Official Transcript of Proceedings

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: Dresden Nuclear Power Station
Public Scoping Meeting - Evening Session

Docket Number: 50-237, 50-249

Location: Morris, Illinois

Date: Thursday, April 10, 2003

Work Order No.: NRC-863 Pages 1-47

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

THURSDAY

APRIL 10, 2003

MORRIS, ILLINOIS

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The NRC Public Scoping Meeting met at Jennifer's Garden Banquet & Convention Center, 555 West Gore Road, at 7:00 p.m., Chip Cameron presiding.

PRESENT:

Chip Cameron

J. Tappert

T.J.Kim

D. Wheeler

B. Hovey

F. Polaski

R. Emch

B. Zalcman

A. Rodriguez

M. Dyer

R. Emch

L. Fatlan

G. Kirn

I N D E X

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

(7:00 P.M.)

MR. CAMERON: Good evening everyone. My name is Chip Cameron. I'm the Special Counsel for Public Liaison at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and I want to welcome you all to the meeting tonight, and it's my pleasure to serve as your Facilitator for the meeting tonight. And in that role, I'm going to try to make sure that you all have a productive meeting.

The Exelon Company has submitted an application to the NRC to renew the licenses, the operating licenses for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station Units II and III and the focus of our meeting tonight is to talk about the environmental review that the NRC does to help it evaluate whether to grant that license renewal application.

And in terms of format for the meeting tonight, the meeting's going to be basically divided into two parts. Part one is for the NRC staff to give you some background on the license renewal process to make sure that everybody understands it. And we'll have a couple of presentations and then we'll go on to you to see if there's any questions at all about the process.

The second part of the meeting is an opportunity for all of us to listen to any comments, any recommendations, any concerns that you might have about this process and about our environmental review specifically. And several people have signed up to come and speak to us tonight and if you are seized by the inspiration to speak and you haven't signed up, don't worry about it. We'll have you on. And during that part of the meeting, we ask people to either come up here to speak from the podium or if you feel more comfortable just speaking where you are, I'll bring this cordless mic over to you.

In terms of ground rules for the meeting, if you do have a question, just signal me and I'll bring you the microphone and give us your name and affiliation if appropriate. We are making a transcript. Stuart Karoubas is with us tonight, our stenographer. And anything that you say tonight will be treated as a comment on the scope of the environmental review carrying the same weight as the written comments that we receive.

I don't think we're going to be pressed for time tonight, but I would still just like you to be a little bit economical in your comments and we'll use a guideline of five to seven minutes for the prepared comments and that way we'll make sure that we

cover all the material and that everybody has an opportunity to speak tonight.

The last thing that I want to do is to give you an overview of the agenda so you know what to expect and to introduce the staff, NRC staff, that will be talking tonight and to give you an idea of what their background is, what type of skills and experience they bring to this evaluation of the license renewal application.

John Tappert from the NRC is right here, and I'm going to ask John in a minute or so to give you a formal welcome. And he is the Chief of the Environmental Section within the License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program at the NRC. And John and his staff are responsible for doing the environmental reviews on these license renewal applications, as well as, other reactor licensing activities that the NRC is engaged in.

And John's been with the Agency for approximately twelve years, and he was a Resident Inspector at one part of his NRC career. And our Resident Inspectors are the NRC eyes and ears, so to speak, at each of the reactors that we license. In a few minutes, I want to introduce you to the Resident Inspector for the Dresden plants.

But John was a Resident Inspector. Before that he was in the Naval Submarine Program. He's a submariner, and he has a bachelor's degree in engineering from Virginia Tech and a master's degree in environmental engineering from Johns Hopkins University. So John will give you a welcome and a brief overview of the NRC, and then we're going to go to an overview of the license renewal process generally.

And to do that for us, we have Mr. T.J. Kim who is right here, also from the NRC. T.J. is the Project Manager for the safety part of the evaluation of these Dresden license renewal applications. And he also is in the License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program but he's on the safety side. He's not in John Tappert's Environmental Section. And T.J.'s been with the NRC for nineteen years. He also was a Resident Inspector at one point in his career, and he has a chemical engineering degree from Drexel and a technical management master's degree from Johns Hopkins University.

We'll then go on to you for questions, then we're going to go to the specifics of the environmental review process, and Mr. Duke Wheeler is right here. Duke is going to give a presentation on that and he is the Project Manager for the

environmental part of the review on the Dresden license renewal applications. And Duke has been with the Agency for twenty years. Before that he was with the Westinghouse Naval Nuclear Power Program. He was a nuclear weapons officer in the United States Army, and he has a nuclear engineering bachelor's degree from the West Point Military Academy.

One other person I'd like to introduce that's part of the environmental review, is Mr. Bruce McDowell who's right here. As you'll hear Duke talk about the NRC as assisted in the environmental review from, by experts in various environmental disciplines. And Bruce is the Task Leader for those experts who are assisting us, and he's from Lawrence Livermore Lab in Livermore, California. He is the Environmental Assurance Manager. He's been there since 1991. Before that, he was involved in renewable energy activities, and he has a master's in business administration from the University of San Francisco and a master's in resource economics from the University of California at Davis.

And I just want to introduce one more person. We have lots of staff here, but in terms of the Dresden Units key person from the NRC is Desiree Smith who's right here. And Desiree is the Resident Inspector there, and if you all have questions about

what the resident does during the meeting, we can get Desiree to address that then. But thank you for being here, Desiree.

And I just would thank all of you for being here and look forward to having a good meeting, and if you have questions, please ask them and we can just try to be informal tonight and John Tappert?

MR. TAPPERT: Thank you, Chip. And good evening and welcome, and welcome back to those of you who attended our matinee session. As Chip said, my name is John Tappert and I'm the Chief of the Environmental Section in the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and on behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, I'd like to thank you for coming out here tonight and participating in our process. As Chip said, there's several things we'd like to cover today, and I'd like to briefly go over the purposes of tonight's meeting.

First of all, we want to give you an overview of the license renewal process which is composed of two parts, a safety review, as well as an environmental review, which is the principle focus of tonight's meeting. That environmental review will identify those issues that we will be looking at as we assess the environmental impacts associated with

extending the operating license of the Dresden Units II and III for an additional twenty years.

We'll also give you information about our schedule, and the opportunities that you will have to participate further in this process. At the conclusion of the staff's remarks, we'll be happy to receive any questions or comments that you may have about our review tonight. And that really is the principle reason for this meeting today.

But first let me provide some general context for the license renewal process. The Atomic Energy Act gives the NRC the authority to issue operating licenses to commercial nuclear power plants for a period of forty years. For Dresden Units II and III, those operating licenses will expire in 2009 and 2011 respectively. Our regulations also make provisions for extending that operating license for an additional twenty years as part of a license renewal program. And Exelon has requested license renewal for both Units.

As far as the NRC's review of that application, we will be developing an Environmental Impact Statement. Right now, we're in what we call the scoping phase where we seek to identify those issues which will require the greatest focus during

our review. And your questions and comments today are an important part of that scoping process.

And with that brief introduction, I would like to ask T.J. to describe the safety and overall review.

MR. KIM: Thank you, John. As Chip said, my name is T.J. Kim and I'm the NRC's Project Manager responsible for the safety review of the Exelon's license renewal application for both Dresden and Quad Cities. Before I get into the discussion of the license renewal process, I'd like to take a minute to talk about the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the NRC, in terms of what we do and what our mission is.

The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, which is the enabling legislation that authorizes the NRC to regulate the civilian use of nuclear materials. In carrying out that statutorial authority, the NRC's mission is really threefold. One, to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety. Two, to protect the environment and three, to provide for a common defense and security.

The NRC accomplishes its mission through a combination of various regulatory programs and processes such as inspections, enforcement activities, assessment of licensee performance, evaluation of operating experience at nuclear plants across the

country, as well as foreign reactors, rulemaking activities and licensing.

Again, these are some of the major and ongoing regulatory programs and processes that are designed to ensure that we are complying with the statutory mission. As Mr. Tappert mentioned earlier, the Atomic Energy Act provides for forty year license term for power reactors, but it also allows for license renewal.

By the way, the forty year license term for power reactors, is primarily based on economic and antitrust considerations rather than safety limitations or technical limitations. So to address the requirements and to provide for regulatory process for license renewal, the Commission has promulgated the license renewal rule in 10 CFR Part 54. That's Title 10 of Code of Federal Regulations Part 54. Title 10 by the way, is the compilation of all the rules and regulations that governs NRC activities. Next slide please.

The license renewal process as defined in 10 CFR Part 54, is quite similar to the original licensing process for power reactors in that it involves safety review, an environmental impact review, confirmatory plant inspections and independent review by Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards or

the ACRS. There is one very important distinction here however, that in promulgating the license renewal rule, the Commission has determined that many aspects of the current licensing basis for nuclear power plants, such as emergency planning and plant physical security, are adequately addressed by the current regulatory programs and processes such as these can carry through the license renewal term. That's a very important concept to remember when we further discuss the license renewal process.

Before I move on to the next slide, I'd like to make a quick comment about the role of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards or the ACRS. The ACRS is basically a group of nationally-recognized technical experts on nuclear safety arena that functions as a consulting body to the Commission itself. The ACRS performs independent review and assessment of each license renewal application, as well as, the staff safety evaluation reports. And the ACRS then forms their own opinions and conclusions and reports those directly to the Commission. Next slide please.

This slide basically provides a big picture overview of the license renewal process, and as you can see from the slide, the process involves two separate tracks that are obviously parallel. The

first process involves safety review which is depicted on the top portion of the slide, and the other part of the process involves environmental review, and that's depicted at the bottom line down here. And let me talk a little bit about the safety review process first.

Safety review basically involves NRC staff's review and assessment of technical information that's contained in the license renewal application. And I have a team of about thirty NRC technical experts back at the NRC headquarters, who are conducting this review right now. And our team is supported by three different technical experts in three different national laboratories including Argonne, Brookhaven up in Long Island, New York and Pacific Northwest up in the State of Washington.

So I have put together quite a team of experts to conduct the safety review on license renewal safety review. The safety review basically involves the NRC staff's assessment of the effectiveness on the proposed aging management programs to ensure that the plant's safety related structure, the systems and components, will maintain its effectiveness throughout the license renewal term.

The second aspect of the staff safety review, involves what's called time-limited aging

analyses. The license renewal rule requires each license renewal applicant to basically reevaluate those design basis analyses that assumes a forty year life term. So the reevaluation basically involves extending the life, the qualification of those components from forty years to sixty years to cover the license renewal period.

An example of time limited aging analysis would be environmentally qualified equipments such as electrical components or cables that are expected to survive and function at the end of its design life. So the license renewal application would include those time limiting aging analyses that would cover the license renewal period.

The results of the safety review then will be documented in what's called Safety Evaluation Report, and as I've indicated earlier, a copy of that would be provided to the ACRS for their second review. The safety review process also involves confirmatory inspections for Dresden and Quad Cities license renewal application, we have planned three such inspections. One inspection will be conducted at Exelon's engineering office. The second inspection is planned at the Dresden site and the third inspection is planned at the Quad Cities site. Each inspection will be conducted by a team of seven inspectors.

They'll be pulled together from both NRC Headquarters and the Region 3 offices.

At the bottom of the slide is the environmental review process that involves scoping activities which this meeting is a part of. It would also involve preparing a draft supplement to GEIS. GEIS stands for Generic Environmental Impact Statement, and we'll be publishing that draft supplement to solicit comments from the public and then eventually we'll issue a final supplement to GEIS.

So as you can see from this slide, the final Agency decision on whether to approve or deny the application, would involve all those things that I just talked about, staff safety evaluation report, final supplement to GEIS, as well as, the inspection reports and the independent report by the ACRS. And this whole process takes approximately twenty-two months.

Now if there's a petition filed to intervene in this process by an individual or a group of individuals, and if they can demonstrate sufficient standing, then hearings, adjudicatory hearings can also be involved in the process. An adjudicatory hearing is basically NRC's process that involves trial type hearings.

That basically concludes my prepared remarks. If there are any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

MR. CAMERON: Great. Thank you very much T.J. That's the overview of the process. A lot of material. Does anybody have any questions on that at all? Okay, we're going to go to the environmental part of the NRC review process with Mr. Duke Wheeler, and then we'll come back on and see if there's any questions on any of it.

MR. WHEELER: Thank you, Chip. I am Duke Wheeler, and I am the Project Manager on the NRC staff responsible for coordinating the activities of the NRC staff and a team of environmental experts from various national labs to develop the site-specific Environmental Impact Statement for Dresden that supplements our Generic Environmental Impact Statement for the License Renewal of Nuclear Plants. May I have the next slide please?

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 requires that a systematic approach be followed in evaluating environmental impacts associated with certain proposed Federal actions. We consider the impacts of the proposed action, and we also consider the impacts of mitigation in those instances where we find that the impacts are significant. We also

consider alternatives to the proposed action. Alternatives being other sources of energy such as coal, natural gas are included in our consideration of alternatives. We also take a look at renewable energy sources.

One other alternative that we take a look at is what we call the no-action alternative where we just decide not to approve the proposed license renewal. The National Environmental Policy Act and our Environmental Impact Statement that is developed under its provisions are a disclosure mechanism to inform the public of these environmental impacts. The National Environmental Policy Act specifically has provisions for public participation in our process and this meeting is a part of facilitating the public's participation in our environmental review.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for proposed license renewal of nuclear power plants. We are now gathering information for the EIS. We're collecting public comments that will help us scope out, if you will, the bounds of our environmental review. May I have the next slide?

The Environmental Impact Statement that I'm going to be preparing is designed to basically address one issue, standard issue, one decision

standard, if you will. And that basically is, we will make a determination of whether or not the adverse environmental impacts of the proposed license renewal are so great that preserving the option of license renewal for the decisionmakers becomes unreasonable.

The point I'd like to make is that the NRC does not determine whether or not our plant will actually operate for an additional twenty years. That decision is made by other groups and agencies include the licensee, State regulators, and so forth. We will just issue an operating license presuming that we determine that they have met our safety requirements and the environmental requirements that we're responsible for under the National Environmental Policy Act. May I have the next slide?

A few moments ago, T.J. had a slide on the screen that was similar to this one. It was basically a flow process and this slide is just an expansion of the bottom line of his slide that described the environmental review process. We received Exelon's application for the combined license renewal for Dresden and Quad Cities on January the 3rd of this year. On March the 14th, I issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and conduct scoping. We are now in more or less the middle of the scoping period. It's a sixty day period

of time and at the end of the scoping period, which will be on May the 14th, I will issue a scoping summary report that will address all the comments we receive from all sources during the scoping process. And I'll address those within the framework of our environmental review.

About two weeks ago, members of the NRC staff and our team of environmental experts from various national labs visited the site as part of one of our information gathering activities. We walked the grounds, we reviewed a lot of licensing procedures and records, talked to several of their people. If we determine after all of that, the scoping and the site audit and paying substantial attention to the environmental report that they provided us with their application, if we still need additional information to complete a draft of our Environmental Impact Statement, then I will issue a request for additional information. And I will do that no later than May the 30th of this year. Then I expect to get an answer back from Exelon providing us that additional information within about eight weeks.

We will then have what we need to develop a draft of our Environmental Impact Statement, and I will publish that in December of this year. And you'll note that there's also, by the graphics here, an

opportunity for public participation at this stage of our process. When I publish that draft, I will also be starting a seventy-five day public comment period on that draft Environmental Impact Statement. At the end of that seventy-five day public comment period, we then will take all the information that we have, and I will publish a final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed license renewal, and I expect to do that in July of 2004. May I have the next slide?

This slide just shows some of the sources that we go to to gather information to develop our draft Environmental Impact Statement. The big focus at the moment, receiving public comments, that's what this meeting is all about. But we also go to several other sources of information to help us prepare the draft. May I have the next slide?

This slide just identifies a lot of the environmental disciplines that we focus on as we write our draft Environmental Impact Statement. The NRC staff, as has been mentioned, is supplemented by a team of experts from various national laboratories and we have experts in these various areas. The laboratories represented on our team, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory out in Livermore, California, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory out in Richland, Washington. We also have a couple of

people on our Dresden team from the Argonne National Laboratory, just up the road here, and some members on our team from the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

One term that I'd like to focus some attention on at the moment that may not be familiar to everybody is this term, you see where it says environmental justice? And what that means is we take a look at the question of whether or not any environmental impacts associated with the proposed license renewal disproportionately impact low income or minority segments of the local population. May I have the next slide?

This slide just recaps a couple of the key milestone dates in our schedule that I've already mentioned. Note the scoping period ends on May the 12th and one note on that. If I receive comments after May 12th, I will still give it my best attempt to consider those comments in the development of the draft Environmental Impact Statement. I will definitely consider all comments received up until May the 12th. That's a commitment that I'll make right now, that I will do. If it comes in afterwards, I'll give it a try, but I can't guarantee it. It will depend on the comment and the timing. Again, December 2003 for the draft, seventy-five day comment period

and eventually July 2004 for the final. May I have the next slide?

This slide just identifies myself as your primary point of contact with the NRC staff for any particular interests you may have. There's a telephone number for me on this slide. You're welcome to call at any time. I'd also like to point out that very early in our process, I came out here and visited a couple of local libraries to make Exelon's application for license renewal, and particularly the environmental report for Dresden, available. It is available at the Morris Public Library and I also drove over to Coal City and spoke with the staff there and they were more than happy to make space available for us on the reference shelf to provide, to make available, a copy of the license renewal application for your review. And these libraries are also on my mailing list for important correspondence that leaves our office to go out to the licensee or to other agencies that we're dealing with and a file of this correspondence will be maintained at these libraries.

The application can also be viewed via the internet at the NRC's website, www.nrc.gov. And speaking of that, one thing I'd like to point out is that occasionally people run into some difficulties in navigating the internet, getting what they need. If

for some reason you do run into some difficulties, give me a telephone number, excuse me, give me a phone call at the phone number that you've got and you and I will sit there and go through it keystroke-by-keystroke until your concerns are properly addressed. May I have the next slide?

Now the various means by which comments can be provided into our system, into our process, you can certainly send written comments to the Chief of our Rules and Directives Branch at the NRC and that will guarantee that your comments get into our public record.

Now another means that's available to you is a person can stop by our office and provide comments in person. I recognize that this far away from Rockville, Maryland, that may not be practical, but it's included on this slide because it is something that is available to you and I have also created a special e-mail address to receive your e-mail comments on what you believe should be considered in the scope of our environmental review. That e-mail address being DresdenEIS@nrc.gov and once again, if it's just not working for you, if you get a message back that says undeliverable or some such thing as that, get on the telephone with me and you and I will talk through it.

That pretty much concludes my prepared remarks. I would like to turn the meeting back over to Chip unless there is some questions that I'd be happy to answer.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Duke. That was very, very helpful. Do we have any questions on what you've heard tonight? Does anyone have anything at all for either Duke or T.J.? All right, we're going to go to the second part of the meeting which is to listen to you, and I thought it would be useful to hear from the Exelon Company, first in terms of the rationale for their submitting the license renewal application, and also some of the work that they did to put that application together. And we have Mr. Bob Hovey with us who is the Exelon Vice President for the Dresden Station. And Bob's going to talk to us for a few minutes.

MR. HOVEY: Thank you, Chip and good evening to everyone. Thanks for being here tonight. As Chip said, I'm Bob Hovey, the site Vice President at the Dresden Nuclear Generating Station, and I'm extremely pleased to be here tonight to talk about license renewal and everything that we've done in the process. This is my second opportunity to be involved in a license renewal. I was involved as site Vice President in charge of what turned out to be the fifth

plant in the United States to go through the process and that's where I got to work with Chip and many of the staff folks that are here with us tonight and back in the various NRC offices.

And in reflecting on that process from a couple of years ago, I found that that process was very thorough, very open and very fair. And I have no doubt that the process that we're going to be going through for license renewal will also be very thorough, very open and very fair. Dresden along with our sister station Quad Cities, over on the Mississippi River, will be the first nuclear stations in the Midwest to go through the license renewal process. License renewal is very important. It's important, not only to the people at Dresden Station, but to the people in the communities that surround us. Dresden is the key element in the local community. We employ more than seven hundred people, employees, most of whom live in the surrounding communities of Morris, Coal City, Channahon, and Minooka.

Since the plant began operations over thirty years ago, we've provided a significant tax base for the local communities and we continue to support the communities through additional means like contributions to local charities, sponsorship of community events and volunteer efforts. The economics

are important, but I think safety is even more important, and safety is my top priority and I want you to understand that safety is the top priority of the Dresden Station and we will continue to focus on safety as our top priority as we operate that facility.

And I think if we point to some recent upgrades at the facility in the security area in the post 911 era, I think that demonstrates our continued support and commitment to public safety. Dresden also benefits the environment. We provide safe generation of clean emission-free electricity. Nuclear energy itself is environmentally friendly with no hazardous emissions, no depletion of natural resources.

One environmental benefit that you may not be aware of is that the river freezes over and we use a siphon from our cooling pond at strategic times during the winter periods to allow warm water to be diverted to the river and either prevent or break up ice flows and thus prevent flooding. And Dresden is also population to, is home to a healthy population of deer, and for all of us that work at the facility or go to or from the facility, we have to watch out for the deer.

License renewal is an investment in our future. I think the Dresden Units have undergone

continual operations and maintenance upgrades and today they're safer and they operate better and they are more productive than they've ever been in the life of the plant. And I hope that you realize the positive impact that Dresden has had as a generator of electricity and as a good neighbor for our local communities. And the only other thing I had to say was I wanted to thank the NRC, Chip, everyone here, for coming out and hosting this meeting, and I certainly want to thank every member of the public who took your time tonight to come and either listen or share your views or both. So I certainly appreciate that. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you very much Bob. Bob has given us a perspective from the Dresden Station, and now we're going to go to Exelon's corporate manager for license renewal, Mr. Fred Polaski, who's going to talk a little bit about the application. Fred?

MR. POLASKI: Thank you, Chip. As Chip said, my name is Fred Polaski and I am Exelon's Corporate Manager for license renewal. I'm responsible for all the license renewal activities that Exelon is carrying on. That includes the license renewal application for Dresden and Quad Cities which we filed with the NRC and also for our Peach Bottom

plant in Pennsylvania which I'm very happy will be receiving its new license in May of this year.

A little bit about myself. I've been working in the nuclear business for over thirty years. I spent twenty years at the Peach Bottom Station, I held a Senior Reactor Operator's license there for thirteen years. I've done other work with PECO Energy which is one of the two companies for the company that merged with ComEd to form Exelon and for the last seven years, I've been working in the area of license renewal. I've spent about the first three years working in industry groups, working with Nuclear Energy Institute, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to form the processes for implementing of the regulations for the license renewal rule about how a utility prepares a license renewal application and gets reviewed by the NRC.

Mr. Hovey talked about the reasons why we decided to renew the license or pursue a renewed license for Dresden. I'd like to talk a little bit about the work that Exelon did in preparation of the license renewal applications. We expended a large amount of engineering effort in preparing the applications. In 2000, ComEd decided to prepare a license renewal application for both Dresden and Quad Cities. The application was submitted to the Nuclear

Regulatory Commission in January of this year, January 3rd.

And really the application, when you came in if you looked at it on the table out in the lobby, there's several volumes to it. The safety application is a volume about that thick. The environmental report for Dresden is not quite as thick, and there's a separate one for Quad Cities, but that really represents a summary of the work that was done by the engineers in Exelon and our contractors to come to the conclusions that we needed to do and be able to submit that application. And the information that supports that, probably volume wise, is at least one hundred times the size of those applications. We invested over forty-person years in engineering work in preparing those applications, so they're very extensive and thorough and complete review of what we needed to perform for that application.

I'd like to speak first about the safety review. I know that's not the primary focus of tonight's meeting, but we did expend a large amount of effort in preparation of that. What we had to do was to determine that for the safety related equipment in the plant, that equipment that's needed to operate under emergency and safety situations, whether that

equipment was being maintained properly so that it would function as needed when it had to operate.

When Dresden was built, all the equipment was brand new. It was thoroughly tested to make sure it performed properly but equipment in a nuclear power plant like anything else, does age with time and with operation. Doesn't mean it won't work when it's needed to, but because things age as they operate, it means that the maintenance technicians and the operators at the plant need to maintain that equipment in good operating condition. And our review was really looking to see whether that was being performed properly, so that the plant could operate for an additional twenty years.

We also reviewed engineering analyses that were performed as part of the design of the plant, that looked at safety analysis for how the plant would operate and some of those analyses had involved in them calculations which involved the lifetime of the plant for forty years. We had to review them and redo those calculations to show that those analyses were valid for sixty year lifetime of the plant.

And what our review concluded with the equipment is being maintained properly and that the plant can operate safely for sixty years. And I know that sometimes you know, you hear those words and you

wonder what in the world is a nuclear power plant with chain link fences around it because of security reasons and you know, what goes on behind it? There's a lot of equipment in that plant. In the time period we've got, it's very hard to describe and I don't want to try to do that but let me give you an analogy.

When you buy an automobile that's brand new, you drive it off the dealer's lot. It's been built, it's been tested, it operates well, and when you drive it off the lot it works fine for you. If all you do is drive it, it's not going to last you very long. You do things to maintain that and maintain it in good driving condition. You have the oil changed periodically, you tune-up the engine, you have brakes replaced and other things. Sometimes it's a more significant investment. You may have to put a new transmission in a car if it wears out, but you do those things to keep it operating. So even as it ages, it can still operate for you, perform the way you want it to and you're able to drive it safely.

A nuclear power plant is a lot bigger, a lot more complicated, but I think the analogy is true in that the people who operate Dresden have been maintaining it and operating it properly so that it will be able to operate safely for sixty years.

In the environmental area, Exelon reviewed all of the aspects required by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of the impact of continued operation of Dresden on the environment. And that's what you think of normally is environment, the impact on cooling water systems and the rivers but it's also looking at things like socioeconomic impact on the surrounding community, the road systems, the people that live in this area. And our conclusion is that the impacts on the environment are going to be small. Now small's a word that, you think you know what small means but really it's a regulatory term. And what it means is the impact on the environment is acceptable.

I guess I'd like to look at it a little bit differently. And the conclusion is that right now there are impacts on the environment from operation of Dresden. There's impacts on the environment from a lot of things we do, driving an automobile. I'm sure when this building was constructed, there was an impact on the environment. Ground was disturbed, things were dug up and the building was built. But what we concluded on the continued operation of Dresden, is that the impact on the environment from forty to sixty years of operation, an additional operating period, won't be any different than what it is during the present term of operation.

We also had to look, as part of that review, about what would be the impact on the environment if the generation of 1800 megawatts of electricity that's produced by Dresden would have to be done by some other means. And our conclusion was that any other means of generating that electricity would have a larger impact on the environment then if we continue to operate Dresden for an additional twenty years.

So to conclude, Exelon has concluded that it's the right thing to do to renew the license for Dresden, and I personally also believe, that Dresden can be safely operated for an additional twenty years and it will provide 1800 megawatts of clean, reliable, environmentally friendly, economic electricity that will benefit this community, the State of Illinois and our country. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you Fred and Bob for giving us those facts. I'd like to go next to Mr. Alfie Rodriguez and Alfie do you want to come up here if it's easier for you? Go ahead.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good evening ladies and gentlemen. My name is Alfie Rodriguez. That's not the important thing here. The important thing is that I'm a resident of Grundy County. I've been for the past twenty-three years a resident, a neighbor, of the

Dresden nuclear facility. All that time, it has been a pleasure to be a neighbor of the Dresden facility. The Dresden facility, I live at 355 Bass Court, Morris, Illinois, which is in the Goose Lake subdivision or Goose Lake Village.

From my door to the Dresden parking lot is four and a half miles. It's extremely close. During all that time, I've noticed it's been nothing but a great, a big asset to the community. Not only to the community but to the county and to the State. Dresden itself fulfills the need for employment. It has many, many, many of my neighbors that are employed at the Dresden facility. It also, during the shutdowns and the turnarounds, employs many of the construction jobs to keep that facility running safe and proper.

Being a business representative with the sheet metal workers, I've had the opportunity to get an insight into some of the safety, the rigorous safety regulations of the plant itself. So really ladies and gentlemen, with all the safety behind it, it's with no reservation that I live so close to that facility. To make a long story short, in light of what the Dresden Nuclear, Dresden Generating Station has shown over the years in the safety record and what it's meant not only to the county, to the community and to the state, it would be a travesty not to renew

their license. So I speak in strong support of the license renewal. Duke, T.J., you said earlier if there's any questions, if you guys ever get a couple of weeks free, I've got questions. Thank you very much.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, thanks Alfie and please Duke, T.J., take him up and find out what those questions are. We do have someone, a representative from local county government with us, Millie Dyer, who's with the Grundy County Board. Millie, please speak to us.

MS. DYER: Good evening. I'm a member of the Grundy County Board, and the Board would like to have the license extended for the Dresden nuclear plant. We've been very happy with what all that's gone on. I've been a resident, I was a resident when it was being built. I was out of the county for a while, but I know how great of an impact it does have on the county. I was talking to a fellow when I was coming in here and I made one comment about the high cancer rate we have in Grundy County, and I don't feel like it's related to the nuclear power plant, but I guess I would like to see at some point in time, a study made as to why there is such a high cancer rate in Grundy County. It's affected many people that I

know and I think it would be an interesting study. Thank you for your time.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much Millie for that suggestion. And I think it may be useful for you and everybody else if someone from the NRC staff can just talk a little bit about what regulations we have in place to protect the public from radiation and how we ensure that those regulations are met. And I guess the third piece is how these, what are called epidemiology studies on cancer rates, who might be responsible for those and how those are requested. And we have one of our expert health physicists with us, Richard Emch, from the NRC. Can you try to answer those Richard?

MR. EMCH: I'll try. Don't oversell me here.

MR. CAMERON: Okay.

MR. EMCH: Hello folks, my name is Rich Emch. As Chip said, I'm a health physicist with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I want to start off, obviously cancer is a concern to all of us. I mean, you know, the latest statistics I've seen show that, you know, that the rate is like one out of four people get, contract some sort of cancer or whatever and I guess for men I guess, if we live long enough, we will get prostate cancer is the statistic that I've

seen. So it is a concern to all of us, so I understand your concern ma'am. To start to address this though, I'm going to move from very general information to more specific information associated with the Dresden site.

There are many challenges to health in the world. This particular challenge, radiation, radioactive material, has been really studied very strongly, many times. There have literally been thousands of studies of the possible effects of radiation on humans, and of all those studies on the international scene, the national scene, none of them, no credible study has shown any effects, any health effects, below, and I'm going to use a term millirem, ten thousand millirem. I'm using that particular unit of measurement. It's a unit of measurement dose to the human body and I'm going to use that measurement because I'm going to talk, as I go through, you'll see why that, how that comes into play as we start down the ladder here.

So no credible effects below ten thousand millirem. By comparison, as a human living on this planet, each of us receives an average of say about three hundred millirem per year. This is from cosmic radiation and from naturally occurring radioactive material in the ground or in building materials.

There's a certain amount of radioactive material inside your body, potassium, calcium, and we receive some dose from that. And then there are other sources like if you go to the dentist or the doctor. The sort of dose that you would get from those kinds of just diagnostic x-rays is maybe ten to fifty millirem. So if we're following it down, we start with ten thousand as the nothing below ten thousand has been shown to show effects, now we're down to each of you, each of us receives three hundred, roughly three hundred a year with no known effects from that.

Now we'll come down to what the NRC regulations are for a nuclear power plant. They are in Appendix I, they are in Part 20 and Part 50 of our regulations. That's not important. What's important is that the regulations are roughly in the five to ten millirem per year range is the limitation. So we've gone down from ten thousand to three hundred, now down to five or ten and there have been, studies were done of the health effects of cancer rates around nuclear power plants and there was no increase in cancers around nuclear power plants.

Now let's move to Dresden specifically. Dresden meets the NRC regulations so they're within that five to ten millirem range. Actually, unless you are right at the site boundary, it's probably even

considerably lower than that. Some of that five to ten millirem comes from, in fact we refer to it as turbine shine, sky shine, which is from the N-16 in their turbine. But the amount that's released in their effluents is considerably smaller than that.

So that's kind of a walk through of the issue of cancer and radiation. Now of course having said that, if there's any new information, we're always, I mean that's why we're here tonight is to gather new information if there is any. And so if you have some studies or something that were done specific to this area, we'd very much like to see them because, like I said, we're here to gather information. Can I answer any questions?

MR. CAMERON: Yes, Alfie?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Has a study ever been --

MR. CAMERON: Alfie, can we get you on the record?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Sure. Has a study ever been made of the cancer rate for the population here in Grundy County. My own wife was diagnosed with lung cancer three and a half years ago but she was a smoker and she survived. But to me, I don't see any higher rate than anywhere else. Has a study ever been done?

MR. EMCH: First, we're happy that your wife survived. Second, yes, Dresden and Quad Cities

were both part of that study that I referred to later of cancer rates around nuclear power plants and no increased incidences.

MR. CAMERON: And we can, as a follow-up, sometimes the State Department of Health, okay, in a particular State, will do a survey of cancer rates. For example, this happened recently in South Carolina, and those are the government officials who usually know that. Perhaps we can find out a little bit more about whether there has been a recent study.

And Rich, please correct me if I'm wrong, there is a Federal agency who deals with these types of cancer studies. The NRC does not. We, as Rich pointed out, we set our regulations very conservatively on what would be a safe dose for release. The agency which is in Atlanta, Georgia is the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. There's usually the agency in the Federal government who will sometimes do epidemiological studies. Rich, do you have anything you can do to --

MR. EMCH: No, I don't really have anything further.

MR. CAMERON: All right.

MR. EMCH: I will say as far as effluents, you mentioned the State, any studies the State might do, the State of Illinois does do some sampling,

groundwater sampling, water sampling from the rivers and things like that. So they sort of check behind, the licensee has similar programs, much more extensive programs, and the State does, so to speak, check behind them to ensure that they're being done properly and know that there is no big discrepancy in what the licensee finds and what the state finds. And then the NRC inspectors also look over the program as well.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. And Duke, can we find out whether there's any State contact that might give some useful information to Millie, and we'll get your phone number and we'll follow that up. And we noted your comments, the board speaking in support of license renewal also. Is there anybody else that has, we know you have lots of questions. Does anybody else have a question, anything that they would, and thank you Rich, very, very good. Anybody else want to know anything? Yes sir, and please give us your name please.

MR. FATLAN: My name is Lee Fatlan and I'm also in favor of the plant staying open. The question I have is spent fuel storage. I'm just wondering if we do extend the license for twenty years, and I know it's been a political football as to where we're going to store this fuel, what will be done with the fuel that will be generated for the next twenty years?

MR. CAMERON: Okay, this is a question on spent fuel storage from a particular facility and also what ultimately might happen in terms of the disposal of that waste. Who wants to, from the NRC staff, wants to give a summary of that? Okay, Barry is our expert on this and please introduce yourself.

MR. ZALCMAN: Boy, you're too easy with the experts. My name is Barry Zalcman, I'm also with the staff. Let me just point out, number one, the Commission reassesses the ability to manage spent fuel materials and has passed judgment. It's called the Waste Confidence Decision, so as part of our regulations, everybody throws out parts of our regulations, 10 CFR, Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, 51.23 addresses the spent fuel issue and the Commission has confidence that even with license renewal, that spent fuel can be managed safely at nuclear power plants. So this is to be part of the nation's resolution of the waste issue.

The Commission has confidence that within the first twenty-five years of this century, the Commission expects that a facility would exist to deal with the spent fuel for the long term. But in the interim, there are different ways to manage spent fuel, either wet pools which is typically within the facility boundaries itself or through independent

spent fuel insulation facilities or dry cask storage which could be on-site or there's even a proposal to have a remote location as an interim storage facility. Additional fuel will be used during the additional twenty years of operation.

If these facilities get their licenses renewed, the Commission has faith now that that fuel will be managed effectively and safely over that period. And with a long term resolution still part of the national goal. You may also be aware of the situation with Yucca Mountain, that it has been recommended to the President, and the President has in fact, approved a further evaluation of Yucca Mountain with the expectation that the Department of Energy is charged with that responsibility, will in fact, submit an application to the NRC as a separate licensing action to deal with the long term disposition of spent fuel. Does that help?

MR. CAMERON: Thank you Barry. That was very, very concise, very good. Rich, do you want to add something to that?

MR. EMCH: Yeah, I just wanted to mention I was out here as part of the site audit that we were talking about earlier and the Dresden plant employs both a spent fuel pool and they also employ dry cask storage.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. And I think as Barry pointed out, licensees such as Exelon, for nuclear power plant, have to meet the NRC regulations for spent fuel storage and licensing also. Anybody else? Yes, sir.

MR. KIRN: How safe is that plant from a boat going into that plant and blowing it up? On the river.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, now I want you to repeat that just so everybody could hear it clearly and then we're going to answer it. I didn't catch it either, but how safe is -- go ahead.

MR. KIRN: How safe is that plant from all the boats on the river to go in there with a rocket launcher and attack that plant?

MR. CAMERON: All right. I think we heard the question. John?

MR. TAPPERT: I guess your question relates to a terrorist attack, a potential terrorist attack on the plant. These nuclear power plants in general, and Dresden also, are some of the most hardened, most secure facilities, civilian facilities in the country. They were secure before 9/11 and after those 9/11 attacks, a number of safety and security improvements have been made to those facilities.

The NRC has issued what we call Interim Compensatory Measures to have them increase their security posture. We have also subsequently issued orders to each and every of the hundred and three nuclear power plants in this country to have them, you know, increased stand-off distances for potential bombs and increased staffing and whatnot.

And the NRC is continuing to evaluate this issue, to really determine what is the appropriate threat that these plants need to be defended against and who's going to bear that burden, whether it's going to be the plants, the Federal government or State and local authorities. So, to answer your question in a nutshell, it's safe. We're continuing to look at the issue. It's an important issue that the Agency takes very seriously. But a lot's been done and we're continuing to look at it.

And Duke's pointing out to me an important point. That while the Agency is very focused on this issue, you're not going to see it as part of the Environmental Impact Statement that we're going to issue at the end of the year. And the reason for that is very simple. The security issues apply to the whole one hundred and three plants in the country and we're dealing with them now. We're not going to wait for these plants to come in for license renewal to

start looking at security issues. So we've divorced it from the license renewal process. It's what we call a current operating issue and it's being handled in that context.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, thank you John. Does that answer your question, sir? All right, great. Anybody else have any questions while we're at it about license renewal or NRC regulatory responsibilities? Alfie, do you have anything else? All right, okay. Duke, do you want to say something? All right, good.

MR. WHEELER: One comment that I would like to point out is that as Chip pointed out, we do have a transcript of this meeting. It's going to be prepared and when I get a copy of that transcript, I will put it in the public record. All the comments made will be a part of that transcript, but if anybody brought any documents with them that they would like attached to the transcript, give those documents to me at this meeting and I will make sure that they get into the transcript.

I would ask that you give the documents to me and not just take them over and hand them to the transcriber. That way if there's a problem later on when the transcription does go into the public record and your comments aren't there, it will be something

that you'll work out with me and we won't be trying to contact the transcription service. So that was just one point I wanted to make. In addition to your comments, if you brought anything that you would like attached to the transcript, I would be happy to do that. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Duke. Anybody else before we adjourn tonight? All right, the staff will be here, our experts will be here so Desiree, our Resident Inspector, will be here after the meeting, so please take the opportunity to talk to them and I would just thank you all for coming out. But I want to turn it over to John Tappert who's in charge of this, to just close the meeting out for us. John?

MR. TAPPERT: Okay, I would just like to echo Chip's final thoughts. I want to thank everyone for taking some time out of their evening tonight and coming here and sharing your thoughts with us. It's an important part of our scoping process and Duke and T.J. will stay here as long as necessary to answer any questions that you may have as well as the rest of the NRC staff. So thanks again for coming and have a good evening.

(Whereupon the above matter was concluded at 8:12 p.m.)