

# Official Transcript of Proceedings

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Surry Power Station - Evening Session

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR LICENSE RENEWAL

SURRY POWER STATION

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WEDNESDAY,

SEPTEMBER 19, 2001

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The Public Scoping Meeting took place at the Surry Combined District Courtroom, Surry County Government Center, 45 School Street, Surry, Virginia, at 7:00 p.m., Chip Cameron, Facilitator, presiding.

PRESENT:

- CHIP CAMERON
- CHRIS GRIMES
- BOB PRATO
- ANDY KUGLER
- ERNEST BLOUNT
- TERRY LEWIS
- JIM DISHNER
- RICHARD BLOUNT
- BILL BOLIN
- SENATOR FRED QUAYLE

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PRESENT: (Cont.)  
  
JAMES BROWN  
  
BILL SUBJACK  
  
BILL BORCHARDT

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

(7:00 p.m.)

1  
2  
3 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Good evening,  
4 everybody. I would like to welcome all of you to the  
5 Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Scoping Meeting on the  
6 preparation of an environmental impact statement for  
7 Dominion's license application for renewal of license  
8 at Surry Units 1 and 2.

9 My name is Chip Cameron, I'm the Special  
10 Counsel for Public Liaison at the Nuclear Regulatory  
11 Commission. I'm pleased to be your facilitator for  
12 tonight's meeting.

13 And I just want to cover three things  
14 briefly about the meeting process before we go to the  
15 substance of the discussion tonight.

16 The first is the objectives for tonight's  
17 meeting. Secondly I would like to go over the format  
18 and ground rules for the meeting tonight. And, lastly  
19 I would like to talk a little bit about the agenda, so  
20 that you know what to expect.

21 In terms of the objectives for the  
22 meeting, the NRC is going to provide you with  
23 information, tonight, on the license renewal process,  
24 specifically the environmental analysis that is done

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1 to assist the NRC in determining whether to renew the  
2 licenses at Surry.

3 This is called a scoping meeting. And  
4 scoping is a term that is used in connection with the  
5 preparation of Environmental Impact Statements. The  
6 Environmental Impact Statement is a document that  
7 serves to assist the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in  
8 making its decision on the renewal applications.

9 And scoping is an opportunity for the NRC  
10 to find out any information that they should consider  
11 in preparing the Environmental Impact Statement. And  
12 we are going to hear more on that whole process in a  
13 minute.

14 The most important part of the meeting  
15 tonight is to hear from you out there on potential  
16 environmental impacts that the NRC should consider in  
17 preparing the Environmental Impact Statement.

18 The NRC will also be taking written  
19 comments on the scoping issues, but we wanted to be  
20 here with you tonight to talk to you in person. And  
21 you may hear information tonight from the NRC staff,  
22 or from members in the community that may help you  
23 prepare, if you want to do so, help you to prepare  
24 your written comments.

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1           But I would just emphasize that any  
2 comments that the NRC hears tonight will carry the  
3 same weight as any comments that are submitted in  
4 writing.

5           In terms of format there are two segments  
6 to tonight's meeting. The first segment is going to  
7 consist of two brief presentations from the NRC staff,  
8 and we will go on to you for any questions you might  
9 have about the issues that are discussed in those  
10 presentations.

11           And then we will move to the second  
12 segment, which in that segment we will give anybody  
13 who wants to make a formal comment, an opportunity to  
14 come up here and make a formal comment that the NRC  
15 will consider in developing the Environmental Impact  
16 Statement.

17           We do have a stenographer with us tonight,  
18 we are keeping a transcript of the meeting, and that  
19 transcript will be available to the public.

20           In terms of ground rules, because we are  
21 keeping a transcript, if you do want to either ask a  
22 question, or make a formal statement, I would just ask  
23 you to give us your name, and affiliation, if  
24 appropriate.

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1 I would also ask that only one person  
2 speak at a time tonight so that the stenographer can  
3 get a clear transcript of who is talking. But, more  
4 importantly, so that we can give our full attention to  
5 whomever has the floor at the time.

6 I do want to make sure that everybody who  
7 wants to speak has an opportunity to speak tonight.  
8 So I would just ask you to be concise. We don't have  
9 a whole lot of people who are going to be making  
10 formal comments, so that we can be a little bit  
11 relaxed about time.

12 But I would offer as a guideline  
13 approximately five minutes for any formal comments  
14 that you might have tonight.

15 In terms of the agenda, we are going to go  
16 first to Mr. Chris Grimes, who is right here. And  
17 Chris is going to be talking about the license renewal  
18 process, generally. He is the branch chief of -- I'm  
19 going to pull this out of my pocket, again, so I  
20 remember it, the License Renewal and Standardization  
21 Branch, within Our Office of Nuclear Reactor  
22 Regulation.

23 And Chris and the people who work for him  
24 are responsible for evaluating the safety issues

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1 associated with evaluating the license renewal  
2 application.

3 They also take the information that comes  
4 in from the Environmental Impact Statement, and any  
5 inspection findings, and they integrate that with the  
6 analysis of the safety issues, and make an initial  
7 recommendation on whether the license application  
8 should be renewed.

9 So Chris is going to give us that  
10 overview. He has been with the NRC since 1973, and  
11 now has this important responsibility. He has a  
12 bachelor's degree in nuclear engineering from Oregon  
13 State.

14 And the second presentation is going to be  
15 by Andy Kugler, Andy is the environmental project  
16 manager for the preparation of the Environmental  
17 Impact Statement on the Surry license renewal  
18 applications.

19 And he is going to talk about what is  
20 involved in the Environmental Impact Statement  
21 preparation process, and how you can give us comments  
22 on scoping, and what is going to happen further down  
23 the line.

24 Andy, by way of background, has a  
25 bachelor's degree from Cooper Union in New York City,

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1 and a master's in technical management from Johns  
2 Hopkins University. And before he came to the NRC he  
3 was a senior licensed reactor operator for Gulf States  
4 Utilities.

5 So they are going to make a presentation,  
6 we will see if you have any questions, make sure that  
7 what they present is clear, and then we will go to the  
8 formal comments for this evening.

9 And I would just thank you for being here.  
10 We do have something called a feedback form that is a  
11 survey, a questionnaire I should say, that provides  
12 information to us, from you, on how well we did in  
13 terms of this public meeting.

14 In other words, what areas could we have  
15 improved on. That is out at the registration desk  
16 outside. So if you do have some thoughts, please  
17 provide them to us.

18 And what I would like to do now is go to  
19 Chris Grimes and have him tell us about license  
20 renewal process, generally.

21 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Chip. As Chip  
22 mentioned my name is Chris Grimes, I'm the chief of  
23 the License Renewal and Standardization Branch in the  
24 NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. And I'm

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1 responsible for the overall programs related to power  
2 reactor license renewals.

3 The current operating licenses for Surry  
4 Units 1 and 2 expire in 2012, and 2013. And as Chip  
5 mentioned, we have received an application for the  
6 renewal of those licenses from Virginia Power, now  
7 Dominion Energy.

8 The purpose of my presentation is I want  
9 to provide a context and an overall description of  
10 what the license renewal process involves, as it  
11 relates to the description that Mr. Kugler is going to  
12 describe, related to the specific process for  
13 developing an Environmental Impact Statement for this  
14 Surry application.

15 The license renewal process mirrors the  
16 same process that was used when the operating  
17 licenses were originally, when the operating licenses  
18 were originally granted, when the plants were  
19 constructed.

20 The authority that the NRC has is from the  
21 Atomic Energy Act of 1954, and it provides that the  
22 Nuclear Regulatory Commission is responsible for  
23 protecting public health and safety, for protecting  
24 the environment, and for providing for the common  
25 defense and security.

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1           The Atomic Energy Act provided that the  
2 license term for power reactors would be 40 years.  
3 But the Act also recognized and provided that there  
4 would be an opportunity to renew the licenses.

5           As a result in the early '80s the Nuclear  
6 Regulatory Commission looked at a process for making  
7 a decision on a license renewal application. And we  
8 developed regulations in Part 54 to Title 10 of the  
9 Code of Federal Regulations, which you will hear us  
10 refer to as 10 CFR 54.

11           And it incorporates provisions for the  
12 conduct of an Environmental Impact Statement in Part  
13 51 to Title 10, or 10 CFR 51.

14           Utilities are currently making  
15 applications for license renewal, even though their  
16 applications don't expire until 2012, 2013, or  
17 somewhere in that time frame, because there is  
18 approximately a 10 year planning horizon for a utility  
19 to develop plans and start construction for major new  
20 generating capacity.

21           The utility's interest right now is in  
22 understanding what the expectations are for continued  
23 plant operation beyond the current license term, in  
24 order for them to be able to assess whether or not it  
25 is economically feasible to continue plant operation.

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1           And so the Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
2           established this process so that the utilities would  
3           have a clear understanding of what the expectations  
4           would be.

5           The license renewal process consists of,  
6           essentially, two basic tasks. Upon receipt of an  
7           application we have a safety review, as well as an  
8           environmental review.

9           The review process also provides that the  
10          safety review is independently reviewed by the  
11          Commission's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards,  
12          or ACRS.

13          That committee is made up of recognized  
14          experts from the industry and academia who have  
15          particular expertise. They make judgements about the  
16          staff's evaluation, and they present their findings  
17          separately to the Commission.

18          We also have an independent -- excuse me,  
19          we have an inspection program that verifies the  
20          contents of the application, the condition of the  
21          plant, and the basis in the staff's safety evaluation  
22          report, and that is also provided to the Commission.

23          The scope of the license renewal review as  
24          it relates to the safety issues, is based on the

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1 ability of the utility to manage aging effects for  
2 passive long-lived system structures and components.

3 The Commission concluded that that could  
4 be a focus for deciding on license renewal, because  
5 the ongoing regulatory process provides for routine  
6 monitoring and changes to the current licensing basis,  
7 and to other processes that essentially are maintained  
8 on an ongoing basis.

9 For example emergency plans and security  
10 plans are things that are routinely updated and  
11 revised as there is a need. But for the purpose of a  
12 decision about the underlying design margins of the  
13 plant, the Commission concluded that focusing on aging  
14 effects, and ensuring that there are adequate  
15 inspection and maintenance programs to provide for the  
16 maintenance of the margins of safety for passive long-  
17 lived systems, structures and components, for example,  
18 structures, piping, vessels, those things that aren't  
19 routinely tested through active testing.

20 I would like to introduce Bob Prato. Bob  
21 Prato is the safety project manager, he is Mr.  
22 Kugler's counterpart. Bob Prato is responsible for  
23 preparing a safety evaluation that would apply to both  
24 Surry and North Anna, because Dominion submitted a  
25 combined application.

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1           We will have two separate environmental  
2 reviews, however, because there are two sites  
3 involved. Mr. Prato and I will be available after the  
4 meeting if there are any specific questions that you  
5 might have about the safety review, or the safety  
6 issues.

7           But unless there are any questions about  
8 the general overall process description, I'm going to  
9 ask Mr. Kugler to go into more detail about the  
10 environmental process.

11           FACILITATOR CAMERON: Any questions?

12           (No response.)

13           FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you,  
14 Chris. Andy?

15           MR. KUGLER: Thank you, Chip. Again, my  
16 name is Andy Kugler, and I'm the environmental project  
17 manager for the review of the license renewal  
18 applications for both Surry and North Anna. Tonight  
19 we are just focusing on Surry.

20           I'm leading a team of experts who will be  
21 reviewing the environmental impacts of the action that  
22 is proposed. The team is made up of a number of staff  
23 from the NRC, as well as personnel from some of our  
24 national labs, who we have brought in as experts in  
25 certain areas, to assist us in the evaluation.

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1           The National Environmental Policy Act was  
2 enacted in 1969, and it provides for a systematic  
3 approach to evaluate environmental impacts. We  
4 evaluate the environmental impacts of the action that  
5 is proposed, and we also consider mitigation for any  
6 significant impacts that we may find.

7           In addition we also consider the impacts  
8 of any alternatives that may be available to the  
9 proposed action. And that would include what we call  
10 the "no-action" alternative. In other words, simply  
11 not renewing the licenses.

12           We evaluate the impacts of the action, and  
13 any alternatives, and then in the Environmental Impact  
14 Statement we describe those and indicate which of the  
15 alternatives is best.

16           The process that we are going through, in  
17 developing the Environmental Impact Statement,  
18 involves the disclosure of information to the public,  
19 allowing you to understand what we are doing, making  
20 information available to you on the environmental  
21 impacts, and looking for input from you on areas of  
22 concern that you may have.

23           In particular we look to see if there are  
24 any specific issues that we might not be aware of, at  
25 a given site, that you are aware of, or specific

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1 concerns that you may have, that we should address in  
2 our Environmental Impact Statement.

3 In the context of the National  
4 Environmental Policy Act we consider license renewal  
5 to be a major federal action. And what that means is  
6 we are required to develop an Environmental Impact  
7 Statement.

8 There are some lesser documents that can  
9 be prepared for lesser actions. But in this case we  
10 will be developing an Environmental Impact Statement,  
11 and as part of that process we will be collecting  
12 comments from the public.

13 I'm sorry, I failed to give you that  
14 slide. In this slide we talk about the decision  
15 standard that we use in our environmental review. In  
16 essence what we are doing is looking at the  
17 environmental impacts of the proposed action to  
18 determine whether or not, from an environmental  
19 standpoint, the action would be acceptable.

20 Once we reach our decision, and let's  
21 assume, for the sake of argument in this case, that we  
22 decide that it is acceptable to renew the licenses,  
23 that doesn't necessarily mean that the plant will be  
24 operated for an additional 20 years.

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1           That decision is made by the owners of the  
2 plant, and by state and local officials who have a  
3 role in determining the energy policy for the state.  
4 Our decision simply gives them the permission to  
5 continue operation. But the decision whether or not  
6 they do lies with others. It is a distinction that is  
7 important in some cases.

8           This is a little bit more detailed look at  
9 the environmental review process. We received the  
10 application, as indicated, in May of this year. In  
11 the middle of August we issued a notice of intent,  
12 that we were going to prepare an Environmental Impact  
13 Statement.

14           And in that notice we also announced that  
15 we would perform scoping. And, in essence, scoping is  
16 simply the collection of comments and information that  
17 we will need in our review. And a portion of that,  
18 obviously, is comments from the public.

19           During this period we are also visiting  
20 the site. We are out here this week visiting the  
21 site, and the area around the site, to gather  
22 information for our review.

23           If we have questions that we need answered  
24 we will issue questions to the licensee, what we call  
25 requests for additional information. Those will be

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1 public documents, as will be the responses from the  
2 licensee.

3 We expect to complete preparing our draft  
4 environmental impact statement toward the end of April  
5 of next year. At that point we will issue it for  
6 public comment. You will have a period of time in  
7 which to review the document, determine if you have  
8 any comments on it, indicate if we missed some point,  
9 or maybe mischaracterized something, or agreement.

10 We will also come back at that time and  
11 hold another public meeting like this one to collect  
12 comments from you if you wish to provide comments in  
13 the meeting format.

14 We expect to issue the final Environmental  
15 Impact Statement in December of next year. So it is  
16 a rather lengthy process.

17 We gather information from a number of  
18 sources, as I've indicated. In addition to our review  
19 of the environmental report submitted by the  
20 Applicant, and our review of the site, and the area  
21 around the site, during this week, we gather your  
22 comments. We also talk to the people in state,  
23 Federal, and local agencies. We talk to social  
24 service agencies, gather all the information that we  
25 need to perform our evaluation.

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1           As I indicated our team is made up of a  
2 number of experts in various fields. This slide gives  
3 you an idea of the types of areas that we are looking  
4 at. We look at the air, water usage, we look at  
5 cultural resources, and archeology.

6           We also look at socioeconomic, something  
7 that a lot of people don't necessarily consider when  
8 we say environmental. But we do consider the economic  
9 impacts of operation of the plant, or non-operation of  
10 the plant, or of any of the alternatives.

11           A basic milestone, as I've mentioned, we  
12 are in the scoping process right now. We will -- the  
13 comment period closes on October 15th. At that point  
14 we will complete writing the draft. It will take us  
15 some months from there.

16           We will issue it at the end of April, and  
17 by December of next year we expect to issue the final  
18 report.

19           The documents related to the environmental  
20 review are available on our website. Many of them are  
21 also available in ADAMS, if any of you are familiar  
22 with that system, it is our document system.

23           But we are also putting the documents into  
24 a local library. The name of it is the Swem Library  
25 on the campus of the College of William and Mary. For

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1 those of you who may be familiar with it, it is what  
2 used to be the local public document room a few years  
3 back. So the documents are also available there.  
4 That was a more local spot for us to make them  
5 available.

6 I am the agency's point of contact for the  
7 environmental review. I have given you my phone  
8 number here. If you have any questions, or concerns,  
9 particularly about the process, feel free to call me.

10 The -- as I indicated, the documents are  
11 available in several locations. But if you have  
12 trouble accessing something call me about that, I can  
13 help you out with that, as well.

14 In terms of submitting comments, other  
15 than in this meeting, as Chip mentioned, any comments  
16 you make this evening will be transcribed, and will be  
17 treated the same as written comments.

18 But there are other ways to submit  
19 comments. You can mail them to the address shown here.  
20 You can also drop them off in person, although not too  
21 many people take advantage of that option. But if you  
22 want to come up to Rockville.

23 We also have a mail box established, so  
24 that you can email comments in, if you prefer. So we

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1 try to give you as many options as possible, whatever  
2 suits you best.

3 That is the conclusion of my points. I  
4 want to thank you all for coming here this evening,  
5 and thank you for your attention.

6 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Andy.  
7 Before we go into the segment of the meeting where we  
8 are going to hear formal comments from all of you, are  
9 there any questions to Andy about the Environmental  
10 Impact Statement process that he just described?

11 (No response.)

12 FACILITATOR CAMERON: I would note that  
13 Andy, Chris Grimes, the other NRC staff people are  
14 going to be here after the meeting, so that if you  
15 need information, you want to talk to them, they will  
16 be here to talk to you.

17 And what I would like to do now is I would  
18 like to go to Mr. Ernest Blount, who is the Chair of  
19 the Surry County Board of Supervisors for a first  
20 comment. Mr. Blount, you can either use that one, or  
21 if you are more comfortable, come on up here. There  
22 is a place to put your notes if you want.

23 MR. BLOUNT: Good evening citizens, and  
24 the public. My name is Ernest Blount, Chairman of  
25 Surry County Board of Supervisors. I would like to

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1 thank the NRC for inviting me, and have the  
2 opportunity to make comments and input about the  
3 license renewal of the Surry Nuclear Power Plant.

4 I've had opportunities to tour the power  
5 plant, and some input that I will give to you tonight  
6 will be hands-on. In touring the power plant, and I  
7 had a tour through the vice president, whose name was  
8 Richard Blount.

9 It was an excellent tour, it made me feel  
10 even more comfortable about the operations, and what  
11 goes on at Surry Nuclear Power Plant.

12 Safety, in touring the plant, was one of  
13 the top priorities at the Surry Plant. The station  
14 being here in the county has a history of safe and  
15 reliable operations. Every day the station earns  
16 respect from people on the NRC side, because I feel  
17 that in my tour, you had members of the NRC that are  
18 residents, that are there on a daily basis, checking  
19 for the safe operations and unsafe, as well, of the  
20 Surry Power station.

21 The station's professional people  
22 continually monitor the station's operations on a  
23 daily basis to ensure that the station complies with  
24 the regulations and the units do not have adverse  
25 impact on the local environments here in Surry County.

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1           It has an excellent operation record,  
2 primarily because of the maintenance testing and  
3 corrective actions that take place at the Surry Power  
4 station.

5           Electricity provided by Surry power  
6 station is electric that does not give off emissions,  
7 emission-free type, and it is very important to the  
8 economy of Surry, Virginia, and other areas as well.

9           Again, safety is a top priority at Surry,  
10 and it is planned in its daily work activities, and  
11 its safe practices are reinforced through training  
12 issues, and continuous training throughout the  
13 community.

14           They even reach outside to the community,  
15 training with various rescue and fire agencies  
16 throughout the county to keep us informed on what  
17 happens at the power station.

18           It was built with safety in mind, and  
19 again, safety I feel is one of the main issues why we  
20 are here this evening.

21           Surry, even on the environmental side, it  
22 is quality, being that it does not give off emissions,  
23 even in the air it does not give off the products that  
24 are associated with some emission fuels. So that is  
25 even safe for our natural resources.

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1           And, again, our waterways, our water  
2 streams, they have safety in mind, you know, with our  
3 fish and wildlife, even at the intake. And they have  
4 designed a special fish separating system intake  
5 screen that separates, and where it goes into the  
6 James river as well. They also have a migratory bird  
7 policy, which looks out for our birds, as well.

8           Surry's impact and importance to state and  
9 local economics, the Surry power station plays a  
10 crucial role in providing low cost energy which makes  
11 Virginia more attractive to businesses, as well as  
12 Surry county.

13           The power station, itself, creates and  
14 develops a type of electricity and relicensing the  
15 power station will ensure the Commonwealth has an  
16 abundant and economical generating resource as it  
17 enters into the competitive era.

18           Surry power station provides a significant  
19 tax revenue for Surry county. Since operation I think  
20 somewhere around 130 million dollars has generated in  
21 property taxes in Surry, and even the year 2000 it  
22 paid 10.3 million to Surry. And it plays a very  
23 important impact to us, as well.

24           Surry employment provides employment for,  
25 I guess, 900 to 1,000 people at the power station,

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1 which contributes to the local economics here in the  
2 community, and surrounding areas throughout Virginia.

3 For many years Surry power station has  
4 demonstrated commitment to the community. Again,  
5 training, the employees have programs, United Way has  
6 generated income outside of the plant itself to help  
7 throughout the communities when people are in need.

8 They have partnered with Chippokes State  
9 Park and has an ongoing program, the employees even  
10 have volunteer programs to go and clean the roads, and  
11 the road even to the power plant is cleaned by the  
12 employees on their time off. And so that is a very  
13 significant impact to us, as well.

14 I would just like to say going into 2002,  
15 it will celebrate its 350th anniversary. And the head  
16 designer, I forgot to bring it with us today, and the  
17 design of the cap itself was volunteered, and Surry  
18 power allowed its chief designer to prepare the logo  
19 for Surry County, which we are proud of.

20 So, again, we support the relicensing of  
21 the Surry Nuclear Power Plant. And, again, we know  
22 safety is in mind, and safety is a key issue with you  
23 all. Thank you for your time.

24 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,  
25 Chairman Blount.

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1                   Next I would like Mr. Terry Lewis. Terry  
2 is the County administrator for Surry County, to come  
3 up and talk to us.

4                   MR. LEWIS: Thank you, and good evening to  
5 everyone. I will be very brief, I won't take long at  
6 all. Mr. Blount has covered many of the topics that  
7 are of concern to Surry county as far as the plant's  
8 operation in the county is concerned.

9                   And I won't be redundant by repeating  
10 those comments that he has made. There are several  
11 things, though, I just simply would like to  
12 underscore. And first off is the fact that Surry  
13 power station is very, very important to Surry County.

14                   And we feel that it has been of  
15 significant benefit to the county through the years  
16 that it has been located here, and certainly we do  
17 look forward to having a very good relationship with  
18 the plant, its operators, its managers, as far as the  
19 future is concerned.

20                   And when I say that the Surry power  
21 station has been of great benefit to the county, Mr.  
22 Blount said it very well, in terms of the tax revenues  
23 that are generated by the plant for Surry county.

24                   Those revenues have helped the county to  
25 do many things to improve itself. For instance we

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1 have probably one of the better education systems in  
2 the state of Virginia. And certainly if you look at  
3 the number of dollars that are spent in the education  
4 system of Surry county, we have a superior one,  
5 because the number of dollars that we spend ranks  
6 Surry county in the top ten localities within the  
7 state, as far as dollars spent in education.

8 The other localities that are in that top  
9 ten happen to mostly be in the northern Virginia area.  
10 And, of course, many people recognize that northern  
11 Virginia is the most wealthy area of the state of  
12 Virginia.

13 So, again, by having the revenues that  
14 come from Virginia Power it enables us to spend a good  
15 tax dollar in our school system, one that allows us to  
16 rank very high in the rankings, along with localities  
17 within the northern Virginia area.

18 We have three modern school plants that  
19 have been erected in Surry county. And I doubt  
20 seriously if we did not have the revenue coming from  
21 the plant that the county would have been able to  
22 provide the kind of school complexes that we have.

23 We are all very proud of them, and we hope  
24 to be able to continue to do those kinds of things for  
25 our system in the future.

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1           Secondly I would just simply like to  
2 underscore the fact that the Surry power station is  
3 not only of benefit to Surry county. It is of benefit  
4 to the region.

5           And, again Mr. Blount did underscore the  
6 fact that we looked at the fact that we have the plant  
7 here as being one of those things that enable other  
8 businesses to look at this region and see that we have  
9 the infrastructure, certainly power-wise, to be able  
10 to supply their needs.

11           But one of the things that many of you may  
12 not be aware of, and that is the plant being in Surry  
13 county, enables Surry county to be a net producer of  
14 jobs. That is to say that we have more people in  
15 commuting to jobs here in Surry county, than we have  
16 people commuting out of Surry county to jobs.

17           Now, it just so happens that that  
18 relationship means that many Surry people who are  
19 employed in businesses outside of the county, are  
20 employed in jobs that are on the low end of the wage  
21 scale.

22           The jobs that are available at Surry power  
23 station are high end, high paying jobs, highly  
24 skilled, highly technical people are employed in those  
25 jobs.

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1           And that, again, means that we are out  
2 producing in terms of wealth for citizens in this  
3 region, we are producing more wealth by way of the  
4 income that people earn here, and are able to carry it  
5 to the communities that they reside in.

6           By the same token we tend to lose when we  
7 look at the income that people bring back to Surry  
8 county. So that is of significant benefit, again, to  
9 the region on a whole, and bear in mind we have people  
10 that are employed at the Surry power station that  
11 commute here from as far away as Virginia Beach, from  
12 the western side of Richmond.

13           So a large number of people throughout  
14 this region are benefitting by virtue of the plant  
15 being here in Surry county.

16           The last thing that I would simply like to  
17 underscore is the fact that Virginia Power is a very,  
18 very safe operation. I think many of us are very  
19 concerned about nuclear power production, nuclear  
20 power plants, and it became an even more alarming  
21 concern when we recognized the kind of accidents that  
22 could happen, such as we witnessed at Three Mile  
23 Island, or the Chernobyl plant.

24           Surry power plant, I happen to feel, is  
25 probably the safest plant of that particular type that

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1 you will find, not only just in Virginia, or in the  
2 U.S., but perhaps in the world.

3 I also have had opportunity to witness the  
4 kind of training that individuals go through at the  
5 plant in order to be employed there, and in order to  
6 make certain that the system, the plant itself is  
7 maintained in a safe operating condition.

8 I'm very, very proud of the kind of  
9 security that the plant has by way of protecting it  
10 from the kind of terrorist attacks that we saw occur  
11 in New York and in the northern Virginia area over the  
12 past week.

13 There is a news article [ATTACHED] which  
14 I would like to leave with you all which appeared in  
15 today's newspaper. And it talks about the fact that  
16 the area lacks terrorism evacuation plans. There is  
17 an exception to that statement that you will find in  
18 the paper, and that exception is Surry Nuclear Power  
19 Plant.

20 And what the article goes on to say is  
21 that Surry power plant is the only industry in this  
22 area that does have an evacuation plan, not only for  
23 just the employees at the plant, and not only for just  
24 the citizens that are in Surry county, but for the  
25 entire region.

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1           It is a plan that we practice continually,  
2 trying to make certain that it will work, and is  
3 workable.

4           And I would just simply say that if you  
5 recognize that in this region of the state, that we  
6 have many facilities here, military facilities, that  
7 have nuclear armament, military facilities that are  
8 prime targets for terrorist attacks, and to recognize  
9 that those facilities do not have evacuation plans,  
10 kind of leaves us a little bit at the mercy of any  
11 attacks that might happen here.

12           But, again, because of the foresight, and  
13 I recognize that NRC plays a role in this as well, but  
14 because of the foresight that we have in this  
15 community, on the part of the Surry Power Station we  
16 do have the ability to move our people out of here,  
17 and quickly, if there is an attack threatened.

18           That again, just a couple of points,  
19 several points, that I just simply would like to make  
20 at this time to just underscore the fact that Surry  
21 Power Station is very important to the county.

22           You raised the question what would be the  
23 condition of the county if the plant was not located  
24 here, that is if it was closed down. And I would  
25 simply say to you that rather than having the asset

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1 that we recognize that Surry Power Station is at this  
2 point we would, instead, be looking at it as being a  
3 liability.

4 If we close down that facility we  
5 recognize the fact that we would have to put into  
6 place all types of security just to make certain that  
7 what remains in the county, the residue in terms of  
8 radioactive material, would have to be guarded.

9 And most likely a lot of that work will  
10 fall to the staff, the security people, the police  
11 department, the sheriff's department of Surry county.  
12 Those kinds of security things will cost money.

13 So it is not only a matter of losing it in  
14 terms of being a tax asset to the county, but also we  
15 pick up the liability in terms of having to provide  
16 the services that would be necessary to keep Surry  
17 county secure in the event that the plant itself is  
18 closed.

19 Again, I thank you for taking the time to  
20 come to Surry and giving us the opportunity to be able  
21 to speak to you this evening.

22 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,  
23 Mr. Lewis. What I would like to do is we will give a  
24 copy of this to the NRC staff, but we will also try to

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1 attach this to the transcript. So I can keep this for  
2 now?

3 MR. LEWIS: You certainly may. And I  
4 would like to also leave with you, if I may, Dr.  
5 Grayson Miller, who is the director of the Crater  
6 Health Department, and Surry happens to be served by  
7 the Crater Health Department [ATTACHED].

8 I leave that with you because I know from  
9 time to time people do raise issues relative to health  
10 concerns. And in my talking to Dr. Grayson Miller, he  
11 is not aware of any health concerns on the part of  
12 people in this area.

13 So I leave that with you in case you need  
14 to contact him directly.

15 FACILITATOR CAMERON: The NRC staff can  
16 contact him and talk to Dr. Miller. Thank you very  
17 much, Mr. Lewis.

18 MR. LEWIS: Certainly.

19 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Next we are going to  
20 go to Mr. Jim Dishner, and Mr. Dishner is the  
21 assistant chief and the fire marshal for York County.  
22 Mr. Dishner.

23 MR. DISHNER: Good evening. As he said  
24 I'm the assistant chief and fire marshal, but let me

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1 change hats, and I'm now the deputy coordinator, as  
2 needed.

3 On behalf of the county administrator,  
4 James McReynolds, and Steve Kochinski, who is the  
5 emergency coordinator for the county, I thank the NRC,  
6 Surry Power Station, and Dominion Generations for this  
7 opportunity to speak tonight.

8 I've been involved in emergency management  
9 through the county for over 20 years. And I believe  
10 I can speak for the county saying that the county  
11 enjoys a great working relationship with the Surry  
12 Power Station and Dominion Generation.

13 While the county is across the river from  
14 Surry we can see the domes from time to time. But we  
15 are certainly within a ten mile radius of the power  
16 plant. And we view the power station as a great  
17 corporate neighbor to the county.

18 The power station has assisted the county  
19 in a number of different ways. One, they have  
20 provided us with a lot of equipment and training, and  
21 certainly classes to benefit us to be able to help the  
22 power station and the county to maintain that high  
23 level of readiness in the event of an emergency here  
24 at the power station.

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1           And that is due to Virginia Power, Surry  
2 Power Station. And I believe I can speak saying that  
3 this year we have enjoyed probably the best VOPEX  
4 (Virginia Operation Exercise) exercise in the county  
5 that we have ever had, through some of that training  
6 that they have provided.

7           On another note because I'm a little bit  
8 different than most people and I enjoy playing in  
9 VOPEX drills all the time, and I think there should be  
10 one a year so that we stay focused, and we are up on  
11 top of rules, regulations, SOPs [Standard Operating  
12 Procedures] and training, that have convinced Dominion  
13 Generation to let me play at both power stations  
14 during the VOPEX exercises, which I think is great.

15           One reason it is great is it allows me to  
16 stay proficient. It provides a networking service so  
17 that we can talk to other coordinators and emergency  
18 management, look at North Anna's plan versus our plan.  
19 We get to play in the drills up there with them, then  
20 we come back and we look at our plan and make the  
21 necessary changes, so that we can certainly improve  
22 our operation here to the power station.

23           It also allows the county to help maintain  
24 that high level of readiness that we strive to keep.  
25 I strive for one hundred percent on every drill so

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1 that we can stay proficient, and stay up on top of  
2 different things for the power station.

3 In closing I would like to say that I  
4 personally have enjoyed a great working relationship  
5 with the Surry Power Station personnel, the plant, and  
6 Dominion Generation, as the radiological officer as  
7 well.

8 And I'm sure and confident that this  
9 relationship will only get better as time goes along.  
10 Thank you.

11 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Mr.  
12 Dishner. Let's go to two representatives from  
13 Dominion Energy. And I apologize, I think I have been  
14 calling it Dominion Power, and maybe I still have it  
15 wrong.

16 Mr. Richard Blount, site vice president at  
17 Surry, can correct that if necessary.

18 MR. BLOUNT: Good evening. My name is  
19 Richard Blount, I'm the site vice president of  
20 Dominion Surry Nuclear Power Station.

21 First I would like to thank the NRC for  
22 having this meeting. I would like to thank everyone  
23 else who has come out here for public input.

24 I will try to explain, I am part of  
25 Dominion Generation. It is a little confusing thing,

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1 I work for Dominion Energy, and Dominion Generation,  
2 Dominion Energy, and Dominion. So it is all one  
3 company, Dominion. Stick with Dominion, it makes life  
4 a lot easier.

5 Dominion Virginia Power is the one that  
6 sends you the bill for those who get a bill, and takes  
7 care of the distribution.

8 I'm excited to be here to talk about the  
9 license renewal process for the Surry Power Station.  
10 Not just me, but the 850 employees at Surry Power  
11 Station.

12 License renewal will ensure that Surry  
13 Power Station continues to operate. It produces about  
14 15 percent of the electricity in the state of  
15 Virginia. It will also ensure that our local economy  
16 will continue to reap the benefits of a large employer  
17 in the area.

18 Surry County will continue to receive the  
19 tax revenue from the station operation. As already  
20 stated, since 1966 Surry Power Station has provided  
21 130 million dollars to the tax base of Surry county.

22 For me personally, and for the 850  
23 employees at Surry Power Station, we will continue to  
24 have jobs well into this century.

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1 I would like to take a moment and tell you  
2 a little bit about myself, and how I relate with Surry  
3 Power Station. I grew up about 20 minutes from the  
4 power station. I attended Smithfield High School, I  
5 went to Main Street Baptist Church in Smithfield,  
6 Virginia.

7 Although I grew up in Smithfield, my wife  
8 and I now live in York County, my parents, my friends  
9 still live in Isle of Wight County, and Surry county.  
10 My son lives in Newport News, and he works over in  
11 Norfolk.

12 I came to Surry Power Station in 1974 as  
13 a summer intern, and as a laborer, while I was  
14 majoring in physics at Old Dominion University. I  
15 quickly developed an affinity for Surry Power Station,  
16 and the nuclear technology that was used to produce  
17 electricity.

18 I became a full time employee in 1977 as  
19 an engineering technician, and I worked my way up to  
20 where I'm now site vice president. My career path  
21 included going through supervisor of maintenance, I&C  
22 instrumentation, chemistry, and engineering. In 1997  
23 I was promoted to director of nuclear safety and  
24 licensing. In 1998 I assumed the duties of director

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1 of nuclear operation, and maintenance, and in 2000 I  
2 was promoted to my position that I currently hold.

3 Surry Power Station has a history of safe  
4 and efficient operation. Since the 1990s Surry has  
5 consistently been ranked one of the most efficient  
6 producers of nuclear generated electricity in the  
7 United States.

8 The station has also achieved, and  
9 continues to achieve, high levels of safety and  
10 performance as measured by the Nuclear Regulatory  
11 Commission, and the Institute of Nuclear Power  
12 Operations.

13 From 1992 to 1998 the Nuclear Regulatory  
14 Commission in its systematic assessment of license  
15 performance reports gave the station high marks for  
16 safety.

17 Under the NRC's new oversight process,  
18 which is updated on a quarterly basis on the agency's  
19 website, Surry Power Station has maintained green  
20 windows in all areas of safety performance, meaning  
21 all the NRC safety cornerstones are fully met.

22 The Institute of Nuclear Power Operations  
23 also has consistently given Surry Power Station high  
24 marks for nuclear safety and excellence. Since we  
25 began commercial operation in 1972 utility

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1 representatives from 30 countries have come to Surry  
2 Power Station to learn. We have learned from them  
3 also. And we continue to improve.

4 Many of you are aware that the State Hog  
5 Island Wildlife Preserve is on both sides of the power  
6 station. We designed Surry Power Station such that  
7 when the water that is released from the power  
8 station, that it does not impact the oyster beds. The  
9 station was turned such that water goes out, and by  
10 the time it gets to the oyster beds it is all cooled  
11 down again.

12 We also, as was already discussed, we have  
13 developed the structure such that when fish are coming  
14 in, the structure picks up the fish, and puts them  
15 back into the river without being harmed.

16 That was a state of the art that was  
17 developed at Surry Power Station, and is now used  
18 world-wide.

19 In preparing for this application we have  
20 50 dedicated employees that made up our license  
21 renewal team. They worked diligently, the report that  
22 was concluded by us noted that Surry Power Station  
23 could go beyond the 40 years without negatively  
24 impacting the environment.

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1           In a moment Bill Bolin will share with you  
2 the information about our environmental report. One  
3 of the things we thought about when we considered  
4 whether to apply for the license or not, we looked at  
5 the fact that Surry Power Station generates about 1600  
6 megawatts of electricity, enough for 400,000 homes.

7           The station was relatively inexpensively  
8 built based on today's economy. It only cost 400  
9 million dollars to build Surry Power Station. That is  
10 a bargain if you look at any plant that is being built  
11 today.

12           In the future more electricity, not less,  
13 will be needed. Because of Surry Power Station's low  
14 production costs and overall safety performance, we  
15 believe that relicensing the station is the best  
16 option for meeting the future electricity needs for  
17 the state of Virginia.

18           Finally I would like to thank all of you  
19 on behalf of the company, Dominion, for allowing us to  
20 do business in Surry County. We have strived to be a  
21 good corporate citizen, and have enjoyed a  
22 professional supportive working relationship with  
23 individuals in the county, and other counties around  
24 Surry.

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1                   Many of the employees at Surry Power  
2 Station demonstrated their commitment to participate  
3 in the Adopt-A-Highway program, Thanksgiving baskets  
4 for the needy, blood drives, supporting the Boy  
5 Scouts, the Girl Scouts, Special Olympics, United Way,  
6 and other community activities.

7                   Our volunteer programs and participation  
8 is key to Dominion's corporate philosophy. And we'll  
9 continue this commitment to our communities in the  
10 future.

11                   Again I appreciate the opportunity to talk  
12 to you today about the Surry license renewal plan, and  
13 I would like to turn it over to Bill Bolin. Thank  
14 you.

15                   FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,  
16 Mr. Blount, and we are going to hear from Bill Bolin  
17 right now, who is the manager for the environmental  
18 biology for Dominion.\*\*

19                   MR. BOLIN: Thank you very much, Chip, and  
20 thank you Richard. And, again, my name is Bill Bolin,  
21 I'm -- my official title is manager of environmental  
22 biology, my unofficial title is chief biologist.

23                   And before I begin, I'm sorry Mr. Lewis  
24 left, because I wanted to commend him for his keen  
25 observation that we are highly skilled and highly

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1 technical employees. I want to quote that to my boss,  
2 but he is gone, so I can't get his permission to do  
3 that.

4 I began my career at Surry nearly 30 years  
5 ago, being the first station biologist that was hired  
6 by what was then VEPCO. When Congress passed the  
7 Clean Water Act in the early '70s, utility companies,  
8 such as mine, had to decide whether they wanted to  
9 comply with the provisions of the Clean Water Act,  
10 either through in-house staff, or through consultants.

11 In what I consider, personally, as a very  
12 brilliant move, VEPCO decided to hire in-house, and I  
13 was fortunate to be asked to join the company.

14 As such we were one of the first utilities  
15 nationwide to staff with environmental professionals.  
16 I started work here at Surry, and was primarily  
17 responsible for conducting environmental monitoring  
18 for the station, much of which forms the basis for our  
19 environmental report.

20 Let me share with you a few examples of  
21 what I'm referring to. Richard has already mentioned  
22 that there are several key design features when the  
23 station was constructed.

24 He mentioned the example of the discharge  
25 being placed upstream to keep the warm water away from

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1 the oyster beds downstream. Another example of the  
2 design feature was the fact that the containment  
3 structures were constructed below grade so as to  
4 reduce the visual impact to the historic James Town  
5 and Colonial Williamsburg.

6 What we did with the excavated materials  
7 we used those excavated materials and made roads and  
8 dikes out on Hog Island State Wildlife Refuge. And  
9 that has fulfilled their goal of being a waterfowl  
10 management area.

11 I think Mr. Lewis mentioned the trapping  
12 screens. I was fortunate to be involved in the  
13 development of those state of the art withdraw screens  
14 for the intake structure which, as previously  
15 mentioned, are now used industry-wide to protect fish.

16 I could go on for quite a while about  
17 other environmental considerations at Surry. But  
18 maybe I should spend a little bit of my time talking  
19 about the essence of our environmental report for the  
20 station.

21 Firstly, as you've heard from the NRC, an  
22 environmental report is required in any nuclear  
23 license renewal process as a part of the National  
24 Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.

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1           The NRC has identified nearly 100  
2 environmental issues that must be addressed in the  
3 environmental report by all applicants, which in this  
4 case is us.

5           Most of these issues were determined by  
6 the NRC to be of minor environmental impact, and  
7 therefore may be addressed generically. In our  
8 environmental assessment we performed a review of  
9 these same issues, and reached the same conclusion  
10 that the NRC did, that they are of minor consequence.

11           Some of the issues are site-specific for  
12 each facility, and must therefore be addressed  
13 accordingly. Some of the issue categories we looked  
14 at Surry included aquatic biology, terrestrial  
15 biology, demographics, and transmission line impacts.

16           For example issues that we looked at, at  
17 Surry, include such things as waste heat, water  
18 withdrawal, and threatened and endangered species.  
19 The term waste heat refers to heat that is transferred  
20 to water as it passes through the station to cool the  
21 steam during the electrical generation process.

22           In the mid to late '70s we conducted a  
23 study that looked at the impacts of this waste heat on  
24 the biology of the James River. Basically we found no  
25 long-term deleterious effects.

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1           And the Virginia State Water Control  
2 Board, which is now called the Department of  
3 Environmental Quality, agreed with our findings.

4           Water withdrawal issues were looked at,  
5 also. Water withdrawal represents the water, that I  
6 mentioned earlier, that is used for cooling. The  
7 Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences studied the  
8 water withdrawal issue, and again they demonstrated no  
9 long-term deleterious effects on the James River  
10 ecosystem, which the water board agreed with, also.

11           The evaluation of threatened and  
12 endangered species was a little different, in that we  
13 had to go to state and Federal agencies to investigate  
14 possible impacts on listed species, since species are  
15 continually being listed.

16           The research showed no impact to any  
17 threatened and/or endangered species as a result of  
18 the operation of the station, and its associated  
19 transmission lines.

20           In fact one of the most long-lived and  
21 successful bald eagle nests in the Chesapeake Bay  
22 population is located on the station property.

23           A couple of site-specific issues that we  
24 looked at included socioeconomic impacts, and impacts  
25 on cultural resources. With regard to socioeconomic

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1 issues, we found positive contribution to the local  
2 infrastructure, much of which you've heard about  
3 tonight.

4 And also because we are getting,  
5 hopefully, a license for an existing facility, there  
6 will be no new construction activity of a major  
7 consequence, so therefore the cultural resource  
8 impacts would be negligible.

9 These are but a few examples of specific  
10 issues addressed in the environmental report. In the  
11 evaluation of these specific issues we consulted with  
12 representatives from state and Federal resource  
13 agencies, such as the Virginia Department of  
14 Conservation and Recreation, the Virginia Department  
15 of Transportation, Historic Resources, the Game and  
16 Inland Fisheries, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
17 the Marine Resources Commission, as well as people  
18 from universities.

19 In every issue we examined it was  
20 determined that the continued generation of  
21 electricity from Surry Power Station best benefits our  
22 customers, and the community, while at the same time  
23 minimizing environmental impact.

24 Surry has a history of excellent  
25 environmental stewardship. I'm very proud to have

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1       been but small part of the Surry story, and the even  
2       bigger Dominion story. Over the years it has been my  
3       distinct privilege to be a part of numerous company-  
4       wide environmental enhancement projects, such as the  
5       recent peregrine falcon restoration project, that we  
6       initiated in Virginia, that was conducted in  
7       partnership with several state and Federal agencies,  
8       as well as some local business interests.

9               And in conclusion I would like to thank  
10       everyone for your interest, as well as your  
11       participation and input in this process. Believe me,  
12       it is very important.

13               Now I'm going to do something a little  
14       unusual. I'm going to turn my Dominion badge around.  
15       I was asked to proxy for Tony Castillo, who is the  
16       Refuge Manager at Hog Island. He couldn't be here,  
17       but he asked me to speak on his behalf, and this is  
18       just another way that signifies the relationship, the  
19       very positive relationship that we have with the  
20       refuge.

21               Tony couldn't be here, but he wanted me to  
22       share with you all that he is very proud to have Surry  
23       as a neighbor. He said that there were three things  
24       that he wanted for me to emphasize for him.

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1           First and foremost is safety. He said  
2 that he is very comfortable living, with his family,  
3 on the refuge next to the station. In fact he  
4 appreciates the safety concerns that are being put  
5 forth now in this time of stress.

6           He also wanted for me to recognize the  
7 emergency response from the station. You know, they  
8 are pretty far out on a peninsula in the middle of the  
9 river. And if they have a situation, typically, the  
10 people that are going to respond immediately are the  
11 people at the power station, who are tremendously  
12 trained for emergency response.

13           In fact when they had a shooting accident  
14 a couple of years ago, it was our folks who went out  
15 there and administered the first aid.

16           And finally he wanted to emphasize the  
17 educational and environmental programs that they share  
18 with the information center. And what they do is  
19 typically a school group will come in and they will  
20 split up the time between the information center and  
21 the refuge, and they get to tell, basically, two  
22 different messages about energy and the environment,  
23 which is extremely important.

24           Thank you very much.

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1 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Bill.  
2 Now, we have Senator Fred Quayle with us tonight, from  
3 the Virginia Senate. Senator Quayle.

4 SENATOR QUAYLE: Thank you very much. It  
5 is a pleasure to have the opportunity to speak to you  
6 for just a moment tonight.

7 I represent the 13th Senatorial District  
8 in the Senate of Virginia. I don't look very  
9 senatorial tonight, I look like I'm on the campaign  
10 trail. Fortunately I don't have to do that this year,  
11 I will do that a couple more years from now. But I  
12 have just come from school, so that is why I don't  
13 look more senatorial, I guess, than I do.

14 But notwithstanding that, it has been my  
15 pleasure to represent Surry County for the last ten  
16 years, and I have another two years in my term, and I  
17 hope another four years after that.

18 And I want to talk to you not so much  
19 about the details that you have been listening to,  
20 about the operation of the Surry Power Station,  
21 because I'm not that close to it, to be able to go  
22 through those, and you have heard those, anyway.

23 But what I want to talk to you is about  
24 what I have observed as far as the Surry Power Station

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1 is concerned, as a neighbor to the people in the  
2 county of Surry.

3 For the time that, since 1966, the Surry  
4 Power Station has pumped 130 million dollars into the  
5 economy of this county. It has provided jobs for 850  
6 people, many of whom live in this county.

7 The people who work at the Surry Power  
8 Station are good neighbors, they are good neighbors to  
9 this community, they are good neighbors to the  
10 surrounding communities. They take part in the  
11 activities that go on in Surry county. They  
12 contribute their time, they contribute their resources  
13 to this community.

14 I happen to serve as Chairman of the Board  
15 of Trustees of the Chippokes Farm Foundation, as a  
16 result of representing Surry county and I know that  
17 they have participated with Chippokes in some of the  
18 projects that take place over at Chippokes, and we are  
19 forever grateful for that.

20 There is no question but what the Surry  
21 Power Station is one of the best operated nuclear  
22 power stations in the country. It is providing low  
23 cost energy to this community, and this part of the  
24 state.

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1           And there are three things that we really  
2 need to be concerned with today. One is employment.  
3 I've already mentioned that they employ 850 people,  
4 and they are good jobs, they are high paying jobs.

5           But we are also concerned with the low  
6 cost of energy, and we don't want to lose one of the  
7 most low cost producers of energy. You don't have to  
8 remember many months back when our gas bills began to  
9 skyrocket because of a number of factors.

10           One of those factors is that more power  
11 plants today are being powered by natural gas. We  
12 also have a -- we don't have enough transmission lines  
13 to get the gas to the customers. A number of reasons.

14           That is another reason to renew the  
15 license for the Surry Nuclear Power Station, because  
16 it is a low cost energy producer, and has been a  
17 dependable one over the years.

18           Thirdly the environmental concerns that  
19 are so much on everybody's mind today, throughout this  
20 country, throughout Virginia, Surry Power Station has  
21 been a leader in this area of the state in their  
22 awareness of the environmental concerns, and they have  
23 gone far beyond what they would have ever been asked  
24 to do to make sure that the functioning of that plant  
25 there did not adversely affect the environment

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1 surrounding that plant, and in this community, and in  
2 this part of the state.

3 They are to be applauded for their efforts  
4 in that regard. It seems to make no sense, regardless  
5 of how you approach this possibility of not renewing  
6 this license. I think that there is no way that you  
7 can make an argument for not renewing it.

8 It has been clearly shown that the life of  
9 a nuclear power plant is much longer than the original  
10 term of this license. And I would simply like to join  
11 those forces that have come here today and have asked  
12 that you positively consider renewing the license for  
13 this power station, because it is a good neighbor, it  
14 is a good source of employment, it is a good source of  
15 low cost energy, which is what we need today.

16 I thank you very much.

17 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Senator  
18 Quayle. I would like to have Mr. James Brown come up.  
19 Mr. Brown is the vice-chairman of the Surry County  
20 Industrial Development Authority.

21 MR. BROWN: Good evening, everyone. I'm  
22 James Brown, I'm retired from the Newport News  
23 Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, after 40 years of  
24 service there.

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1 I was asked to come to speak on this  
2 forum, and I've been wondering what to say. After  
3 listening to all the experts I hardly have to say  
4 anything except that I agree with what has been said.  
5 However, I won't be that blunt.

6 During my years in the shipyard, I was  
7 there in 1960, about 1963 I was placed in nuclear  
8 work. I worked aboard nuclear ships, submarines, I  
9 worked in the construction of those ships, and then I  
10 was placed in the refueling part of the shipyard.

11 And being placed on the team I went on  
12 several trips to other plants, up to Combustion  
13 Engineering up in Connecticut, went to Idaho,  
14 different places.

15 And then along in 1970 VEPCO came to  
16 Virginia, came to Surry rather, and built a nuclear  
17 plant right in our back door, which I have never  
18 objected to that.

19 But there is one thing, being in the  
20 shipyard, working in nuclear work, day in and day out,  
21 it was a -- I wondered if I had to work in nuclear  
22 work during the day, and then come home at night and  
23 worry about the plant being close to me. Well, I  
24 didn't have to do that.

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1 I can say, with all honesty, they were  
2 quick to establish an outstanding safety record. And  
3 as the years went by I was taking note of the  
4 fissionable part of the nuclear work, I worked in the  
5 non-fissionable part, in other words building the  
6 reactor core, but they hadn't been activated.  
7 However, it was still a form of nuclear work.

8 And as I was looking through this manual  
9 I saw some of the flashers [casks] that we built. I  
10 have built those flashers, those stores. Now, I  
11 mention that because when we were building those  
12 flashers for Virginia Power at that time, they would  
13 come to the shipyard and inspect the work, because  
14 they wanted outstanding work.

15 They were safety conscious, whatever you  
16 did for Virginia Power, they were safety conscious  
17 about it. And another thing that has impressed me  
18 over the years, I have been in the shipyard, we would  
19 attend meetings, meetings, meetings, conferences on  
20 safety. And from time to time the question would  
21 arise who had the best safety record.

22 And I'm glad I'm retired so I can say  
23 this. But it would always be that Virginia Power  
24 would have a better safety record than Newport News  
25 Shipbuilding.

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1                   Now, I know that we did more work, more  
2 nuclear work, so the ratio would be a part there. But  
3 even so -- it wasn't a lack of situation, because at  
4 Newport News Shipbuilding we considered that we were  
5 the grandfather of nuclear. We had a good 10, 12  
6 years on Virginia Power before they came to Surry.

7                   But now here come these guys and they take  
8 the safety record. So I'm happy about that, I'm happy  
9 about that.

10                  In conclusion I won't try, even, to touch  
11 what has been said about different things, except for  
12 the money that has been spent by Virginia Power,  
13 Dominion Power now, in Surry.

14                  We have spent that money wisely. We have  
15 benefitted greatly. We have the outstanding school  
16 system that we have because of that money. Because of  
17 that money we have been able to build schools, we have  
18 been able to hire teachers of high caliber.

19                  And as a result of that our students have  
20 benefitted. Just a few years ago one of our graduates  
21 was a cadet major at West Point. And that is a high  
22 post. He doesn't get any further than that, because  
23 he graduate and go on further.

24                  We've also been able to place students in  
25 such schools as Yale, Princeton, you name the top

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1 schools, and we have put students in there, because of  
2 our good tenant. I always call them our tenant  
3 because they pay us much money. They have been very  
4 beneficial to us.

5 As vice chairman of the Industrial  
6 Development Authority I must admit that we have not  
7 been successful in attracting businesses into the  
8 county, as of yet. However, we are still working in  
9 that direction.

10 But one thing is for certain. Without  
11 Dominion Power we won't get no businesses. Dominion  
12 Power is our magnet, is our drawing card. We use that  
13 to show that we have a low tax base, and we use that  
14 to show that we have power to give you, if you come to  
15 Surry, just a few miles down the road, so you don't  
16 have to have it brought in from some distant plant,  
17 which would mean more cost to you.

18 So we urge you, we urge the NRC to  
19 strongly consider the renewal of the license, so that  
20 we can continue to grow in the prosperity that this  
21 county has enjoyed over the 30 years that Dominion  
22 Power has been here.

23 I thank you.

24 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Mr.  
25 Brown. Is Mr. Slocum with us tonight?

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1 (No response.)

2 FACILITATOR CAMERON: All right. Is there  
3 anybody else that wants to make a statement before we  
4 adjourn? Yes, sir, do you want to say something?  
5 Yes, come on up, please. And if you could just tell  
6 us who you are, and if there is an affiliation,  
7 whatever.

8 MR. SUBJACK: My name is Bill Subjack, and  
9 my family and I moved down here just a few months ago  
10 from near New York City, actually. And I'm a retired  
11 pharmaceutical industry worker.

12 And just considering the events that have  
13 happened last week, my question would be, the paradigm  
14 may be shifted from what we all believed to be the  
15 case just a few days ago.

16 And to what extent will the review process  
17 include maybe a more severe event than was considered?  
18 It is more than somebody walking up with a bomb, or  
19 malfunction of equipment, or in fact kamikaze type  
20 terrorist, if we look at what happened in New York and  
21 Washington. And to what extent does the process  
22 consider this?

23 And, secondly, the second part of the  
24 question is, as we are all reflecting on this from

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1 comparable facilities country-wide, to what extent is  
2 there a mechanism to share ideas?

3 So, I mean, obviously it is something  
4 that, you know, it is obvious the county is very proud  
5 of this, and we are very glad it is here. But I just  
6 wondered, you know, in going to the next step how is  
7 this being considered?

8 Thank you.

9 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you. That  
10 will be treated as a comment, but also I'm wondering  
11 if, without getting into too much detail, if perhaps  
12 the NRC staff could try to get a little bit of  
13 information in response to your question now, which I  
14 think how are these types of issues treated in license  
15 renewal.

16 And I think we can answer that. And also  
17 what is the NRC doing to address that particular fear.  
18 And this is Bill Borchardt, who is the Associate  
19 Director for Regulatory Improvement Programs. I will  
20 let you do this.

21 MR. BORCHARDT: My name is Bill Borchardt,  
22 I'm with the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.  
23 And I just wanted to take a moment to explain what the  
24 NRC is doing in response to the terrorist events of  
25 last week.

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1                   Immediately following those events of last  
2 Tuesday the Agency issued an advisory to all nuclear  
3 power plants throughout the country to put them on a  
4 higher security level status so that they would be at  
5 a heightened level of sensitivity for their security  
6 program.

7                   In addition to that the NRC has been in  
8 continuous manning of its emergency operations center  
9 at headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, as well as the  
10 four regional offices located around the country.

11                   We are continuing to interact with other  
12 Federal agencies and to provide the best assessment of  
13 the situation to all of the plants throughout the  
14 country. To date there have not been any credible  
15 threats against any nuclear power facilities in this  
16 country.

17                   Regarding your question of how would the  
18 license renewal process evaluate the fallout, if you  
19 will, from the security of terrorist events, security  
20 is one of those programs that is just as important  
21 today as it would be after license renewal is issued.

22                   So it receives continuous and ongoing  
23 evaluation. If in fact as a result of these events  
24 regulations and rules are required to be adjusted

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1 because of lessons learned, that would be done  
2 regardless of the license renewal proceeding.

3 So I really think you need to look at it  
4 as a separate activity, it is really not closely  
5 related to license renewal.

6 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you  
7 Bill. And Bill and other NRC staff will be here after  
8 the meeting if you want to talk further about that.  
9 And we also have our group of experts from the Pacific  
10 Northwest Labs, and the other labs who are here with  
11 specialties in various environmental disciplines are  
12 going to be available.

13 And I would just remind you that we do  
14 have these feedback forms that are out there. If you  
15 have any suggestions about how we can improve on  
16 providing information, and doing these meetings, we  
17 would appreciate that.

18 I don't think we have anybody else on the  
19 agenda right now, so I think we are adjourned, and  
20 thank you for being here, and thank you for your  
21 concern, and please avail yourself of the NRC's staff  
22 that remains here. Thank you.

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

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