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Power Station, Units 1 and 2, License Renewal
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Pages 1-64

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS FOR

NORTH ANNA POWER STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2,

LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

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PUBLIC MEETING

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THURSDAY,

OCTOBER 18, 2001

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The public meeting was held in the Public Meeting Room, Louisa County Office Building, One Woolfolk Avenue, Louisa, Virginia, at 1:30 p.m., Chris Grimes, presiding.

NRC REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

- CHRIS GRIMES, Chief, License Renewal and Standardization Branch, Facilitator
- ROBERT PRATO, Safety Project Manager
- ANDREW KUGLER, Environmental Project Manager

C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

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

(1:32 p.m.)

MR. GRIMES: Ladies and gentlemen, if you'll take your seats, we'll try and get started on time, stay on time, and stop on time.

Good afternoon. My name is Chris Grimes. I'm Chief of the License Renewal and Standardization Branch of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Today I'm going to step out of that role to serve as the facilitator for this public meeting and to make sure that you accomplish and we accomplish some information sharing.

The purpose of this meeting is for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to discuss a license renewal application for the nuclear power plant at North Anna Station. And we want to share some information with you about the license renewal process, and we want to get some information from you about your interest in the process and the potential impacts of the license renewal for North Anna.

Briefly, the agenda for today's meeting is, first, we will begin with some short introductory descriptions of the process and the NRC's method of conducting a license renewal review, and then we're going to offer you an opportunity to ask some

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1 questions about that process and to exchange
2 information about any questions you might have about
3 how we're going to go about satisfying our process.

4 And then we have a number of speakers who
5 are going to provide comments about North Anna and
6 license renewal and the public interest in the North
7 Anna Station.

8 Could I have Slide 2, please?

9 This meeting is being transcribed. We
10 want to make sure that we capture all of the thoughts,
11 concerns, and interests that you have. It's very
12 important that our process provide an opportunity, an
13 ample opportunity, for public input.

14 The recorder for our meeting today is Mary
15 Jo Mitchell, and she's going to make sure that we
16 capture your every word.

17 Oral comments that we receive during
18 today's meeting will be treated exactly the same as
19 written comments that may be submitted to the NRC
20 related to this licensing action.

21 The staff is going to explain how to
22 submit written comments. When you ask questions or
23 when you make comments, we'd appreciate it if you
24 would identify yourself for the record and identify
25 your affiliation if that's appropriate.

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1 Also make sure that you use a microphone,
2 and for our purpose this room size is just about
3 right, but if you'll just raise your hand, I'll bring
4 this walking stick over to you and you can use this
5 microphone.

6 Also, if you happen to have any written
7 materials that you want to submit, please make sure
8 that the recorder gets a copy of those written
9 materials so that they can be included with the
10 transcript.

11 The basic rules for comments are we ask
12 each speaker to limit their comments to about five
13 minutes so that everyone will have an opportunity to
14 comment. That's not a rigid rule, but if I find that
15 speakers are, you know, taking more time than we can
16 afford, I may ask you to sum up. We want to make sure
17 that there's ample opportunity for all of you to
18 participate in this process.

19 Also, I'd like to suggest if there are
20 detailed comments, those might be more effectively
21 submitted to us in writing, and as I explained, we're
22 going to describe how the written comments can be
23 submitted.

24 We're going to begin with presentations by
25 the NRC staff on the process. First we're going to

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1 have Bob Prato, who is the Safety Project Manager for
2 the Dominion application, describe an overview of the
3 license renewal process.

4 Then we're going to have Andy Kugler, who
5 is the Environmental Project Manager, describe the
6 NEPA process and the environmental review.

7 And also I would like to introduce Joe
8 Nakoski or John Nakoski. Excuse me. He is the
9 Section Chief in the License Renewal Branch, and he's
10 going to be available to help field questions in the
11 event that you have questions about the plant or the
12 process.

13 And with that, I'll ask Bob Prato to make
14 his presentation about the license renewal process.

15 MR. PRATO: Everybody can hear me?

16 Okay. Good afternoon. I'm Bob Prato, and
17 I am the Project Manager for the safety review of the
18 North Anna Unit 1 and Unit 2 license renewal
19 application.

20 And what that means is I coordinate all of
21 the activities that involve about 30 different staff
22 engineers and a national laboratory in the evaluation
23 of the application from the safety perspective. And
24 what I'm going to do today is give you a short
25 presentation. In that presentation I'm going to have

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1 three objectives.

2 The first objective is to give you context
3 and the backdrop of why we are here, what brought us
4 to this place today.

5 And then I'm going to discuss the staff's
6 role and responsibilities with respect to license
7 renewal.

8 And then I'm going to describe the safety
9 review process in general.

10 At that point I'm going to open up the
11 floor to questions. I'd like to remind you that this
12 is your day, your opportunity to ask your questions,
13 and I strongly encourage it. If you have any
14 questions, please stand up and we'll be glad to answer
15 them for you.

16 If you ask something we don't have the
17 answer to right now, we will respond to you in
18 writing. So I encourage anybody who has any questions
19 to please step forward.

20 So without any further delay, let me talk
21 a little bit about the context and the background.

22 As most of you know, on May 29th, 2001,
23 Dominion, the corporation that owns and operates North
24 Anna Unit 1 and Unit 2, submitted an application to
25 renew the licenses for North Anna Units 1 and 2 for an

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1 additional 20 years.

2 That was a dual application that they
3 submitted. Now, we refer to it as a dual application
4 because they not only submitted an application for
5 North Anna's Unit 1 and Unit 2. They also submitted
6 an application for Surry Unit 1 and Unit 2, the other
7 nuclear power facility that's owned and operated by
8 that company.

9 And what we're going to do as an
10 organization is we're going to review both of those
11 applications from the safety aspect in one single
12 review, and the reason we're going to do that is
13 because both of those facilities are identical or
14 similar.

15 Their primary systems are identical. All
16 four units are Westinghouse PWR, pressurized water
17 reactors, that were built and designed during the same
18 period, basic same period of time.

19 From there we're going to take a look at
20 any differences, and we're going to evaluate the North
21 Anna differences as entities in themselves and the
22 Surry differences as entities in themselves.

23 And then we're going to take a look at any
24 uniqueness for each of those plants and evaluate those
25 individually, and this will help us to do a more

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1 effective and efficient job overall.

2 And then for the environmental review,
3 it's going to be done a little differently, and I'm
4 not going to steal Andy's thunder, but basically
5 they're going to take a look at both sites
6 independently and do separate, independent review on
7 the environmental aspects.

8 The reason for this is because the
9 environmental review is site specific, and each site
10 is unique. So there will be two separate evaluations
11 for the environmental side of the review.

12 As far as the staff's roles and
13 responsibilities -- next slide, please -- the Atomic
14 Energy Act of 1954, as it has been amended over the
15 years, gave the staff three basic responsibilities.
16 The first is public health and safety. The second is
17 to protect the environment. And the third is for the
18 common defense and security of nuclear power
19 facilities.

20 The Atomic Energy Act also limited the
21 licensing of nuclear facilities for no more than 40
22 years, but at the same time gave the staff the
23 authority to renew those licenses for additional 20-
24 year periods.

25 Now, the original limitation for 40 years

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1 was not based on any technical limitations, not even
2 for generating facilities in the 1950s. The reason
3 that the 40-year limitation was put on was because of
4 antitrust and other economic reasons.

5 However, because the original licensing
6 term was limited to 40 years, some of the systems,
7 structures, and components were only designed to
8 operate for 40 years. Realizing this, in the early
9 '80s, about the same time as many of the early
10 facilities started to think about relicensing of their
11 plants, the staff recognized that they needed to
12 identify what was needed to grant an extended license
13 and to define the process that would need to be
14 implemented to achieve that goal.

15 Therefore, the Commission set forth the
16 requirements for license renewal in Part 54 of Title
17 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Now, Title 10
18 of the Code of Federal Regulations is just the laws
19 that govern the use of nuclear material in this
20 country. That's all nuclear material. That's
21 medical, industrial, and power generating
22 applications.

23 10 CFR, Part 50 are the rules for the
24 operation of nuclear facilities once a license is
25 received.

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1 Part 54 defines the requirements for
2 renewing those licenses.

3 In addition, Part 51, a companion
4 regulation to Part 54, provides the scope of the
5 environmental review.

6 Okay. Part 54 does define the process,
7 and as far as the process goes -- next slide,
8 please -- Part 54 allows an applicant to renew the
9 license; allows an applicant to submit an application
10 to renew a license after 20 years of operation. The
11 reason they are allowed to submit an application for
12 a renewed license with as much as 20 years of
13 operation left on their current license is because the
14 time for design and construction of a new, major
15 generating facility, such as a nuclear power plant or
16 large coal-fired unit, is approximately ten years.

17 Now, if an applicant comes in after 20
18 years of operation and submits a request to renew
19 their license and they go through this two, three-year
20 process, and at the end of that process they are
21 denied permission to renew that license, then they
22 have sufficient time to determine what alternate
23 source they're going to use, to site that facility, to
24 do the planning, the design and the construction
25 without the loss of power during the period of time

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1 where the need for power is constantly increasing.

2 So that's the reason why we allow them to
3 come in with as much as 20 years left on their current
4 license. The whole intent is to keep the lights on.

5 In addition, Part 54 provides the
6 expectations for the public, the staff, and any
7 potential applicant regarding the plant inspection and
8 maintenance practices for the period of extended
9 operation that must be demonstrated before a renewed
10 license is issued.

11 In other words, the rule defines the
12 safety and environmental requirements to help us
13 determine the best decision for the facility as to
14 whether or not to decommission it or allow it to
15 continue to operate.

16 The rule, Part 54 again, focuses on the
17 aging of passive, long-lived structures and
18 components. The reason the Commission focused the
19 requirements for license renewal on passive, long-
20 lived structures and components is because there are
21 ongoing regulatory requirements and processes in place
22 that monitor and maintain the remaining systems,
23 structures, and components and address emergency
24 planning and security planning.

25 These are things that are constantly and

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1 routinely attended to under the regulations. However,
2 those processes did not explicitly look at plant
3 design capability to manage long-term degradation of
4 equipment due to aging.

5 So the license renewal application focuses
6 on those inspection programs and maintenance practices
7 that are used to maintain the margin of safety in
8 plant safety equipment by managing applicable aging
9 effects.

10 In light of all that has been said, the
11 staff reviews the applicant's license renewal
12 application from a safety and an environmental impact
13 aspect and issues a safety evaluation report and an
14 environmental impact statement to document our
15 findings. Those reports are taken together with two
16 additional independent reviews.

17 The Commission's Advisory Committee on
18 Reactor Safeguards, better known as ACRS, is an
19 independent body of experts primarily from industry
20 and academia who have particular expertise in safety
21 issues, and they evaluate the quality of the staff's
22 findings and they document these findings in a report
23 to the Commission.

24 There is also an independent inspection
25 program that verifies certain key elements of the

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1 staff's safety findings as well, and these are
2 documented in inspection reports also.

3 Therefore, the Commission decision on the
4 license renewal application for North Anna and Surry
5 will rely on the staff's safety evaluation, the
6 environmental impact statement that includes the
7 public comments, the ACRS report, and the inspection
8 findings.

9 The schedule for this process is about 25
10 months long from the date that the application was
11 submitted. If requests for petitions to intervene had
12 been received, that schedule would have been extended
13 approximately five months to allow for the hearings,
14 but no petitions were received.

15 That means we are currently scheduled to
16 make a decision as to whether or not to renew the
17 licenses for North Anna and Surry in July of 2003.

18 Now, that concludes my presentation. Does
19 anybody have any questions?

20 MR. GRIMES: Are there any questions about
21 the overall process for license renewal before we have
22 Mr. Kugler go into the environmental review process?

23 (No response.)

24 MR. PRATO: Before I sit down, I want you
25 to know that John and I will be available if anybody

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1 has any questions that come to mind after the meeting.
2 Please approach us. We will do everything we can to
3 make sure that your questions are answered. Okay?

4 Thank you.

5 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Bob.

6 Mr. Kugler will now describe the
7 environmental review process.

8 MR. KUGLER: Thank you, Chris.

9 Good afternoon, everybody. My name is
10 Andy Kugler, and I am managing the environmental
11 review for the North Anna license renewal application.

12 I'm overseeing a team of experts in
13 various fields who are evaluating the impacts of this
14 activity.

15 Next slide, please.

16 The first thing I'd like to do is explain
17 the process that we're using. It's a process that
18 follows the guidelines in the National Environmental
19 Policy Act, also referred to as NEPA.

20 NEPA requires us to use a systematic
21 approach -- I'm hearing this feedback or is it just
22 me? Is it? Okay -- systematic approach to evaluating
23 the impacts of the proposed action of license renewal.
24 We look at the impacts of the action, and we also
25 consider mitigation for any significant impacts.

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1 In addition, we'll look for any
2 alternatives to the proposed action and consider their
3 environmental impacts as well.

4 The NEPA process is a disclosure tool
5 that's intended to involve the public and allow us to
6 gain insight into what the public's concerns are.

7 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission
8 considers license renewal to be a major Federal
9 action, and what that means for us here is that we
10 will prepare an environmental impact statement to
11 document the results of our evaluation.

12 Currently we're in the process of
13 gathering the information we need to perform that
14 review, and part of that is to gather input from the
15 public. What we're looking for to a large degree is
16 are there any issues that the public considers to be
17 a concern to the environment in relation to the
18 operation of North Anna and particularly in relation
19 to license renewal.

20 Next slide, please.

21 This slide gives an idea of the basic
22 approach that we take in our review. We're attempting
23 to determine whether or not license renewal is
24 acceptable from an environmental perspective, and
25 we're looking to determine whether or not to preserve

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1 this option of continued operation of these units
2 beyond the original license.

3 One thing I'd like to emphasize here
4 because it's not always clear to people is that our
5 determination is simply whether or not it's acceptable
6 to continue operation. Whether or not the plants are
7 actually operated for an additional 20 years would be
8 -- that decision would be made by the licensee, by
9 state and local officials. They make that decision.
10 Our decision simply gives them that option.

11 Next slide, please.

12 This flow chart gives a little more detail
13 of the environmental review. It's similar to the
14 slide that Bob showed you on the overall process.

15 We received the application at the end of
16 May of this year, and we issued a notice of intent in
17 September of this year. And the notice of intent
18 indicated we planned to issue or develop an
19 environmental impact statement, and it also began the
20 scoping period, requesting public input into the
21 process.

22 This meeting is one part of the scoping
23 process. We're also looking for comments in writing
24 if people prefer to submit them in that form.

25 In addition, during this same time and

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1 during our visit here, we are spending time out at the
2 site with the team, looking at the site and the
3 environment around the site.

4 As a result of our review of the
5 environmental report and other inputs, we'll determine
6 whether or not we need additional information from the
7 licensee, and we'll make any request for additional
8 information by December of this year.

9 We'll then complete the development of a
10 draft environmental impact statement by May of next
11 year and publish it for comment. It will be available
12 for you to make comments on at that point, and we will
13 also come back here at that time for another meeting
14 to give you the opportunity to provide us with
15 comments in person.

16 After that we will take any comments that
17 we receive on the draft, make any appropriate changes
18 to the document, and develop a final environmental
19 impact statement, and we expect to issue that around
20 December of next year.

21 Next slide, please.

22 In preparing the environmental impact
23 statement, we take inputs from a number of different
24 places. We look at the licensee's environmental
25 report, which was part of their application. We take

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1 the public comments that we get here at this meeting
2 and submitted through other sources to us. We talk to
3 other Federal agencies, state and local agencies,
4 local officials, social service agencies.

5 So we gather information from all the
6 sources that we can find basically that will provide
7 us with input that we can use to make our
8 recommendations.

9 Next slide, please.

10 The team is made up of a number of experts
11 in various fields, and in this slide we're trying to
12 give you an idea of the various areas that we cover.
13 We're looking at everything from the air to the water,
14 the ground, land use, archeological and cultural
15 resources, and also socioeconomic impacts, an area
16 that many people might not consider when we start
17 talking environmental, but that is an area that we
18 consider. And included in that is a special category
19 called environmental justice, and we're looking at if
20 there are any inordinate impacts on certain groups
21 caused by the proposed action, in this case the
22 continued operation of this plant.

23 The people that we have on our team are a
24 mix of people from the NRC staff and from some of our
25 national labs, and we bring in expertise from the labs

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1 in order to make sure that we have all of the experts
2 that we need to evaluate the operation of the plant.

3 Next slide, please.

4 I am the agency's point of contact for the
5 environmental review. My phone number is here if you
6 need to reach me for some reason, if you have some
7 questions that you want to ask.

8 The documents associated with license
9 renewal are going to be available in two places
10 nearby. One is the library here, the Louisa County
11 Library, and we're also placing documents in the
12 Alderman Library at the University of Virginia. That
13 was the old local public document room if any of you
14 have used that previously.

15 The application is there. We will be
16 putting documents there as we generate them. As we
17 issue documents they will go to the libraries, and
18 we'll also put a copy of some reference materials
19 there as well. So if you want to look at them first
20 hand, you have that opportunity.

21 You can also look at documents through our
22 Web site. The key documents associated with license
23 renewal are available under license renewal. Other
24 documents that come in that are associated with the
25 plant are available through our document management

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1 system, called ADAMS.

2 Next slide, please.

3 We tried to provide you with as many ways
4 to submit comments as we could. Obviously this
5 meeting is one opportunity to do so. All verbal
6 comments here will be treated as we would any written
7 comments.

8 You can submit comments in writing to the
9 address shown on this slide. You can also submit
10 comments electronically to the E-mail address that's
11 provided at the bottom of this slide.

12 And an option almost nobody takes, but you
13 could come visit us in Rockville if you want and
14 deliver the comments in person. People don't take
15 that option too often.

16 All the comments that we receive will be
17 considered in developing the environmental impact
18 statement. The comments that we receive today and in
19 writing during the scoping period will be summarized,
20 and we'll issue a scoping summary report.

21 And if when you filled out the
22 registration card you put your address on there, we
23 will mail you a copy of that summary report so you can
24 see it. If not, it will also obviously be available
25 through our document management system and in the

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1 libraries once it's issued.

2 That summarizes the environmental review
3 process and completes my comments.

4 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Andy.

5 Are there any questions about the
6 environmental review process or any questions about
7 what the NRC's role is in this licensing activity?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. GRIMES: If not, I'm going to proceed
10 on and introduce the speakers who have signed up to
11 provide oral comments to us, and our first speaker is
12 going to be Lee Lintecum, who is the Louisa County
13 Administrator.

14 Mr. Lintecum.

15 MR. LINTECUM: Thank you very much. It's
16 a pleasure to meet with you, and it's a pleasure to
17 have the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and allow us
18 the opportunity to speak on the relicensing of the
19 North Anna nuclear power plant.

20 Let me first say welcome to beautiful
21 Louisa, and thank you for affording us this
22 opportunity. And, of course, as County Administrator,
23 I'm also representing the Louisa County Board of
24 Supervisors.

25 During my tenure here, we have found

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1 Dominion to be a very good corporate citizen. Their
2 safety and security concerns and personnel are
3 excellent. They work very closely with the Sheriff's
4 Department and with our emergency services personnel
5 and keep the county personnel advised of all unusual
6 and usual incidents that take place there.

7 Dominion has proved to be a very good
8 civic citizen, contributing both time and financial
9 resources, both corporately and through its
10 individuals. For instance, the North Anna Volunteers
11 recently helped us with a park by providing free labor
12 and equipment. They erected a picnic shelter and
13 helped develop a ball field that probably saved
14 taxpayers \$20,000 and hastened the development of the
15 park.

16 So that's the type of relationship we have
17 enjoyed with Dominion.

18 I guess the biggest contribution that
19 Dominion makes is in regard to our employment and tax
20 base. Dominion is, by far, the largest employer in
21 the county, employing over 900 people, and it
22 contributes over \$12 million a year in real property
23 tax.

24 To help you understand what that means is
25 that without the North Anna nuclear power plant, in

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1 order to bring in that same amount of revenue we would
2 have to double the current real estate tax rate, and
3 our citizens cannot support that at this time. We are
4 working very hard to expand our tax base and be not so
5 dependent upon one source, but we still have a long
6 way to go in that regard.

7 In summary, the North Anna power plant is
8 vital to Louisa now, and it could have devastating
9 effects without it. We, again, enjoy a very good
10 relationship with the people there, and we feel good
11 about their operations.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Mr. Lintecum.

14 Our next speak is going to be Linda
15 Edwards. Ms. Edwards is the Director of the Louisa
16 County Economic Development Administration.

17 MS. EDWARDS: Thank you. Thank you very
18 much for asking me to add a few comments to Mr.
19 Lintecum's words.

20 I would like to just address a few
21 relevant points so as not to be redundant in what he
22 has said.

23 North Anna Power Station is a good
24 economic development partner. This is to say Dominion
25 Power and Louisa County have a very good relationship

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1 in the field of economic development. I enjoy working
2 with Kent Hill, who is the Economic Development
3 Director stationed in Richmond. He is always
4 available for questions, to do research, and has at
5 every opportunity been very helpful to me in my work.

6 Dominion Power has for many years provided
7 marketing material in economic development, and up
8 until just recently we were using this brochure, and
9 I might add that they do this for many, many counties
10 in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

11 I'm currently working with the Office of
12 Economic Development in Richmond on a new brochure,
13 which will be very important to us in our marketing
14 program as we try to broaden our business base and tax
15 base.

16 I'd like to mention just one simple way
17 that it adds up, all of the many, many opportunities
18 that Dominion provides for us, but for example,
19 Dominion annually supports the IDA, the Industrial
20 Development Authority's annual meeting.

21 In summary, North Anna is profoundly good
22 for Louisa. Louisa needs, wants, and welcomes the
23 North Anna Power Station. From a personal point of
24 view, if it were not for this leader of Dominion and
25 our key community servant, my job would be even more

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1 critical and it would be even more difficult to
2 provide what we need to provide for our county.

3 Thank you very much, and we are extremely
4 happy to be partners in economic development with
5 Dominion Power.

6 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Ms. Edwards.

7 Our next speaker is going to be Jimmy
8 Candeto, who is the Mineral Town Manager.

9 MR. CANDETO: I just want to say thank you
10 for this opportunity to speak to you all on North
11 Anna's behalf.

12 I feel I've only been here a short eight
13 months in this area, but I'm very much impressed with
14 what I've seen at North Anna. Louisa County is
15 extremely fortunate to have North Anna Power Station.
16 The financial benefits are extremely attractive to the
17 county.

18 The combined salaries reach almost \$50
19 million, which contributes significantly to our local
20 economy. They paid last year ten and a half million
21 dollars to the County of Louisa, and since the
22 inception, they have paid \$160 million in taxes to the
23 County of Louisa.

24 I personally admire the commitment to the
25 environment. The company has adopted policies that

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1 are compatible with protecting our natural resources.
2 They work to protect all migratory birds with policies
3 and procedures from the U.S. Department of Wildlife.
4 Dominion biologists regularly monitor the health of
5 the fish in Lake Anna.

6 A two-year study of Lake Anna confirms
7 that the lake supports a healthy fish population.

8 North Anna desires to be a good corporate
9 citizen, and they've proven to be one. They've
10 demonstrated this in the past by adopting a highway,
11 keeping it free of litter. They've provided
12 Thanksgiving baskets to the needy. They've
13 contributed blood drives. They've sent mentally and
14 physically challenged children to camp.

15 Over the last decade, they have donated
16 more than \$100,000 in support of the Louisa community.
17 Some recipients include the Louisa County Library,
18 LinkAges of Louisa, after prom school parties, 4-H
19 Council, and Crime Solvers.

20 Their employees are also generous with
21 their money. From 1998 through 2000, they contributed
22 more than \$315,000 to the United Way. I admire the
23 generosity of the company and their employees and feel
24 privileged to speak on their behalf.

25 Thank you.

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1 MR. GRIMES: Our next speaker is going to
2 be Duff Green, who is the Orange County Emergency
3 Services Coordinator.

4 Mr. Green.

5 MR. GREEN: Thank you, Chris, ladies and
6 gentlemen.

7 My name is Duff Green, and I'm the
8 Emergency Management Coordinator for Orange County, a
9 job in which I've been associated for about 20 years.

10 Let me state at the onset that I'm not an
11 employee of North Anna and have never been an
12 employee, and I don't even own any stock in
13 Dominion/Virginia Power.

14 I retired after 50 years in the newspaper
15 business and became associated with emergency
16 management when I was elected to the Orange County
17 Board of Supervisors in 1978. I was Chairman of the
18 board my last four years, and this by Virginia law
19 made me automatically become Orange County's Director
20 of Emergency Management.

21 After retiring from the board, I accepted
22 the job as Emergency Management Coordinator, which is
23 mostly volunteer.

24 I have followed North Anna Nuclear Power
25 Station's progress since it first dammed the North

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1 Anna River in 1970, and I have nothing but praise for
2 its safety record and environment and its efficient
3 operation.

4 This facility has had a tremendous
5 economic benefit to the citizens of Orange County and
6 its other surrounding counties. The station's
7 employees are highly qualified people who also serve
8 with numerous volunteer organizations and church
9 boards in Orange County.

10 The short of it all, I strongly recommend
11 that North Anna be given a renewal of its operation
12 (sic) to operate.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Mr. Green.

15 Our next speaker is going to be Ashland
16 Fortune, the Louisa County Sheriff.

17 SHERIFF FORTUNE: Thank you, Chris.

18 It's a pleasure to stand before you all
19 this afternoon to give you some of the impact that
20 North Anna has brought to Louisa County.

21 I live exactly eight miles from the
22 traffic light out here to my home on Route 208. Many
23 times I've been out in the yard working, and people
24 have stopped and wanted to know where Lake Anna and
25 Virginia Power is located. I direct them there and

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1 give them my card. I get a letter back from them
2 thanking me for letting them know about Virginia
3 Power.

4 They go out to it, come back, and they are
5 real enthused with it.

6 Virginia Power has done a lot for Louisa
7 County. I've been in law enforcement in my 38th year
8 right here in Louisa Country. I see a lot of changes.
9 I see factories close up. We've got two factories
10 that closed up about 10 to 12 years ago, and that
11 really hurt Louisa County, but Virginia Power took the
12 slack up and carried Louisa County on in tax revenue.

13 And I'm here to tell you this afternoon
14 that I would like to see that the license be renewed
15 and Virginia Power continue because it help so many
16 civic organizations.

17 I'm involved in the Crime Solvers. They
18 have played a big part with Crime Solvers, and the
19 money they have donated to the Crime Solvers really
20 put an impact on solving crime. The citizens know
21 their information will go a long way when they call in
22 a crime.

23 Now, also Virginia Power also has kept
24 food on people's tables here, clothes on the
25 children's backs, helped the school system, given

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1 millions of dollars a year to needy families. I'm
2 here to tell you that and I believe that Virginia
3 Power's license should be renewed and continued on to
4 serve the community and furnish power to all over the
5 world.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Sheriff Fortune.

8 Our next speaker is going to be William
9 Hayden with the Lake Anna Civic Association.

10 MR. HAYDEN: Good afternoon, ladies and
11 gentlemen. My name is William Hayden. I am President
12 of the Lake Anna Civic Association.

13 We presently have over 1,500 members who
14 live or own property in over 120 subdivisions around
15 Lake Anna. I represent and speak for those property
16 owners today.

17 Dominion Power and its predecessor,
18 Virginia Electric Power Company, in the operation of
19 the North Anna Power Station have been an excellent
20 neighbor to us, and the stewardship of the environment
21 has been outstanding.

22 After the lake was created and flooded,
23 they monitored the aging or maturing of the lake for
24 over 20 years on a continuous basis at a number of
25 sampling points to insure that no negative impacts

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1 were developing.

2 Several years ago, the North Anna Power
3 Plant stopped their water sampling program. The Lake
4 Anna Civic Association in the summer of 2000 formed a
5 water quality committee, and in conjunction with the
6 Virginia Department of Environmental Quality developed
7 a program to monitor the water quality in Lake Anna.

8 As we were doing our background work to
9 determine what had been done in the past, the
10 personnel at the North Anna Power Station provided us
11 with the environmental data that they had collected
12 over a 20-year period. This data was extremely
13 helpful in guiding us as we determined what we should
14 do and how we should shape our program.

15 We started our water sampling efforts this
16 past fall after receiving training by personnel from
17 the York watershed and Virginia Department of
18 Environmental Quality.

19 We started initially with 13 sites and now
20 expanded from the 13 sites to 20 and anticipate
21 further expansion to 26 sites around the various
22 points in the lake.

23 As we were getting our water quality
24 program organized, we realized very quickly that
25 although we could collect the water samples through

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1 the use of volunteers at virtually no cost, there was
2 a substantial requirement for funds to purchase our
3 initial water sampling equipment, as well as a
4 recurring cost to have the water samples analyzed.

5 As an example, our initial water sampling
6 kits cost us \$270 each, and so far we have purchased
7 20 sets, for a total of \$5,400 and are planning to
8 purchase an additional six sets soon.

9 Although several organizations promised to
10 assist us with funds to cover our water quality
11 monitoring program, Dominion was the first to step
12 forward and come through with an initial donation of
13 \$1,500.

14 These funds, along with funds put up by
15 the Lake Anna Civic Association allowed us to purchase
16 our initial equipment and get our program started. At
17 this time we're testing the water in Lake Anna at 20
18 sites, and we're testing the water for turbidity,
19 temperature, acidity, fecal chloroform, phosphorus,
20 and dissolved oxygen. We anticipate soon in adding
21 nitrate and chlorophyll testing.

22 The present laboratory analysis cost to us
23 is \$45 per sample for each sample analyzed. The
24 nitrate will add another \$35. The chlorophyll will
25 add another \$60. This will make our total test cost

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1 of \$140 per site, or \$3,640 for analysis costs for one
2 test series at 26 sites.

3 The North Anna Power Plant works closely
4 with us on all of our activities. Their
5 representative to our association is George O'Connell.
6 I do not believe he has ever missed one of our
7 meetings, either annual meetings or our monthly board
8 meetings.

9 This allows Dominion to be appraised of
10 our thinking on issues that we are presently dealing
11 with, as well as things that we are planning for in
12 the future.

13 This past June we sponsored a Land on the
14 Lake Day to provide a forum for community education on
15 the environmental concerns around Lake Anna. Again,
16 Dominion quickly stepped forward with an offer to let
17 us use their Visitor Center facilities and, in
18 addition, donated \$1,000 to us to assist in funding
19 the program.

20 This program was extremely well attended
21 by over 700 property owners from around Lake Anna, as
22 well as the surrounding community. Again, we offer
23 our thanks to Dominion for their assistance in helping
24 us carry out our environmental program.

25 Dominion has also supported us since the

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1 formation of our association by making available their
2 Visitor Center meeting rooms for our annual meetings.
3 This was done even though our annual meetings are on
4 Saturdays when the center is normally closed. So they
5 have gone out of their way to assist us.

6 In closing, I would like to reiterate that
7 Dominion is well liked by all property owners around
8 Lake Anna. In our perception, they are good stewards
9 of the environment. They do not disturb us in any
10 way, and they just very quietly do their thing of
11 generating electricity without polluting our
12 environment.

13 They run a very safe facility, and we have
14 all grown very comfortable with having them as
15 neighbors. So much so that we often tend to forget
16 that there is even a nuclear facility nearby.

17 Thank you for affording me the opportunity
18 to address you today in relation to your deliberations
19 relative to the North Anna operating permit for the
20 power station, and I would urge you to renew it.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Mr. Hayden.

23 Our next speaker is going to be Jerry
24 Rosenthal with the Concerned Citizens of Louisa.

25 MR. ROSENTHAL: I thank you for allowing

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1 me to speak and for holding this meeting.

2 I'm in my 22nd year of being involved with
3 North Anna, watching what goes on at the plant, and
4 the issue of getting a license renewal is much more
5 serious than just a few jobs or the taxes that's going
6 on here.

7 What's happening in this county is being
8 asked to buy a used car. We're getting a car that's
9 been out there for a whole bunch of years, and we've
10 got some serious things that need to look at it.

11 Let's look at several issues to begin
12 with. I think we can start with September 11 and look
13 at the issue with that.

14 We have sitting there on the flight path
15 from Dulles. Less than seven minutes with a jet from
16 Dulles that's in the air, it could be at North Anna.
17 What would happen if that jet crashed into the plant?

18 We need to investigate that. We need to
19 investigate multiple terrorists coming at the plant,
20 not one terrorist, not one group. Two groups, three
21 groups coming from land and sea at the same time.
22 What would be the effect of doing this?

23 We are sitting at the plant not just with
24 the production facilities, but storage facilities. We
25 have the water, the swimming pools, and we have dry

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1 cask.

2 What happens if a terrorist got into the
3 dry cask facility and hit the cask with a rocket
4 grenade? It doesn't have to make a nuclear explosion.
5 It can send that nuclear material out.

6 How would they feel when Lake Anna has got
7 all sorts of plutonium in there?

8 So we have September 11 as sitting right
9 there. Secondly, we have the issue of MOX. Virginia
10 Power has wavered on this MOX. They came before the
11 Board of Supervisors here, sent a letter saying they
12 should not use MOX.

13 They reneged. They said they would use
14 MOX. They changed and flipped again. Now they're not
15 going to use MOX.

16 However, if MOX is used at the plant, the
17 protocol of an accident changes, and we're set with
18 hot spots on the core.

19 Secondly, Virginia Power has not signed
20 out of the MOX agreement. While they've said they're
21 not going to use it, they're in agreement with the
22 DOE, and they haven't signed out of the agreement.
23 They're still in it.

24 So where does that leave the investigation
25 vis-a-vis MOX? MOX use, either Virginia Power has to

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1 come straight out, say they're not going to use MOX,
2 will never use MOX, or an entire investigation needs
3 to be done of the effects of MOX in terms of the
4 environmental things that are going on.

5 We also have an issue that Virginia Power
6 is starting to push pebble bed. Are they thinking of
7 putting a pebble bed at North Anna? What effect is
8 this going to have?

9 You can't divorce these issues from a 20-
10 year extension.

11 We need complete analysis of the concrete
12 and lining going through heat chemical heating cycles,
13 stuff like that.

14 We need to deal with the regular releases
15 that come from the plant, the radioactivity that is
16 regularly vented off of the reactors.

17 In terms of I heard the gentleman from
18 Lake Anna Civic Association talk about all of the
19 things they're checking at the lake, but radioactivity
20 was not one of them. That's seems incongruous that
21 they would be checking fecal samples, but next to a
22 nuclear plant they're not interested in checking for
23 radioactivity in either the water, the fish, the
24 algae?

25 The Russian experience has shown over a

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1 long period of time a lot of the radioactivity ends up
2 sinking to the bottom in the mud. This type of stuff
3 needs to be checked.

4 And when we're talking about monitoring,
5 it would be advantageous to have independent monitors,
6 separate from the nuclear power company itself or the
7 Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Let's get some
8 independent monitors, and let's monitor the workers.
9 What is the long-term health of the workers? Let's do
10 epidemiological studies. Let's monitor the community.
11 Let's monitor the environment, all -- all completely
12 independently.

13 When we talk about security, we're talking
14 about security around the lake. What about security
15 at the dam? What about a boat riding up to the dam
16 just full of explosives? Boom, the lake is gone. The
17 plant's closed, and it would take years to get that
18 back.

19 We have to deal with more security issues,
20 and it's not just at the plant itself.

21 And while we can acknowledge some of the
22 positive contributions that Virginia Power and their
23 individuals have made, we also have to deal with the
24 truthfulness of Virginia Power. We discussed the
25 flip-flop of MOX. We have other issues where 24, 23

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1 years ago they were absolutely going to build Units 3
2 and 4. Yes, we're going to build 3 and 4. Yes, we're
3 going to build 3 and 4. No, we're not.

4 We're confronted frequently with a utility
5 whose primary purpose is profit, and they are willing
6 to say lots of things, but we have to as a community,
7 and the larger community of being the government, look
8 at the long range issues about what is happening and
9 not rely exclusively on Virginia Power.

10 One other issue, again related quickly to
11 our security. The NRC itself closed the Web site for
12 security reasons and yet left open all of the nuclear
13 power plants. It's just something for us to think
14 about.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Mr. Rosenthal.

17 Our next speaker is going to be Lisa Gue
18 with Public Citizen.

19 MS. GUE: Thanks, Chris, and thanks to all
20 of you for attending this important meeting.

21 My name, again, is Lisa Gue. I work for
22 Public Citizen in Washington, D.C. We're a nonprofit,
23 national nonprofit, public interest organization
24 celebrating our 30th anniversary this year, and I
25 appreciate this opportunity to be here in Louisa

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1 County with all of you.

2 Public Citizen opposes the relicensing of
3 nuclear power plants, and I want to locate that
4 comment not only in the context of North Anna Power
5 Plant, but actually within the broader context of the
6 energy policy debate that's going on nationally.

7 While we sit here, there are people
8 sitting in rooms all over the country and, of course,
9 also in Washington, D.C. discussing the issues related
10 to energy supply and nuclear power as part of that
11 mix.

12 Public Citizen reemphasizes at this point
13 when we're talking about relicensing nuclear power
14 plants our longstanding concerns with nuclear power,
15 those being that it's unsafe, unclean, and expensive.

16 Speaking about safety, nuclear power
17 operates at the extremes of technology, at the
18 extremes of safety, and unfortunately we have had
19 demonstrated most notably with the Chernobyl accident
20 15 years ago in the Ukraine the possibility, the real
21 possibility that exists with every operating nuclear
22 power plant for a catastrophic accident costing the
23 lives of not only many people but generations to come.

24 Speaking of the environmental aspect or
25 the unclean aspect of nuclear power, power plants are

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1 not only poised on the brink of this kind of
2 catastrophic accident at all times, but also releasing
3 routine amounts of radiation into the air and the
4 water.

5 And on top of that, there's the issue of
6 the high level nuclear waste that is generated through
7 the process of irradiating the fuel, and at this point
8 there is no known way to safely dispose of high level
9 nuclear waste.

10 That's something that clearly has to be
11 taken into account as we consider relicensing because
12 relicensing just the North Anna Power Plant for the 20
13 years that's being proposed would result in an
14 additional 400 metric tons of high level waste being
15 added to the mix, the mix being already a mounting
16 stockpile with no solution in sight.

17 And finally, nuclear power has never
18 existed without heavy government subsidies which
19 continue, and as a consumer advocacy organization, we
20 believe and we're convinced that it's really time to,
21 after 50 years of nuclear power, it's time to end the
22 subsidies and to begin the transition to a sustainable
23 energy future.

24 In any case, certainly right now is the
25 wrong moment to be discussing relicensing at all.

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1 First of all, the licenses at the North Anna Power
2 Plant don't expire until 2018 and 2020. Certainly the
3 situation is going to change within the next two
4 decades, and it would be much more logical to be
5 having a scoping -- a conversation about environmental
6 scoping closer, when we know more about the actual
7 environment that would be affected a few decades from
8 now.

9 And, secondly, as one of the previous
10 speakers pointed out, the events of September 11th
11 have brought into relief some of the very real
12 security concerns that exist around nuclear power
13 plants. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Congress,
14 and other government agencies dealing with nuclear
15 projects really need to take time at this moment to
16 pause and to demand a full and thorough, independent
17 investigation of the security situation at the
18 nation's nuclear power plants and what would be
19 prudent in terms of how to move forward, keeping in
20 mind what we now know to be not just a hypothetical
21 threat, but a real threat.

22 The NRC, responding to many questions, of
23 course, about security related in light of the
24 September 11th attacks, responded that no nuclear
25 power plants operating in the U.S. or around the world

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1 for that matter were designed to withstand the kind of
2 attack that was experienced at the Pentagon and the
3 World Trade Center a month ago, and that is definitely
4 something that we need to keep in mind.

5 Again, this is a time to be moving.
6 Relicensing the North Anna Power Plant points us in
7 the wrong direction in terms of the transition that
8 needs to be made for a safe and secure energy future.

9 I do just want to make a few specific
10 comments when it comes to the environmental scoping
11 aspect for this particular power plant. Public
12 Citizen urges the NRC to take into account in this
13 environmental impact -- supplemental environmental
14 impact assessment the noncompliance reality of the
15 North Anna Power Plant. It's not very useful to have
16 an environmental impact assessment that assumes that
17 this plant will operate in compliance at all times.
18 We know that that is not the case.

19 Secondly, this environmental impact
20 assessment needs to take into account the impacts of
21 aging reactor components. Just like anything else,
22 nuclear reactors get old and pose higher risks as they
23 age.

24 More uniquely than anything else though,
25 nuclear reactors operate under very intense conditions

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1 to do with temperature, radiation, and corrosive
2 environments, and this, of course, as expected takes
3 a toll on the various components of nuclear power
4 plants.

5 So issues of embrittlement with the
6 reactor vessel and issues of degradation of other
7 aspects of the power plant, particularly related to
8 the cooling system, need to be taken into account in
9 this environmental impact assessment.

10 And finally, the issue of high level waste
11 needs to be looked at as a very severe environmental
12 impact and at this point an unsolvable environmental
13 impact of nuclear power.

14 I just want to take a moment now to add on
15 a comment about the NRC's Web site being down. Public
16 Citizen and, I know, many other organizations had
17 requested that the NRC postpone all public meetings
18 that had been announced and extend the public comment
19 periods on the various rulemakings that are underway
20 in consideration of the fact that from October 11th
21 through yesterday no information at all was available
22 on the NRC's Web site, including the calendar of
23 public meetings.

24 This gave the impression that the NRC was
25 closed for business, and I was very surprised to learn

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1 that this meeting was nonetheless continuing as
2 originally scheduled, despite the fact that the public
3 didn't have access to information about it in the last
4 week.

5 Secondly, the continued lack of access to
6 NRC's full Web site raises a bigger issue related to
7 the safety of nuclear power plants. The NRC has
8 removed all other documents from its Web site,
9 including safety and lack of compliance reports from
10 the North Anna Power Plant and information about the
11 regulatory processes that surround nuclear energy in
12 this country.

13 And they have done so stating that it's
14 necessary from the perspective of national security.
15 And I guess my closing comment would just be that this
16 is an indication that the kinds of protections that
17 are necessary -- I put that in quotations, "necessary"
18 -- to protect nuclear power seem incompatible with
19 basic civil liberties and the democratic principles
20 that we uphold in this society.

21 So, again, I urge the NRC, of course, to
22 reinstate full access to its Web site, and for this
23 issue of relicensing of the North Anna Power Plant to
24 also be considered in the broader context of national
25 energy policy.

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1 Thank you again for the opportunity to
2 comment. I'll leave a copy of our press release for
3 the docket, and I have extra copies if anyone is
4 interested.

5 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Ms. Gue.

6 Our next speaker is going to be Dave
7 Heacock, who's the Dominion Site Vice President for
8 North Anna Power Station.

9 MR. HEACOCK: Good afternoon. It's a
10 little bit tough to follow that, but I'll try.

11 I'm Dave Heacock. I'm the Site Vice
12 President at North Anna.

13 I want to thank, first of all, the NRC for
14 coming today and offering this public comment so that
15 we can have comments from all interested parties, and
16 I appreciate those comments. Some I appreciate more
17 than others, but I appreciate all of the comments. I
18 think they're valuable as part of the process.

19 I'm excited about license renewal. I just
20 reached a personal milestone in my life. Over half of
21 my life has been spent at North Anna Power Station
22 this year. So I've been there for 22 years. You can
23 probably guess my age from that.

24 And I started ticking off. I wanted to
25 make a number of points. I started ticking those

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1 points off as each speaker spoke ahead of me. I've
2 ticked off most of my points. So I'm going to make my
3 remarks a little briefer since I don't want to be too
4 redundant here.

5 But I was born and raised in Virginia,
6 went to school at the University of Virginia. I'm a
7 nuclear engineer, and I've spent the last 22 years at
8 North Anna Power Station.

9 We have a long history of safe and
10 efficient operation, despite some other comments
11 you've heard earlier. We do have a very strong safety
12 record. It's acknowledged by many outside
13 organizations. The Institute of Nuclear Power
14 Operations has given us excellent marks for more than
15 a decade now at North Anna.

16 The NRC, in their systematic assessment of
17 licensee performance process and more recently in the
18 reactor oversight process, has given us high marks as
19 well.

20 We're also partially owned by an
21 independent cooperative, Old Dominion Electric Co-op,
22 which owns part of North Anna, and they send
23 independent people in to review our operations several
24 times a year, and they also give us high marks for our
25 performance.

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1 Utility Data Institute collects data for
2 the most efficient plants in the country. North Anna
3 has been rated number one for the last decade on a
4 three-year average.

5 Now, that's just nuclear plants. You have
6 to compare the cost of operating a nuclear plant to
7 the cost of any type of generation. There's over 850
8 steam electric plants in the United States. North
9 Anna, when it was last rated, was number five lowest
10 cost producer out of 850 plants in the United States
11 and the lowest cost nuclear plant of all the plants.

12 I do want to address the September 11th
13 issue. That's foremost in many of our minds. North
14 Anna has always had very high levels of security.
15 Anybody that's worked there or visited the plant
16 recognizes the significant amount of security you have
17 to go through to get to the plant.

18 Since September 11th, we've also had
19 heightened levels of security at the plant. Anybody
20 who's attempted to visit or has visited the plant
21 since that time will recognize that.

22 We appreciate the help from our local law
23 enforcement, from State Police, from the Federal
24 government in providing intelligence to us. It has
25 been a very, very good feeling to me to see the

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1 community come together to protect our own assets.

2 Since 1978, we've had over 30 countries
3 represented of people coming to North Anna to visit us
4 to learn how we do business. And we've done
5 benchmarking all across the country and all across the
6 world to also gather information about how other
7 plants operate.

8 I do want to get to the environmental
9 issue. That's what we're here for to talk about, is
10 to talk about the environmental impact of North Anna.
11 The primary advantage of a nuclear plant is that it
12 doesn't produce any carbon -- doesn't emit any carbon
13 dioxides, carbon monoxides, nitrous oxides, sulfur
14 dioxides. All of those things are not emitted at the
15 plant during normal operation.

16 So we don't have an impact for greenhouse
17 gases like you might have from a replacement plant,
18 and that's one factor that goes into this decision, is
19 if you don't operate North Anna, and that's a choice
20 that could result from this hearing or from our
21 decision to not operate the plant, where do you get
22 the power that people need beyond that?

23 Currently North Anna generates 1,800
24 million watts of power. That's 17 percent of the
25 power that's used in the State of Virginia on an

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1 annual basis. Surry and North Anna combined provide
2 a third of the power for the State of Virginia on an
3 annual basis, to kind of put it in perspective.

4 If we didn't operate North Anna, where
5 would that power come from? That's the question you
6 have to answer here. That's one aspect of the license
7 renewal process.

8 That's enough power for about 450,000
9 homes, to put it in perspective. I could also give
10 you quotes in hair dryers or any other statistic that
11 you like, but it's a whole bunch of energy is the
12 bottom line.

13 It cost about \$1.3 billion to construct,
14 which sounds like a large number until you compare it
15 to what it would cost to replace in current dollars.

16 I've heard a lot of this information
17 already. We have a longstanding tradition at North
18 Anna and Dominion of investing in our communities, and
19 you've heard other speakers here talk about that. I'm
20 not going to repeat all of those issues, with the
21 local library and LinkAges and blood drives and so
22 forth. But I think the real secret here is the
23 community. We have 300 of our employees that live in
24 Louisa, and then we have almost 900 people who work at
25 the plant, and then during outages, we bring another

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1 eight or 900 people in from other locations to work
2 for up to a month at North Anna. About one and a half
3 times a year on average we operate fueling outages.

4 So all of the people live in the local
5 community, support the local community and the
6 restaurants here, and so forth. And I think it's
7 really important that we work together to continue the
8 operation of the plants, not to mention the Boy Scouts
9 and so forth.

10 Well, to not be redundant I'm going to end
11 my remarks here, and thank you very much for your
12 time. I appreciate it.

13 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Mr. Heacock.

14 Our next speaker is going to be Bill Bolin
15 who's the Manager of Environmental Biology with
16 Dominion.

17 MR. BOLIN: Thank you, Chris.

18 And I, too, want to thank the Nuclear
19 Regulatory Commission for holding this meeting today
20 and allowing me to speak.

21 As Chris mentioned, my name is Bill Bolin.
22 My official title in the company is Manager,
23 Environmental Biology. My unofficial title is Chief
24 Biologist.

25 I began my career nearly 30 years ago,

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1 being the first station biologist hired by what was
2 then VEPCO. When Congress passed the Clean Water Act
3 in the early '70s, utility companies such as mine had
4 to decide whether they wanted to -- how they wanted to
5 comply with the Clean Water Act provisions either by
6 staffing in house or by hiring consultants.

7 What I consider personally to have been a
8 brilliant move, VEPCO decided to staff in house, and
9 I was fortunate to be asked to join the company.

10 As such, we were one of the first
11 utilities nationwide to staff with environmental
12 professionals.

13 Environmental considerations are a very
14 important aspect in the design and placement of all of
15 our power stations. For example, at North Anna Power
16 Station, when the lake was created as a source for
17 cooling water, we also designed and constructed a
18 series of three cooling lagoons totaling 3,400 surface
19 acres, designated as the waste heat treatment
20 facility.

21 These lagoons receive warmer water from
22 the station and return the water to the lake with the
23 water temperature to near ambient conditions.

24 While all Dominion power stations maintain
25 strict compliance with state and Federal environmental

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1 regulations, the company frequently endeavors to raise
2 the bar on environmental stewardship. This includes
3 partnering with conservation groups, as well as state
4 and Federal agencies, to protect as well as enhance
5 the various ecosystems around our power stations and
6 our transmission and distribution rights-of-way.

7 Let me just take a minute and share with
8 you a few examples of how we have attempted to raise
9 the bar at North Anna. We initiated studies of the
10 area prior to formation of the lake, and these
11 studies, for the most part, are still ongoing, giving
12 us nearly 30 years of continuous and valuable
13 information.

14 One of the early findings of our pre-
15 impoundment studies was that the water quality in
16 Contrary Creek, which was a major tributary of the
17 North Anna River, was extremely poor and basically had
18 impaired most of the North Anna River. The formation
19 of Lake Anna immediately improved conditions in the
20 Contrary Creek arm of the lake, as well as the North
21 Anna River below the dam.

22 Our post impoundment studies showed that
23 Lake Anna behaved as most new reservoirs in that there
24 was a period of several years of very rapid biological
25 growth. For example, there was a great surge in the

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1 population of Largemouth bass, and for every year
2 since then Lake Anna has been in one of the top three
3 states or three state lakes in producing citation
4 Largemouth bass, which are bass over seven pounds in
5 weight or 21 inches in length.

6 As the lake has matured and our
7 understanding of it has grown, we are able to place
8 emphasis on certain areas that appear to need some
9 help. For example, the crappie populations did not
10 experience this rapid period of biological growth. We
11 felt this was due to a lack of suitable habitat in the
12 lake. So we put in 21 artificial structures comprised
13 of thousands of cinder blocks and tree tops. We've
14 marked these structures with buoys, developed a
15 brochure to aid the fishermen in showing their
16 locations, and we even designed an underwater
17 monitoring program to evaluate their effectiveness.

18 The crappie, as well as other species,
19 that frequently use these types of structures have
20 responded positively.

21 This habitat enhancement program is alive
22 and well even today. The only difference is we're not
23 the only players. Local bass clubs, tackle
24 manufacturers, and the Virginia Department of Game and
25 Inland Fisheries have taken the lead.

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1 The type of structure has changed
2 somewhat, but the principle remains the same:
3 creating habitat.

4 We also assisted the Virginia Department
5 of Game and Inland Fisheries in the construction of
6 a fishing pier parallel to Route 622 that crosses over
7 Dike 3 where the lake receives the cooling water
8 discharge. This pier is handicap accessible.

9 The area was early discovered to be an
10 attraction for many types of fish, especially striped
11 bass, probably because of the current, underwater
12 currents. We're currently working with the Game
13 Commission to donate the land surrounding that pier to
14 them.

15 Another example is when we found hydrilla
16 in the lake, and especially the waste heat treatment
17 facility, we funded several graduate studies to
18 identify control options. Hydrilla is an introduced
19 aquatic plant that has a capacity to completely take
20 over a water body. We worked with bass clubs, marina
21 owners, lake property owners, and the Virginia
22 Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to identify
23 the optimal control for this noxious weed.

24 Today all users of the lake are
25 benefitting from these actions. With the improvement

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1 in water quality and flow of the North Anna River
2 downstream of the dam, we were able to stock the river
3 with Smallmouth bass. Today the river is now well
4 known for its Smallmouth bass fishing and recreational
5 canoeing.

6 In fact, the North Anna River below Lake
7 Anna was selected by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory
8 for a series of studies related to Smallmouth bass
9 populations.

10 Over the years, we've placed a substantial
11 number of wood duck nesting boxes around the lake to
12 help boost this population of one of our most
13 beautiful birds.

14 As Dave mentioned and several others have
15 said, we also take pride in Dominion in taking an
16 active role in whatever community we're located in,
17 and North Anna is no exception.

18 We are involved in community stewardship
19 in many fronts. One that we're extremely proud of
20 here at North Anna is our partnership with the Lake
21 Anna State Park and which at least we think is one of
22 the state's crown jewels of state parks. We have been
23 participants in the development of this park from its
24 planning stages.

25 I could go on and on about other

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1 environmental improvements and/or considerations at
2 North Anna, but perhaps I should spend some of my time
3 talking about the essence of our environmental report
4 for North Anna Power Station.

5 Firstly, as you've heard the NRC say, the
6 environmental report is required in any nuclear
7 license renewal process as part of the National
8 Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. The Nuclear
9 Regulatory Commission has identified nearly 100
10 environmental issues that must be addressed in the
11 environmental report by all applicants, which in this
12 case is us.

13 Most of these issues were determined by
14 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to be of minor
15 environmental impact and, therefore, may be addressed
16 generically.

17 In our environmental assessment, we
18 performed a review of these same issues, and our
19 assessment concurred with the NRC conclusions.

20 Some of the other issues, environmental
21 issues, are site specific for each facility and,
22 therefore, must be addressed accordingly. Some of the
23 more site specific issues include aquatic biology,
24 terrestrial biology, demographics, and transmission
25 line impacts.

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1 For example, issues that we looked at at
2 North Anna included waste heat, water withdrawal, and
3 threatened and endangered species. The term "waste
4 heat" refers to heat that is transferred to water as
5 it passes through the station to cool the steam during
6 the electrical generation process.

7 In the mid-'80s, we conducted a study that
8 looked at the impacts of this waste heat on the biota
9 of Lake Anna. Using past information, coupled with
10 new information, we found no long-term deleterious
11 effects, and the Virginia State Water Control Board,
12 which is now the Department of Environmental Quality,
13 agreed with our findings. Most of these studies are
14 ongoing today.

15 Water withdrawal represents the water that
16 I mentioned earlier that is used for cooling. We
17 studied water withdrawal issues, and again, we
18 demonstrated no long-term deleterious effects on the
19 lake, and the Water Board again concurred with our
20 findings.

21 The evaluation of threatened and
22 endangered species was a little different in that we
23 had to go to state and Federal agencies to investigate
24 possible impacts on listed species. The research
25 showed no impact to any threatened or endangered

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1 species as a result of the operation of North Anna
2 Power Station and its associated transmission lines.

3 A couple of other site specific issues
4 that we looked at included socioeconomic impacts and
5 impacts on cultural resources.

6 With regard to socioeconomic impacts, we
7 found positive contribution to the local
8 infrastructure, which you've previously heard from
9 other speakers. Because there will be no new
10 construction activity, continued operation of the
11 station means that the cultural resources impacts are
12 also negligible.

13 These are examples of but a few of the
14 specific issues addressed in the environmental report.
15 In the evaluation of these specific issues, we
16 consulted with representatives of state and Federal
17 resources agencies, as well as universities to update
18 our information, agencies such as the Virginia
19 Department of Conservation and Recreation, Department
20 of Historic Resources, the Department of
21 Transportation, and the Virginia Department of Game
22 and Inland Fisheries were accessed.

23 For every issue we examined, it was
24 determined that the continued operation of electricity
25 or generation of electricity from North Anna Power

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1 Station benefits our customers and the community,
2 while at the same time minimizing the environmental
3 impact. North Anna Power Station has a history of
4 excellent environmental stewardship.

5 One final message. I am very proud to
6 have been but a small part of the North Anna story and
7 the even bigger Dominion story. Over the years it has
8 been my distinct privilege to be a part of numerous
9 company-wide environmental projects, such as the
10 recent Peregrine Falcon Project conducted in
11 partnership with state and Federal agencies.

12 In conclusion, I would again like to thank
13 the NRC for this opportunity. I would like to thank
14 everyone for coming. I think your comments and your
15 participation are extremely important to this process.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Mr. Bolin.

18 Mr. Rosenthal and Ms. Gue both remarked on
19 the NRC's Web site has been disabled. It's been
20 pulled down. I also mentioned as we started this
21 meeting a very important part of public participation
22 is our ability to share information.

23 Roger Hannah, who is with Region II Office
24 of Public Affairs, is here, and he's available to
25 provide information about what Public Affairs is doing

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1 to try and restore Internet access to real time
2 information coming out of the NRC.

3 I've also been informed that the NRC is
4 working to restore that part of the public meeting
5 notice to the Web, but in the meantime we're having to
6 resort to the old fashioned paper system of meeting
7 notices. But we are hopeful that, as Mr. Kugler
8 pointed out, we're maintaining the information related
9 to the license renewal applications on an internal Web
10 site until the security review process reflects on
11 whether or not there is information in there that is
12 now, in light of September 11th, considered to be more
13 sensitive.

14 We have become so accustomed to fully
15 disclosing information related to safety issues and
16 environmental issues, and September 11th has caused
17 the NRC, along with all other Federal agencies, to
18 reflect on that, and I'm hopeful that through that
19 process of very carefully balancing the disclosure of
20 information and also citizens' rights with the
21 security of the plant, that we'll find an appropriate
22 balance in a very short period of time.

23 But that completes all of the requested
24 opportunities to speak, and I would now like to ask
25 whether or not there are any others of you that would

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1 like to make any comments or ask any questions.

2 As Mr. Prato pointed out, the staff is
3 available after the meeting to answer any questions in
4 a one-on-one basis.

5 MR. KUGLER: I was just going to ask you,
6 Chris, do you know if the phone number is still
7 available? People used to be able to phone in and ask
8 about and to check on meetings.

9 MR. GRIMES: Yes. We have a phone system
10 that provides the status of meetings, and we are
11 reflecting on -- we've all become so accustomed to
12 being able to use the Web -- but the other systems
13 that we have, the use of the Federal Register.

14 The information related to the North Anna
15 license renewal application is available in the public
16 library that Andy referred to. Copies of the
17 application are available there. We may find that we
18 start pulling back some of our paper information as a
19 result of the ongoing review of security and
20 safeguards issues.

21 And I can also share with you that there
22 has been legislation proposed for the NRC to
23 reconsider the security and safeguards design
24 requirements that will be going on in parallel with
25 the rest of the agency's business.

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1 Are there any other further comments or
2 questions that any of you would like to make before we
3 adjourn the afternoon session?

4 We have an evening session planned to
5 begin at seven.

6 MR. KUGLER: Seven with the open house.

7 MR. GRIMES: Seven p.m. with an open house
8 starting at six o'clock.

9 If there are no other comments or
10 questions, I thank all of you very much for attending.
11 We appreciate your participation.

12 This meeting is adjourned.

13 (Whereupon, at 2:55 p.m., the public
14 meeting was concluded.)

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