in Florida. It's rated marginal by
14 FP&L. There are quite a number of representatives
15 here today. Their wind energy atlas indicates that
16 only around the coastal regions is there marginal
17 energy.

18 The other aspect of what Florida has is
19 bio mass, and in spite of our state senator arguing
20 for the burning of city waste and incinerator plants,
21 using the heat form that to generate more energy,
22 there are a lot of pollutants that are associated with
23 human induced waste.

24 The aspects of mercury, lead, various
25 heavy metals that are within the incineration system

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1 and have to be removed, some remaining to go into the
2 air and water.

3 So that doesn't leave us with a lot of
4 alternatives. However, the amounts of pollution of
5 each of these areas should be identified and should be
6 included within the EIS plan, so that it's a broad,
7 open, very well considered set of alternatives.

8 Thank-you very much.

9 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you, Mr. Leslie.

10 And Mr. Grande is next.

11 MR. GRANDE: Good afternoon, Charles
12 Grande, Hutchinson Island.

13 I sit on the St. Lucie County Planning and
14 Zoning Board. I chair the St. Lucie County
15 (inaudible) Advisory Committee. I'm a member of the
16 Waterfront Council and the Audubon Society and Bob
17 Bangert's Conservation Alliance. But I'm here today
18 to speak to you as the Chairman of the President's
19 Council of Hutchinson Island.

20 The President's Council is an organization
21 that represents about 36 condominium and home-owner
22 associations that are in the immediate vicinity of the
23 power plant. That covers about eight thousand people.

24 The people of Hutchinson Island have asked
25 me to let you know that the community in the immediate

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1 vicinity of the power plant views the plant as a good
2 neighbor and a conscientious advocate and friend of
3 the fragile barrier island environment.

4 The work they do on local marine life and
5 their specialized work with our sea turtle population
6 fills a very important need for us.

7 Far more qualified speakers than I am,
8 like Mark Perry to follow, will talk about the other
9 specific contributions made by the plant.

10 I'd like to use my few minutes to ask
11 everyone to consider the question that Dr. Masnik
12 touched on very briefly earlier. If not them, who and
13 what will take their place? Do we want to replace
14 their contribution to the total Florida Power needs
15 with more fossil fuel plants? Obviously the site
16 would never again be pristine. What could possibly
17 replace the power plant? What would be the impact of
18 any replacement and how damaging to our barrier island
19 environment would any replacement facility be?

20 The people in the immediate vicinity of
21 this plant really hope that the NRC will support the
22 extension of these licenses.

23 Thank-you.

24 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you very much, Mr.
25 Grande.

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1 And let's go to Mark Perry.

2 MR. PERRY: I'm Mark Perry for the
3 record, with Florida Oceanographic Society and Coastal
4 Center down on Hutchinson Island. We're about seven
5 miles south of the power plant.

6 I'm also a resident here in Martin County
7 and I have a family here, and have been here since
8 1957, and saw the plant come together on the barrier
9 island, which at that time, we really didn't think too
10 much about it. As we began to learn and understand
11 barrier islands and how they shift and change over the
12 years, and as I became an oceanographer and involved
13 in the oceanographic, I understood that there was some
14 critical issues, particularly pertaining to the
15 environment.

16 But what I saw is, as they began to
17 develop that source of energy and what we looked at
18 when we looked at other power plant generators in the
19 area, namely fossil fuel plants and the production of
20 hydrogen sulfite into the atmosphere and so forth, and
21 the devastation that that has on our environment, and
22 particularly our aquatic environment, or concern began
23 to really focus and look at, and I began to really
24 understand what was going on there at the St. Lucie
25 Nuclear Plant.

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1 Over the years I worked with and
2 associated with a lot of the people in the
3 environmental aspects and particularly the sea turtle
4 issues and things that have been up. They have a high
5 qualified people, highly qualified people there, that
6 work there. They're very into their job. They're
7 very dedicated to the protection of the environment
8 there.

9 The plant itself, it's been mentioned, the
10 nuclear plant doesn't take up but a small portion of
11 the total acreage on the barrier island site. So the
12 rest of the acreage is left in its natural state and
13 it's maintained in a natural state, in fact enhanced
14 in some areas, by removing exotic vegetation such as
15 Brazilian Pepper and Australian Pine, and does provide
16 habitat for a tremendous diversity of life that's on
17 the barrier island, associated with the coastal area,
18 about a 180 or so species of plants and animals that
19 are associated with the site, about 36 different
20 endangered species there, or threatened species that
21 are on the site, too.

22 And those people that have been part of
23 FP&L and part of that over the years, have really been
24 dedicated to trying not only a survey and protectives,
25 they began prior to even thinking about the plant

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1 opening in 1976 for Unit 1 coming on line.

2 I remember in 1971, when they started the
3 sea turtle surveys, and the surveys of the barrier
4 island and the nesting, and the things that were
5 required, not just required of them by NRC or other
6 regulatory agencies, but also went beyond the
7 regulatory.

8 And I've seen FP&L be not only conscious
9 of safety standards and making quality their job,
10 they've also made -- been good stewards of the
11 environment over the years.

12 There are definitely concerns for any kind
13 of generation plant of that size, of that magnitude,
14 and particularly on a barrier island when, in Florida,
15 we're vulnerable to tropical storms, particularly
16 hurricanes that come through this area.

17 It's interesting, though the Treasure
18 Coast area happens to be one of the least impacted by
19 tropical storms. Even north of us about twenty miles
20 or south of us twenty miles, you can have more
21 tropical storm impacts than you do right here in the
22 Treasure Coast. So, but we are vulnerable to that.
23 And I'm told that those safety standards are going to
24 be addressed in other issues. But our focus has been
25 on the environmental issue.

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1 And I can say that over the years, in
2 looking at them, that they are a clean energy. They
3 don't burn fossil fuel, although we are concerned
4 about where that spent fuel is going to go and what's
5 going to happen. There are other alternatives that
6 always can be explored and looked at.

7 What wasn't mentioned was ocean currents.
8 And years ago I used to look into a program called the
9 Coriolis program, which looked at gulf stream
10 generation plants, about 83 megawatts apiece and that
11 program kind of faded off, but there's still potential
12 there for the gulf stream being so close here and down
13 at Turkey Point.

14 But overall, the environmental aspects of
15 the plant and what they've done out there on the site,
16 and how they've actually helped the community, and the
17 environmental community around this area, have been
18 outstanding. And I think, in that aspect, we ought to
19 continue to have FP&L as a neighbor that does provide
20 good clean energy and also they are good stewards of
21 their environment.

22 Thank-you.

23 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank-you very much,
24 Mark.

25 Let's go to Mark Oncavage.

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1 MR. ONCAVAGE: Good afternoon.

2 My name is Mark Oncavage. Thank-you for
3 letting me speak at this scoping meeting for the St.
4 Lucie Environmental Impact Statement.

5 In October, 2000, the NRC published a
6 document called, "A Technical Study of Spent Fuel Pool
7 Accident Risk at Decommissioning Nuclear Power
8 Plants." For the purposes of my scoping comments, the
9 St. Lucie spent fuel pool will behave similarly to the
10 spent fuel pools in decommissioning plants.

11 The spent fuel rods in each of these pools
12 needs to be forcibly cool for a number of years. If
13 the force cooling is stopped, the internal heat from
14 the radioactive material inside the fuel rods will
15 boil off the cooling water. When the rods become
16 uncovered, the internal heat will then set their
17 zirconium casing on fire. Studies show that the
18 zirconium fire in a spent fuel pool would have the
19 consequences as catastrophic as a reactor melt down.

20 This technical study lists nine causes for
21 a zirconium fire. The combined probability of these
22 causes has been calculated by the NRC to be about one
23 in 400,000 years per spent fuel pool, but the study
24 was published the year before the terrorists attacked
25 and destroyed the Twin Towers of the World Trade

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1 Center.

2 The study does not include any sabotage or
3 terrorism acts, so these probability numbers no longer
4 have any meaning.

5 Another part of the study looks into the
6 mechanisms that can start a zirconium fire. If
7 electric power is lost from the grid and diesel power
8 does not start, it would be between 100 and 150 hours
9 before the water in the pool boils away and the rods
10 set themselves on fire.

11 If there is an internal fire in the
12 building, 85 hours to the fire. If there is a loss of
13 cooling water due to failed seals, pipe breaks or
14 siphoning, 40 hours. But if there were to be an
15 accidental heavy drop creating a large leakage path
16 from the pool, that would lead directly to a zirconium
17 fire. But the accident scenario time sequences were
18 calculated without considering sabotage and terrorist
19 activity.

20 Scoping for the Environmental Impact
21 Statement must include probabilities and consequences
22 for acts of sabotage and terrorism at St. Lucie.
23 Also, emergency preparedness officials may erroneously
24 think they have 40 or 85 hours, or 150 hours to effect
25 an evacuation in the event of terrorist activity,

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1 where there's a possibility they may have no time at
2 all.

3 A statement in a technical study says,
4 "Only during the first several years and in the most
5 severe events, such as severe seismic events, heavy
6 load drops and other dynamic events that cause the
7 pool to fail, would the accident progress so rapidly
8 that emergency response measures might not be
9 implemented in a timely manner." This information
10 also belongs in the Environmental Impact Statement.

11 The technical study refers to another
12 document to explain consequences. This document
13 entitled, "A Safety and Regulatory Assessment of
14 Generic BWR and PWR Permanently Shut-Down Plants,"
15 states that a generic worse code reactor -- worse case
16 reactor melt-down can permanently contaminate 2,000
17 square miles of land and a generic worse case -- I'll
18 get it right yet -- zirconium fire can permanently
19 contaminate 2,170 square miles of land.

20 The number of fatalities from a worse case
21 zirconium fire generically is 31,300 people within 50
22 miles of the plant.

23 A zirconium fire cannot be extinguished
24 with water or carbon dioxide. The buildings housing
25 the spent fuel pools offer no barrier in that a

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1 zirconium fire in the presence of draining water
2 produces hydrogen that is explosive and flammable.

3 The study states that once the fuel is
4 uncovered, there can be no mitigation. The dose rate
5 at the edge of the pool would be in the tens of
6 thousands of rem per hour. The fire would continue
7 for days before it burns itself out.

8 A theory not stated in the study says that
9 the zirconium fire would also set other spent fuel
10 pools on fire.

11 An article in the Bulletin of Atomic
12 Scientists by Robert Alvarez says that the NRC knows
13 of no practical method for extinguishing a zirconium
14 fire. These issues need to be thoroughly researched
15 and stated in the St. Lucie EIS.

16 Last month, Jim Medoff, an NRC engineer,
17 addressed the issue of terrorism to the Advisory
18 Committee on Reactor Safeguards, meeting in Florida
19 City. Reading from the transcript he said, "It is
20 classified material and we were not even permitted to
21 talk about it at the agency for those that are not
22 dealing with it in their branch. But the Commission
23 is definitely looking into these safety issues of
24 terrorist attacks on the industry and Florida Power
25 and Light, and the Turkey Point and St. Lucie units

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1 will be part of that study."

2 That answer given by Mr. Medoff is
3 unacceptable. Until the NRC demonstrates that spent
4 fuel pools would not be successfully attacked by
5 terrorists, a hardened category A containment building
6 should be constructed around spent fuel pools.

7 St. Lucie is not a secret military
8 installation. It's a power plant owned by a public
9 company located in a densely populated area of
10 Florida.

11 The inaction of the NRC puts us all at
12 risk. Governor Howard Dean of Vermont has said, "I'm
13 not so worried about the core, I'm worried about the
14 spent fuel pool. There's basically no protection
15 there."

16 Congressman Ed Markey recently released a
17 report criticizing the lax approach the NRC has taken
18 in regard to security measures since 9/11. I suggest
19 that report be included in the Environmental Impact
20 Statement for St. Lucie.

21 Thank-you for your attention.

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you very much, Mark.

23 And now we're going to go to our next
24 three speakers, Don Root, Brian Thompson and Stan
25 Smilen.

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1 MR. ROOT: My name is Don Root. I'm the
2 Executive Director of the St. Lucie County Economic
3 Development Council.

4 From 1973 through 1993, I worked in the
5 nuclear power industry. I worked in a number of
6 plants starting with my work at General Electric back
7 in '73, working on BWR's. So I have a long history
8 associated with the nuclear power industry and I have
9 basic beliefs about the industry, about the safety and
10 what's done in the industry, since I spent twenty
11 years working there.

12 Today I draw issues from an economic
13 development point of view. St. Lucie Power Plant has
14 a tremendous effect on St. Lucie County. Doug
15 Anderson talked about it briefly. Others have
16 mentioned it.

17 The taxes paid here due to the St. Lucie
18 Plant is approximately 20 million dollars a year.
19 There are 378 people at the plant who live in St.
20 Lucie County and the payroll is about 23 million
21 dollars. The multiplier effect due to that payroll
22 can be debated, but it's tremendous, as that money
23 gets spent over and over, and its effect on the
24 economic viability of the county is indisputable.

25 I'm also here to talk to you about the

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1 fact that I believe nuclear power is essential as a
2 part of our national energy policy. I think that
3 nuclear power is safe. I think it's reliable and I
4 think it's extremely cost effective.

5 Here in Florida, we are one of the fastest
6 growing states in the country. St. Lucie County is
7 the fastest growing county in the State of Florida.
8 Power is going to be an essential issue here.
9 Volatility in the energy market is an essential issue
10 in Florida, and reliability of the power is an
11 essential issue.

12 When I recruit industry to come here, the
13 inevitable question is, what is the cost of power and
14 is it reliable. I have to be able to effectively
15 answer that question in the positive, and I think the
16 St. Lucie Plant allows me to assure people that this
17 market will remain non-volatile -- FP&L has a lot to
18 do with that -- and that they will provide reliable
19 low cost power.

20 So it's a valuable tool for me, it has a
21 great effect on the citizens of St. Lucie County, and
22 we need this plant. We need to have it re-licensed.
23 I believe it's safe and it's cost effective.

24 Thank-you.

25 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you, Don.

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1 Mr. Thompson?

2 MR. THOMPSON: Good afternoon.

3 My name is Brian Thompson. I'm the
4 business manager for System Council U-4, the
5 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

6 I represent eleven different local unions
7 throughout the State of Florida and one of those local
8 unions here, right in St. Lucie County, Local 627 and
9 the rest of them throughout the state.

10 Local 627 and System Council U-4 represent
11 300 of the union employees at the St. Lucie facility.
12 Those employees include very highly skilled and
13 professional craft workers in the operations,
14 maintenance, electrical instrument and control fields.

15 I'm here today to speak in favor of the
16 twenty year license renewal of the St. Lucie facility
17 and the continued operations.

18 As business manager for the union, three
19 of my most important values are safety, which includes
20 the safety and well being of not only the employees,
21 but the safety and well being of the public, training
22 for our employees and the protection of the
23 environment in which we all live, all three of which
24 St. Lucie nuclear facility has regularly received the
25 recognition of being one of the best performers in the

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1 nuclear industry by independent oversight
2 organizations.

3 On Florida Power Light property the
4 company and union have what is known as a joint safety
5 program, through which committees ensure that the
6 company and union have an equal say in the safety,
7 when it comes to the operation and safety to the
8 public and environmental protection.

9 I am very proud to say as business
10 manager, I have actively participated on the corporate
11 and nuclear joint safety committee for the past nine
12 years. These committees are responsible for
13 consistently reviewing and administering the safety
14 rules, and policies, and procedures that the plant
15 employees must adhere to and which the plant must
16 operate under.

17 As a result of our efforts and true
18 dedication to these rules, policies and procedures by
19 the employees at St. Lucie Plant, the facility has
20 consistently been recognized as being one of the
21 safest and most reliable nuclear power plants, both in
22 the United States and the world.

23 St. Lucie safety performance indicators
24 are consistently in the top percentile when compared
25 to other nuclear plants throughout the United States.

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1 In the area of training, both the company
2 and the union have developed and consistently oversee
3 some of the most rigorous training programs within the
4 company for its employees.

5 And employees who choose to become an
6 operator, a person who actually operates the plant
7 must undergo fourteen months of intense initial
8 training to qualify for an entry level position and
9 enter the operations career path training program.

10 Each operator must also re-qualify for
11 their position every six weeks throughout their
12 careers at one week intervals, to ensure proper and
13 safe operation of the plant at all times.

14 The highly skilled journeymen in the
15 mechanical, electrical and instrument control fields
16 were trained through a four year apprentice program,
17 in which they were taught their skills and technical
18 abilities. They, as well, must undergo routine,
19 continuous training and evaluation to ensure they
20 continue to possess and demonstrate outstanding
21 performance skills necessary to keep the plant
22 reliable and well maintained.

23 All employees are also trained on a
24 regular basis for the unlikely event of an emergency.
25 Monthly, they receive regular safety training to

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1 ensure they are skilled and completely ready for any
2 unexpected emergency.

3 Quarterly, the plant employees conduct
4 drills to practice those skills and emergency response
5 and readiness. And they also conduct regular drills,
6 as you heard here today, which include representatives
7 from local, state and federal agencies to coordinate
8 activities for the public safety.

9 Environmentally, the plant must meet very
10 strict and stringent radiation safety standards
11 designed to protect the employees and ensure the
12 community's health and safety.

13 The company and outside agencies
14 consistently monitor the air and water quality around
15 the plant and surrounding communities, to ensure those
16 strict environmental standards are not only
17 maintained, but upheld.

18 Over the past 26 years, since the plant
19 has been operational, I believe the employees of the
20 St. Lucie nuclear facility and Florida Power and Light
21 have established themselves as good stewards for our
22 environment. They have clearly demonstrated their
23 commitment of managing and achieving a careful balance
24 between the environment and producing a very cost
25 effective, clean, safe and reliable source of

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1 electricity.

2 For those reasons, I'm asking that the
3 license renewal for the St. Lucie nuclear facility be
4 approved, so that we can keep this very valuable
5 source of low cost energy for the community for years
6 to come.

7 Thank-you.

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you very much, Mr.
9 Thompson.

10 Now we're going to hear from Mr. Stan
11 Smilen.

12 MR. SMILEN: I'd like to thank you for
13 the opportunity of speaking here.

14 How many people here really live in St.
15 Lucie and don't work for Florida Power and Light? Can
16 I just see by a show of your hands?

17 Not very many.

18 I live down in Fort Worth. My name is
19 Stan Smilen. I'm a retired airline pilot and I'm a
20 member of the National Association of Atomic Veterans.
21 And the thing that distinguishes me from the rest of
22 the people who appeared here as speakers today is that
23 I've seen the other side of the coin.

24 As far as environmental impact, the thing
25 you're not being told about, is what happens in the

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1 event of an accident. I have seen the devastation
2 that's caused by a nuclear accident.

3 When I was 23 years old, I was a member of
4 Joint Task Force 7. I was out in the Pacific proving
5 grounds for Operation Castle. There were 16,000
6 people there in 1954. I was 35 miles from ground zero
7 for a 16.5 megaton H Bomb explosion. And as good as
8 the scientists who were involved, who will tell you
9 they are, they got four times the yield out of that
10 explosion that they actually had predicted.

11 As a result neighboring atolls such as
12 Rongelap, Japanese fishing fleets, were inundated with
13 radioactive fallout.

14 I was on board an auxiliary aircraft
15 carrier, the Birocca (phonetic), and as Air Force
16 personnel, we were housed three decks below, and the
17 Navy swabbies on deck received as much as a hundred
18 milliroentgens of radiation exposure from gamma
19 radiation exposure; also were subjected to alpha and
20 beta particle contamination and received beta burns,
21 in documents that I've read, that the Defense
22 Department was required by the Congress to furnish for
23 people who were part of that exercise.

24 I was detailed to Rongelap, atoll, as a 23
25 year old second lieutenant to survey the consequences

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1 of radioactive fallout. The native population had
2 been evacuated and I went to shore with a Geiger
3 counter, a staff sergeant and myself, and we landed in
4 a lagoon in PBY, and we spent the day collecting
5 samples and taking readings with a Geiger counter.

6 The Congress has passed two pieces of
7 legislation. One is called the Radiation Exposed
8 Veterans Compensation Act. And it makes the
9 presumption that if you contract one of 27 -- of 21
10 categories of cancer, esophageal cancer being one of
11 them, it's presumed that you contracted it if you were
12 on site for those tests. I was operated on last year
13 for esophageal cancer. I'm a recovering cancer
14 patient. I'm fortunate to be here today.

15 The Congress amended the act two years
16 ago, to include civilians who worked for the civilian
17 contractors. The people who were down wind at Yucca
18 Flats are covered by RECA, which is the Radiation
19 Exposure Compensation Act. Civilians. They've
20 already paid 25 cases of childhood leukemia under that
21 bill. And the people who work for the Nuclear
22 Regulatory Commission may some day be applying for
23 compensation under that act.

24 The thing that I witnessed was a total and
25 callous disregard for the welfare and safety of the

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1 troops that were involved in Operation Castle and the
2 people who were members of the National Atomic
3 Veterans Association will all attest to that fact, and
4 you could read their websites and you can see their
5 testimony, that they were as close as 4,000 yards up
6 at Yucca Flats, from the detonation, with no
7 protective equipment, or breathing equipment or
8 clothing.

9 And there were members of the Energy
10 Department were -- the predecessor to the Energy
11 Department at the time, who were equipped with
12 protective breathing equipment and protective
13 clothing.

14 The NRC has a terrible track record as far
15 as really addressing the problems of contamination of
16 the environment. And what you people should be
17 concerned with here is what happens in the event of an
18 accident.

19 I went down to Turkey Point to hear
20 hearings that Mr. Dudley participated in. I was the
21 only member of the public. Six members of the
22 advisory committee for nuclear -- for reactive
23 safeguards, had flown down from Washington and I was
24 the only member of the public who was there. There
25 was no municipality. There was no county government

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1 entity that was there to testify, to challenge any of
2 the assertions that were being made by Florida Power
3 and Light.

4 And the reason I went was because these
5 four plants, the two at Turkey Point and the two up
6 here at St. Lucie are the worst candidates for a
7 license extension that you could possibly imagine.
8 The two plants at Turkey Point were built for 235
9 million dollars each. They are the cheapest bare
10 bones plants ever built in the United States of
11 America.

12 By contrast, the last plant that was built
13 at Shorham cost 6.5 billion dollars to build, a state
14 of the art plant. It never opened. It never got an
15 operating license because there was a deficiency found
16 by the one intervenor who was presented, representing
17 Suffolk County. And that deficiency was that they
18 could not provide for the evacuation of the people on
19 the east end of Long Island. That plant was shut down
20 and dismantled.

21 The two plants here at St. Lucie, one of
22 them cost 495 million dollars to build and the other
23 came in at 1.4 billion dollars to build. They are
24 still far less than what it would cost to build a
25 state of the art plant today.

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1 Now I spoke to Mr. Dudley privately here,
2 before this meeting, and I asked him because I spent
3 40 years in the aviation industry -- I was a pilot for
4 a major airline for 36 of those years. I asked him,
5 if these plants have been certified to be able to
6 withstand the impact of an airplane.

7 And, ladies and gentlemen, probably 75
8 percent of the plants in this country are not
9 certified to withstand the impact of an airplane. And
10 we're talking little airplanes, maybe 12,000 pounds.
11 A 747 comes in at 800,000 pounds and carries 350,000
12 pounds of kerosene. That's what the jet fuel is.

13 Chernobyl was wiped out because the
14 incoming electricity to run all the equipment in that
15 plant was shut down in a test to see if the plant
16 could operate on the auxiliary power within the plant.
17 Well, it didn't, and the entire area was devastated.

18 MR. CAMERON: Mr. Smilen --

19 MR. SMILEN: Okay, time is up.

20 I spoke to you for 30 minutes about this.
21 Ladies and gentlemen, you have a serious problem in
22 St. Lucie County.

23 And what you've seen here today is good
24 theater, and a wonderful presentation by a Fortune 500
25 company to bring forward people who will testify and

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1 provide testimonials about what a good neighbor FPL
2 is. They've done a good job in public relations, but
3 ladies and gentlemen, beware. You've got a problem on
4 your hands.

5 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank-you, Mr.
6 Smilen.

7 We do have an additional speaker, Mr. Jim
8 Egan from the Marine Resources Council.

9 Mr. Egan.

10 MR. EGAN: My name is Jim Egan. I'm the
11 Executive Director of the Marine Resources Council.
12 We're a 501(c)(3), a not for profit.

13 We are very active in this county as well
14 as all the counties that run up and down the Indian
15 River Lagoon. We have a staff of 12 and 700
16 volunteers who are active in activities to protect and
17 restore our marine resources.

18 One of the reasons why I came here to this
19 particular meeting is because this particular facility
20 that we're considering is probably a very good example
21 of a facility that has gone beyond the call of duty to
22 really do things for the community itself. It's been
23 a very good neighbor to the county that it's in. It
24 has a very good safety record. It has a very good
25 record of efficiency.

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1 We must remember in this day and age of
2 merchant power plants and there are terribly
3 inefficient ways that an established plant such as
4 this one is producing energy, tremendously efficient,
5 maybe one of the most efficient in the state. The
6 costs of replacing a plant like this in terms of the
7 environment is very, very high.

8 A traditional plant that would be --
9 several plants that would be taking the replacement of
10 a plant such as this, we would expect to be having
11 quite a bit of air pollution impacts as a result. We
12 also have a tendency to experience problems in the
13 local community with things like soot and
14 discoloration of car finishes, and just overall bad
15 relations with the community around it.

16 We hold public workshops in this county
17 every quarter and we allow the public to bring to us
18 issues of concern. And basically we never really
19 heard much grumbling about anything to do with this
20 plant. We have heard grumbings about more
21 traditional power plants in other areas. We hold them
22 in five different counties. But we've never gotten
23 particular grumbings having to do with this plant.

24 I think one of the places in which I feel
25 that this particular facility and FPL as a whole has

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1 gone out of their way, has to do with education,
2 education about energy efficiency as well as
3 environmental education.

4 And if any of you happen to have the
5 opportunity to actually visit the plant and actually
6 go through their center, it's a first rate operation
7 in terms of learning about energy and in terms of
8 getting a renewed idea of it, because ultimately, even
9 though it's not in FPL's interest to see us be more
10 energy conserving, from a consumer standpoint, this is
11 business for them. They have acted as if this was the
12 best thing in the world they could possibly do.

13 They have been very aggressive and they
14 produced a lot of really good materials. Basically a
15 good energy efficient plant that is not impacting the
16 environment around us. That's a rare thing compared
17 to many places in the United States.

18 Our particular concern here, because we
19 have a very great interest in the Indian River view,
20 a very spectacular, unique water body -- it has more
21 species of animals, and fish, and plants than any
22 water body of its kind -- they have been a
23 particularly good neighbor to us here, in terms of our
24 main resources.

25 The power plant itself has not been

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1 emitting pollutants of any kind that would have been
2 damaging our marine resources. And the fact that the
3 plant takes up quite a bit of very prime real estate
4 and leaves it in its natural state, is a spectacular
5 opportunity for us in terms of providing habitat that
6 we could not afford to purchase these properties and
7 maintain them in that natural state.

8 The mangroves along the Indian River
9 Lagoon would be a good example of that. The -- it's
10 a ideal stopping off point for many of our endangered
11 and threatened species as they migrate up and down the
12 Florida Coast, going to their northern summer homes.

13 There's also a great deal of care for some
14 of our lagoon residents, such as the sea turtles, that
15 could be killed or injured in water intakes and things
16 of that nature. Every effort is made to protect them.
17 And we -- I had an opportunity to go on a tour and see
18 some of the efforts that they do there.

19 So all and all, one of the best things I
20 can say about this plant is that if there's somebody
21 complaining about anything in this county, I'd
22 probably know them on a first name basis, and I've
23 never really heard this plant as being a real source
24 of a lot of that kind of negative input.

25 While at the same time, time and time

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1 again, it has been involved in a lot of very good
2 efforts, both in terms of education and energy
3 efficiency, and just in general, in terms of the plant
4 and the employees in the plant, in terms of
5 participating in local humanitarian type of efforts.

6 So, basically, that was the main reason
7 why I came.

8 Thank-you.

9 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you very much, Jim.

10 And did I miss anybody who wanted to --
11 who had signed up to speak?

12 A VOICE: I would like to sign up.

13 MR. CAMERON: Do you want to give us a
14 few minutes of thoughts before we adjourn?

15 Mr. Doyle?

16 MR. DOYLE: Yes, please.

17 MR. CAMERON: Well, please come up.

18 MR. DOYLE: Thank-you. Thank-you very
19 much. Thank-you everybody for coming.

20 And I'd just like to -- The St. Lucie
21 County Fire Chief Sizemore said that he goes way back
22 with the city and its tradition of fire fighting and
23 emergency response, and that's good.

24 I also feel that the NEPA, National
25 Environmental Policy Act goes way back, too. That's

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1 all the way back to 1969. That's what a lot of this
2 is being based on. I think it's a pro-nuclear bill.
3 It's basically about the process to consider
4 alternatives, which aiming right towards nuclear
5 power.

6 As far as the local people getting
7 involved, it's only voluntary. NRC or FP&L does not
8 have a requirement where they have to meet with these
9 people. It only identifies, quote/unquote, "the local
10 people and officials," and says, quote, "that they,"
11 unquote, should be consulted. And it really should be
12 the local infrastructure requesting the consultations
13 with the regulators, who are the NRC and the
14 promoters, who is the FP&L.

15 It doesn't seem like FP&L had a lot to say
16 today, compared to the NRC, if indeed they are the
17 promoters. Michael Masnik did say that the FPL can
18 choose to operate at a loss, which is something that
19 they just might do.

20 Everyone important is here in this room or
21 they should be, but still no decisions are made here.
22 It's like, hey, time's up, write a letter or fax me.
23 Or why do you need a separate license for the pool
24 expansion or dry cask storage? This should be planned
25 along with the license to renew, to operate. So that

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1 way we all know the time tables that we're dealing
2 with as far as the moving of the inventory and things
3 like that.

4 I'd also like to thank the Sheriff for his
5 confidence to help us through anything that we can
6 face, however, I don't want anyone to face a nuclear
7 mistake.

8 The Mayor states that it's a nice thing to
9 have in town and he jokes about glowing and things
10 like that, but I feel it's very dangerous. You have
11 to refuel every 18 months. Also it's not totally
12 carbon free. The carbon emissions from the endless
13 line of nuclear laden security truck convoys will
14 surely contribute a little something.

15 We could talk about depleted uranium
16 weapons poisoning Iraq, Kuwait, Serbia, Kosovo,
17 Macedonia, Bosnia, and Puerto Rico, but I'll leave
18 that to the side. We could also talk about the house
19 welfare for the nukes (phonetic).

20 What's interesting is the -- 44 years ago,
21 the Price Anderson was set in. That means that the
22 industry can only be held accountable for 9 billion
23 dollars worth of damage. That's slated to expire in
24 August of 2002. The 103 U.S. reactors now licensed
25 are grandfathered under the law, which is pretty

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1 interesting.

2 If the industry wants a new generation of
3 reactors which says it will be perfectly safe, even
4 though some of the heavily subsidized designs were
5 almost entirely untested, Vice-president Dick Cheney
6 has made it clear none will be built without this
7 insurance safety net. So they won't be able to help
8 out too much after things happen.

9 Let's see ... So I'd just like to conclude
10 with, again, thanking everyone who came here. We all
11 need energy and we all use energy, and let's hope that
12 we can come together and see the truth.

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

14 I guess I would just remind everybody that
15 this is a first, this is a scoping meeting, it's the
16 first meeting of a very deliberate process, not only
17 to look at environmental impacts, but also to look at
18 safety impacts and no decisions have been made on
19 either of those fronts.

20 And we will be back, at least on the
21 environmental side, with a draft Environmental Impact
22 Statement for our review to look at and comment on,
23 and make sure that everybody has a copy of that draft
24 Environmental Impact Statement. And we will also be
25 posting the meetings that will occur, not only in

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1 Washington, but down here on the safety side of the
2 evaluation.

3 And I would just thank all of you for
4 thoughtful comments today and for following the ground
5 rule, and not taking more than five minutes or so. We
6 will be back tonight if people want to come back and
7 give us additional information again, an open house at
8 six o'clock, and then the meeting starting at seven
9 o'clock. We'll use the same format that we used this
10 afternoon.

11 There is something called the NRC Public
12 Meeting Feedback Form that is available outside. It
13 gives us an idea of how we might be able to improve
14 our efforts at these meetings. And in terms of public
15 communications generally, I would just ask you to fill
16 it out. It is already stamped and you can mail it
17 back to us, although as Michael Masnik pointed out, we
18 may get those a few months from now. So if you want
19 to leave it with us before you go, then that will be
20 even more helpful. But thank-you all for coming out
21 this afternoon. We're adjourned until 7:00 o'clock
22 tonight.

23 (Whereupon, at 4:10 o'clock, p.m., the
24 public meeting was adjourned.)

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