

February 5, 2004

APPLICANT: Southern Nuclear Operating Company

FACILITY: Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS TO SUPPORT REVIEW OF
THE JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 LICENSE
RENEWAL APPLICATION

Environmental scoping meetings were conducted to support the review of the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (FNP) license renewal application submitted by Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC). The public meetings were conducted in the afternoon and evening on Thursday, January 8, 2004, at the Quality Inn, in Dothan, Alabama. Approximately 78 people attended the meetings, including members of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and the environmental review team, members of the public, representatives from SNC, and State and local government officials. There was a total of 16 members of the public and local government officials who provided comments. Enclosure 1 is the List of Attendees, Enclosures 2 and 3 contain the Official Corrected Transcripts for the afternoon and evening sessions. The Slides (Enclosure 4) used in the NRC's presentation are available on the NRC website at www.nrc.gov in the electronic reading room, in ADAMS under Accession Number ML040130083.

/RA/

Jack Cushing, Project Manager
Environmental Section
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos.: 50-348 and 50-364

Enclosures: As stated

cc w/enclosures: See next page

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cc w/enclosures: See next page

Distribution: See next page

Accession Nos.

1. Meeting Summary (cover), Encl. 1-List of Attendees, Encl. 2-Transcript of the FNP Scoping Meeting (Corrected) - Afternoon and Encl. 3:Transcript of FNP Scoping Meeting (Corrected) - Evening:
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3. Pkg (Meeting Summary w/encls.): **ML040370581**

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|--------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| OFFICE | RLEP:DRIP:PM | RLEP:DRIP:LA | RLEP:DRIP:SC |
| NAME | J. Cushing | Y. Edmonds | J. Tappert (D.Wheeler for) |
| DATE | 02/5/04 | 02/5/04 | 02/5/04 |

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DISTRIBUTION: Summary of Public Meeting Re: JMFarley, Dated: February 5, 2004

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RLEP/Environmental R/F

E-Mail

F. Cameron

OPA

RidsOgcMailCenter

ACRS/ACNW

M. Kotzalas

B. Sheron

W. Borchardt

D. Matthews/F. Gillespie

J. Tappert

P.T.Kuo

J. Davis

J. Cushing

T. Liu

F. Rinaldi

RIDSRgn2MailCenter

T. Johnson, RII

K. Clark, RII

C. Patterson, RII

B. Bonser, RII

C. Quinley (LLNL)

RidsNrrAdpt

T. Combs, OCA

LIST OF ATTENDEES
JOSEPH M. FARLEY PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING
January 8, 2004

NRC AND CONTRACTORS

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Affiliation</u> |
|-----------------|---|
| Chip Cameron | NRC |
| Jack Cushing | NRC |
| Jennifer Davis | NRC |
| Leslie Fields | NRC |
| Jim Wilson | NRC |
| David Cummings | NRC |
| John Tappert | NRC |
| Melanie Wong | NRC |
| Adrienne Lester | NRC |
| Crystal Quinley | Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) |
| Allyn Pratt | LLNL |
| Jeff Stewart | LLNL |
| Paul Schumann | Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) |
| Tony Ladino | LANL |

APPLICANT AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Affiliation</u> |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mike Stinson | Southern Nuclear Corporation (SNC) |
| Don Grissette | SNC |
| Jim Davis | SNC |
| Walter Lee | SNC |
| Charles Pierce | SNC |
| Mike Macfarlane | SNC |
| Jan Fridrichsen | SNC |
| James Herschel Davis | SNC |
| Jon Hornbuckle | SNC |
| Amy Greene | SNC |
| Regina T. Waller | SNC |
| Don Gilbert | SNC |
| W.J. Johnson, Jr. | SNC |
| William E. Daniel | SNC, Vogtle |
| Beth Thomas | SNC |
| Dwight Hostetter | SNC |
| Bob Vanderbee | SNC |
| Kimberly Armstrong | SNC |
| Cheri Collins | SNC |
| Charlie Nesbitt | SNC |
| Brad Moore | SNC |
| Bob Hendrix | Executive Director Dothan Area CUB |

LIST OF ATTENDEES (Cont.)
JOSEPH M. FARLEY PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING
January 8, 2004

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Affiliation</u> |
|-------------------|---|
| Walter Hill | CEO, Wiregrass United Way |
| Jack Manley | City of Headland |
| Matt Parker | Dothan Area Chamber |
| Mark Culver | Houston County Commission |
| Kaye Barbaree | Houston County |
| Steve Turkoski | Dothan Area Chamber |
| Jim Cook | Dothan Eagle (Newspaper) |
| Diane Geeslin | Dothan resident |
| Mike Schmitz | Dothan resident |
| Fran Taylor | Resident |
| Chadwick Taylor | Resident |
| Sam Guerrero | Alabama Emergency Management |
| Frank Price | Alabama Emergency Management |
| Steven Kornegay | Local businessman |
| Seldon Bailey | Dothan Resident |
| Clark Mautews | Dothan/Houston County EMA |
| Charles Finney | Houston County EMA |
| Shelby Womack | EMA |
| Paul Brown | Henry County EMA |
| Chris Dupree | Communications provider |
| James Etheridge | GRACHBA |
| John Carlon | Electric Utility |
| David Hendrix | City of Dothan |
| James H. Phillips | Chattahoochee Riverkeeper |
| Barbara Alford | Troy State University, Dothan |
| Cindy Huff | Participant, SNC Teacher-in-Residence Program |
| Jack Kale | SNC employee, concerned citizen |
| Steve Mashburn | Troy State University, Dothan |
| Tim Pritchard | Principal, Houston County High School |
| Rebecca Martin | Tri Rivers Association |
| Michele Buck | Dothan resident |
| Clifton Buck | Farley Nuclear Plant employee |
| Brannon Payne | Employee |
| Lana Smitherman | City of Dothan |
| Beverly Lisenby | Dothan Resident |
| John Hornsby | AL Department of Conservation |
| Mandy Ludlam | Farley Nuclear Plant employee |
| Clint Ludlam | Dothan resident |
| Rich Lopez | Unknown |
| Dave Lisenby | SNC employee |
| Linda Brannon | Alabama Power Company employee (SNC) |

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant

cc:

Mr. Don E. Grissette
General Manager - Plant Farley
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Post Office Box 470
Ashford, AL 36312

Mr. B. D. McKinney
Licensing Manager
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
40 Inverness Center Parkway
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

Mr. Stanford M. Blanton, esq.
Balch and Bingham Law Firm
Post Office Box 306
1710 Sixth Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35201

Mr. J. B. Beasley, Jr.
Executive Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
40 Inverness Center Parkway
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201

Dr. D. E. Williamson
State Health Officer
Alabama Department of Public Health
The RSA Tower
201 Monroe Street, Suite 1500
Montgomery, AL 36130-1701

Chairman
Houston County Commission
Post Office Box 6406
Dothan, AL 36302

Mr. William D. Oldfield
SAER Supervisor
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Post Office Box 470
Ashford, AL 36312

Mr. Charles R. Pierce
Manager - License Renewal
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
40 Inverness Center Parkway
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201

Mr. Fred Emerson
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
7388 N. State Highway 95
Columbia, AL 36319

Mr. L. M. Stinson, Jr.
Vice President - Farley Project
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
40 Inverness Center Parkway
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201

Enclosure 1

ENCLOSURE 2
CORRECTED
AFTERNOON TRANSCRIPT

Enclosure 1

1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
2 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
3
4
5

6 A PUBLIC MEETING
7 TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS FOR
8 JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT RENEWAL APPLICATION
9

10 CORRECTED TRANSCRIPT
11
12
13
14

15 MEETING ROOM
16 QUALITY INN
17 3053 ROSS CLARK CIRCLE
18 DOTHAN, ALABAMA
19 Thursday, January 8, 2004
20 1:30 p.m.
21
22

23 F. CAMERON, Facilitator

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1 Nuclear Operating Company for Plant Farley. And we'll answer any questions
2 that you have about that process.

3 Specifically, we want to talk to you about the environmental review part of
4 the process, and this is what's called a scoping meeting where the NRC is
5 looking for comments, recommendations, suggestions on what the scope of its
6 environmental review should be on this license renewal application.

7 That ties into the second part of the meeting which is an opportunity for
8 those of you who wish to, to give us some more formal comments on the scope
9 of the environmental review issues. We have several people who already have
10 signed up to speak and if you haven't signed up and you do want to speak during
11 that part of the meeting, just let me know. It's not critical that you sign up in
12 advance, but we just want to know how many people do want to speak, so we
13 can factor that into the planning for the meeting.

14 We are going to take written comments on the scoping, environmental
15 scoping issues and the staff is going to tell you more about that. You may hear
16 things today from those in the audience, from the NRC, that will either stimulate
17 you to submit a written comment or give you more information that you can use
18 in submitting a written comment, but I want to emphasize that anything that you
19 tell us today, that will carry the same weight as any written comments that we
20 receive. We are taking a transcript of the meeting, Bill Warren is our
21 stenographer today, and any remarks you make will be on the record and that

1 transcript will be available to anybody who requests a copy and also I believe it
2 will be posted on the NRC's website, if you want to take a look at it there.

3 In terms of ground rules, they're real simple. If you have a question when
4 we get to that part of the program, just signal me and I'll bring you this cordless
5 microphone. Please tell us your name and affiliation, if appropriate, and ask
6 your question. We'll do the best that we can to answer it. We have
7 representatives from various parts of the NRC staff here today, including our
8 regional office and also we have a group of expert scientists who we're using to
9 help us do the environmental evaluation, and they're with us also.

10 I would just ask that one person at a time speak so that obviously we can
11 give our attention to whomever has the floor, the microphone, at the moment.
12 But also so that our stenographer can get a clean transcript and we know who
13 was saying what at any particular time.

14 I would also ask you to exercise some brevity in your remarks. I don't
15 think that we're going to have any problems with time today, but I do want to
16 make sure that anybody who wants to talk gets an opportunity to talk. So if we
17 all are brief and concise, that'll help us to achieve that particular goal.

18 When we get to the formal comment part of the meeting, most of the time
19 people come up to the front to talk. You don't have to do that. If you'd feel more
20 comfortable in your seat, I'll bring you this microphone, but I'm asking that you all

1 follow a five-minute guideline in terms of your formal remarks. And it is a
2 guideline, but just try to be in that five-minute range.

3 In terms of our agenda, today, we are going to start off with a formal
4 welcome from Mr. John Tappert, who is right over here. John is the Chief of the
5 Environmental Impact Section in our Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. And
6 the people who oversee the preparation of the environmental review, not only for
7 Plant Farley, but for any licensing action that requires an environmental review
8 for a reactor, be it license renewal, early site permits, whatever; John's staff are
9 the people who do that. I want to give you a little bit more information on who
10 will be talking to you tonight, in terms of their background.

11 John has been with the agency for approximately 11 years at this point I
12 believe. And he came to us with a background in the nuclear Navy. Before he
13 assumed the position he has now, he was a resident inspector. These are the
14 NRC staff who are located at a reactor site to make sure that NRC regulations
15 are complied with. And he has a Bachelor's degree in aeronautical and ocean
16 engineering from Virginia Tech and a Master's degree in environmental
17 engineering from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

18 John is going to do a brief welcome and set up our next presentations and
19 we're then going to go to Ms. Tilda Liu, who is right here.

20 Tilda is going to talk to you about the overview of the entire license
21 renewal process and you'll see what the components are there in addition to the

1 environmental part of that process. Tilda is the project manager for performing
2 the safety evaluation on the Plant Farley license renewal application. She's
3 been with the NRC for about 10 years. She has prior experience working --
4 actually working with a utility that operated a nuclear reactor, I believe. And she
5 has a Bachelor's in electrical engineering from Georgia Tech and a Master's in
6 technical management from Johns Hopkins University again.

7 We'll then go to focus in on the subject of tonight's meeting, which is the
8 environmental review process and we have Mr. Jack Cushing here to talk to you
9 about that. Jack is the project manager for the environmental review of the Plant
10 Farley license renewal application. He's been with the NRC for five years. He
11 also worked for a nuclear utility, and in fact is a licensed reactor operator. These
12 are the people who actually operate the nuclear power plants and they are
13 subject to licensing by the NRC. And Jack performed that function. He has a
14 Bachelor's degree in marine engineering from the Massachusetts Maritime
15 Academy. Right?

16 MR. CUSHING: Right.

17 MR. CAMERON: All of the people I introduced to you work for the Office
18 of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

19 After these three brief presentations, we'll go out to you for any questions
20 that you have on license renewal and after that, we'll get into the formal
21 comment part of the meeting.

1 I just want to thank you all for showing the interest in this particular subject
2 and for being here today. It's one data point on a spectrum of public involvement
3 for this license renewal application. We'll be back here again to talk to you, but
4 you will have the contact information for Jack Cushing and others, and if you do
5 have questions, concerns, please call, e-mail.

6 With that, I'm going to turn it over to John Tappert to do the welcome for
7 us. John.

8 MR. TAPPERT: Thank you, Chip and good afternoon, everyone, and
9 welcome.

10 As Chip said, my name is John Tappert and on behalf of the Nuclear
11 Regulatory Commission, I'd like to thank everyone for coming out today and
12 participating in this process.

13 I hope that the information that we will share with you today will be helpful,
14 and we look forward to receiving your comments, both today and in the future.

15 I'd like to first briefly go over the purposes of today's meeting and the
16 agenda. First of all, we want to give you a brief overview of the entire license
17 renewal process. This includes both a safety review as well as the
18 environmental review, which is the principal focus of today's meeting. Then we'll
19 give you some more details about how we will perform that environmental
20 review, which will assess the environmental impacts associated with extending
21 the operating licenses of the Farley Nuclear Power Plant for an additional 20

1 years. Then we'll give you some information about our schedule and how you
2 can submit comments in the future. And then really the heart of today's meeting,
3 which is to receive any comments that you may have today on the scope of our
4 environmental review.

5 But first, some quick comments on the license renewal process itself.

6 The Atomic Energy Act gives the NRC the authority to issue operating
7 licenses to commercial nuclear power plants for a period of 40 years. For Farley
8 Units 1 and 2, those operating licenses will expire in 2017 and 2021 respectively.
9 Now our regulations also make provisions for extending those operating licenses
10 for an additional 20 years and Southern Nuclear has requested license renewal
11 for both plants.

12 As part of the NRC's review of those applications, we will be developing
13 an environmental impact statement. Right now, we're in the early stages of that
14 in what we call scoping, where we seek to identify those issues which will require
15 the greatest focus during our review. These public meetings here today are an
16 important part of that scoping process.

17 After the NRC develops our preliminary assessment, we will publish a
18 draft environmental impact statement and return again for additional public
19 meetings to seek comment on those drafts.

20 So again to reiterate, the purpose of today's meeting is to receive your
21 comments on the scope of our review.

1 And with that brief introduction, I'd like to ask Tilda to give us some
2 information about the safety review.

3 MS. LIU: Thank you, John.

4 As John mentioned, my name is Tilda Liu and I'm the NRC Safety Review
5 Project Manager for the Farley License Renewal application.

6 Before I get in the discussion of the license renewal process, I'd like to
7 take a moment to talk about the NRC -- the Nuclear Regulatory Commission -- in
8 terms of what we do and what our mission is.

9 The NRC's mission is really three-fold. One is to ensure adequate
10 protection of public health and safety; two is to protect the environment and
11 three, provide for common defense and security.

12 The NRC accomplishes its mission through a combination of regulatory
13 programs and processes such as inspections, enforcement actions,
14 assessments of licensee performance and evaluation of operator experience in
15 nuclear plants across the country.

16 The NRC's license renewal process is similar to the original licensing
17 process in that it involves two parts -- a safety review and an environmental
18 review.

19 What does the safety review consider? There are two types of safety
20 issues. One is current operating issues, which are dealt with in the current

1 licensing phase; and aging management issues that are dealt with in license
2 renewal phase.

3 The NRC's regulatory oversight under the current operating license deals
4 with current safety issues. We do not wait for a plant to come in for a license
5 renewal before requiring them to address these issues. Because the NRC has
6 or is dealing with those issues, such as security and emergency planning, we do
7 not re-evaluate them in the license renewal.

8 The safety review is focused on aging management issues and the
9 applicant's aging management program to maintain the plant and equipment
10 during the period of extended operation. The safety evaluation report is
11 independently reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards or
12 commonly referred to as the ACRS.

13 The ACRS is a group of academic and industry experts reporting directly
14 to the NRC Commission, separately and independently from the NRC staff.

15 The environmental review evaluates the impact of license renewal on a
16 number of areas. These areas include, among others: ecology, hydrology,
17 cultural resources and socio-economic issues. Part of the environmental review
18 is the scoping process. The scoping process is where we define issues and ask
19 the public to provide comments on the environmental issues. Today's meeting is
20 part of the scoping process. In the next slide we will discuss the license renewal
21 process.

1 How does this all come together? This slide gives a big picture overview
2 of the license renewal process and, as you can see from the slide, the process
3 involves two parallel paths -- one being the safety review, the other, the
4 environmental review.

5 The safety review involves the NRC staff's review and assessment of
6 technical information that's contained in the applicant's license renewal
7 application. We have a team of more than 30 NRC technical reviewers and
8 contractors back at the NRC headquarters office in Washington, who are
9 currently conducting the safety review. Therefore, there's a lot of expertise in our
10 team to conduct the safety review.

11 The safety review is focused on the effectiveness of the proposed aging
12 management programs that are contained in the license renewal application.
13 The NRC reviews the effectiveness of the proposed aging management program
14 to ensure that the plant's safety can be maintained throughout the period of
15 extended operation; i.e., going from 40 to 60 years.

16 The safety review process also involves on-site audits and inspections.
17 These audits and inspections are conducted by a team of auditors and
18 inspectors pulled together from both NRC headquarters as well as the NRC
19 regional office. The results of the audit and inspections will be documented in
20 separate reports and the results of the safety review will be documented in a
21 safety evaluation report. We commonly refer to them as the SER. And a copy

1 of this will be provided to the ACRS -- again, ACRS stands for Advisory
2 Committee on Reactor Safeguards -- for an independent evaluation.

3 The second part of the license renewal process involves the
4 environmental review and that involves the scoping activities which this meeting
5 is a part of. It also involves developing a draft supplement to the generic
6 environmental impact statement which we will then publish for comment.

7 Eventually, we will be issuing a final supplement to the generic
8 environmental impact statement which will address comments we received on
9 the draft.

10 So, as you can see from the slide, the final agency decision of whether to
11 approve or deny the application will factor in a number of items -- one, the safety
12 evaluation report, which documents the results of the safety review; the final
13 supplement to the generic environmental impact statement, which documents
14 the results of the environmental review; audit report and inspection report and
15 the independent report from the ACRS -- all of which will be factored into the
16 final agency decision.

17 The slash marks on the slide indicate opportunities for public participation.
18 The first opportunity is during the scoping process, which this meeting is a part
19 of. In the scoping process, we determine the relevant issues that need to be
20 addressed during the environmental review. The next opportunity during the
21 environmental review is when we request comments on our draft environmental

1 impact statement. As you can also see from the slide, hearing is another forum
2 that provides opportunity of public participation. In the case of Farley, there were
3 no petitions filed; therefore, no hearing will be held. Provisions, however, do
4 exist in the regulation to file late contentions and request for hearing if needed.

5 Currently, the Farley license renewal process is 22 months. At the end of
6 that time, which is around July 2005, the agency will be making a decision on
7 whether the license will be renewed on Farley.

8 This concludes my presentation this afternoon. Thank you very much for
9 your attention.

10 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Tilda.

11 MR. CUSHING: My name is Jack Cushing and I'm the environmental
12 project manager for the Farley License Renewal review. I'm responsible for
13 coordinating the efforts of the NRC staff and our experts from the National
14 Laboratory in preparing an environmental impact statement associated with
15 license renewal.

16 Now this slide explains why we do an environmental impact statement.
17 The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 requires that federal agencies
18 follow a systematic evaluation for determining the potential environmental
19 impacts associated with certain actions. We're required to consider the impacts
20 of the proposed action and also any mitigations for those impacts that we may
21 consider to be significant.

1 We're also required to consider alternatives to the proposed action. In the
2 case of license renewal, one alternative we do consider is what we call the no-
3 action alternative. If we do not renew the license, what would be the
4 environmental impacts.

5 The National Environmental Policy Act and our environmental impact
6 statement are disclosure tools. The purpose of that is structured to invite public
7 participation and to facilitate that, we conduct a scoping process. The purpose
8 of the scoping process is to identify the significant issues to be analyzed in-depth
9 and to eliminate peripheral issues.

10 We are now gathering information for the EIS and are here to collect the
11 public's comments on the scope of the review. What special issues should the
12 staff consider for the proposed renewal of the Farley Nuclear Plant?

13 When we started doing license renewal we developed a generic
14 environmental impact statement. The generic environmental impact statement
15 evaluated the environmental impacts across the nuclear plants and we
16 determined that there were a number of common issues and we're
17 supplementing that generic environmental impact statement with a plant-specific
18 evaluation. We call that a supplemental environmental impact statement.

19 The staff will also evaluate whether there's any new and significant
20 information associated with our generic environmental impact statement that
21 would require us to re-evaluate those issues.

1 This is our decision standard for the environmental review. It looks like it
2 was written by a lawyer but it's to determine whether or not the adverse
3 environmental impacts of license renewal for the Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1
4 and 2 are so great that preserving the option of license renewal for the energy
5 planning decision makers would be unreasonable. What that means in plain
6 English is in the environmental impact statement, we determine if license
7 renewal acceptable from an environmental standpoint, should the option be
8 preserved.

9 This slide expands on the lower part of the slide that Tilda had up a few
10 moments ago and gives the environmental review process in greater detail. On
11 December 5, 2003, we issued a Federal Register notice and also put the
12 information out on our website that we planned to conduct a scoping process
13 and develop an environmental impact statement. And this started the 60-day
14 clock defined as the scoping period. We're more or less in the middle of that
15 period right now.

16 This meeting is part of the scoping process and, as John said earlier, it's
17 to receive your comments on the significant issues. This meeting is a big part
18 of it. As you see, it's one of the areas where the public can participate.

19 We also visited the site yesterday and conducted a site audit with a team
20 of experts.

1 Our next step is to determine if we need additional information to
2 complete the review. If we do, we will be issuing requests for additional
3 information to the applicant by February 25, 2004 and that request for
4 information will be publicly available on our website as well.

5 We will then gather the information and develop our draft supplemental
6 environmental impact statement and that draft has a preliminary conclusion. We
7 expect to issue that in the August time frame and we'll be back here in
8 September for another public meeting to receive your comments on the draft
9 supplemental environmental impact statement.

10 After we receive your comments on our draft, we will evaluate those
11 comments, modify the draft as necessary and then issue a final environmental
12 impact statement in March.

13 This slide explains in more detail our information gathering process that
14 feeds into our draft supplemental environmental impact statement. We receive
15 our information from the license renewal application which is on our website,
16 from the site audit we conducted, we contact state and local agencies, we
17 conduct public meetings with the public to receive your comments and we also
18 contact various social service agencies.

19 Now our team is made up of a number of experts from the NRC and from
20 the national laboratories.

1 This slide shows the areas that we evaluate. One of the areas is socio-
2 economics and environmental justice. Socio-economics is based on an
3 evaluation of what are the social and economic impacts of the plant on the local
4 area and environmental justice is a determination of are there any
5 disproportionate impacts on minority or low income groups. We also evaluate
6 the ecology, archeological, cultural resources and all that information gets pulled
7 together into our draft environmental impact statement.

8 I want to recap with a couple of key milestones. We're in the middle of
9 the scoping period, it expires on February 6, 2004 and this is the period where
10 you can submit comments that we'll evaluate in our draft environmental impact
11 statement. We plan to issue the draft environmental impact statement in August
12 2004 and we'll back out here in September to receive your comments on our
13 draft. Then we'll issue our final supplemental environmental impact statement in
14 March of 2005.

15 Now this slide provides you information if you want to contact me and
16 discuss anything with me. You can reach me at the phone number shown. We
17 also have the documents available in the local library, the Houston Memorial
18 Library and the Lucy Maddox Memorial Library. You can also view all our
19 documents on www.nrc.gov. If there's any -- if you have any problems accessing
20 that site, please let me -- call me and I will navigate you through it.

1 Now written comments -- in addition to this meeting, we're transcribing this
2 meeting and we will capture any comments people may make at this meeting but
3 in addition to this meeting, you can submit comments in writing at the address
4 shown. If you happen to be in Rockville, Maryland -- that may be unlikely, but in
5 case you do, you can stop in and drop it off at the NRC headquarters. And I've
6 also set up an e-mail address. It's FarleyEIS@nrc.gov, and you can e-mail me
7 any comments that you may have, if you think of them after the meeting.

8 Now if there's any questions or --

9 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Jack, Tilda, John.

10 You've just heard an overview of the process. Are there any questions
11 that anyone has that we can answer about the process at all?

12 Yes, sir. And could you just give us your name, please.

13 MR. TAYLOR: My name is Chad Taylor, I'm from Marianna, Florida.

14 If you sign the card out front to receive information and check the little
15 box, what are we going to get in the mail? Will we get any of these draft
16 documents as a part of the process or do those need to be specifically
17 requested?

18 MR. CUSHING: No, if you sign the -- check the card there, you'll be put
19 on our mailing list, so if you are interested, make sure you check the card and
20 you'll be put on the mailing address and you'll receive our draft environmental
21 impact statement and, you know, at the end, our final as well.

1 MR. CAMERON: And will people get the transcript?

2 MR. CUSHING: You will also get a transcript of the meeting.

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

4 MR. TAYLOR: (Nods head.)

5 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Further questions? Jim, do you have anything at
6 this point?

7 MR. PHILLIPS: Thank you. I'm Jim Phillips, I am from Columbus,
8 Georgia, I'm with the Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, and thank you for
9 accommodating me, Chip. I'm going to have to exit soon, but as probably most
10 of you in the region know, this Chattahoochee River is a precious resource for
11 not only this corner of southeast Alabama, but for all of southwest Georgia and
12 points upstream including Atlanta, Georgia which is a part of the stress on the
13 river. This river is a blue collar river, I call it, because there's so much
14 dependence on it up and down the some 400 miles as it makes its way from the
15 mountains of Georgia to the ocean at Apalachicola. And because of that stress,
16 we have the environmental concerns about the river, one of which is thermal
17 history in terms of any releases to the river.

18 I've discussed with some of the representatives here earlier some of our
19 questions about thermal releases and I'm confident that I'm going to get the data
20 that is needed to answer any questions about the history of the plant. So that's
21 one of our concerns.

1 The other is more logistics and that relates to the fact that this river is one
2 of the arteries that's vital for Plant Farley, not only do you have connections via
3 rail and highway but you've also got river connections. And river connections, of
4 course, can be important as regards incoming materials or incoming equipment,
5 and the scheduling of access to the plant is problematic only because the
6 Apalachicola River south of us is severely stressed in the sense of its depth, it's
7 hard to get up and down this river with barges. And so we hope that whatever is
8 done here will have reflection of some of those realities on the river as regards
9 navigation; in other words, access of the plant for equipment, supplies, whatever
10 may be needed for the plant.

11 Those are my comments and thank you for the opportunity.

12 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you very much, Jim.

13 Other questions at this point?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you and we will move into the more
16 formal comment period. And Jim, your comments are on the record, even
17 though they were in the question part, so don't be concerned about that.

18 Yes, sir, we do have another question. And if you could just tell us your
19 name, sir.

1 MR. BAILEY: Seldon Bailey. I came to Dothan about 1948 -- Jim
2 Woodruff and some of the others in development of this river, I followed and
3 knew them well.

4 At the time the nuclear plant was being proposed here, I was the
5 chairman -- the secretary-treasurer or the industrial development board of the
6 City of Dothan. Joe Farley came down and some of the others, Red Blount,
7 were looking at the area, and at that time, the dam at Columbia was probably still
8 under construction. The water flow sometimes there went down and you could
9 walk across the river.

10 Since that time, the dam has been built and controlled such as they are,
11 the flow of the river I think has been pretty consistent. Of course at Blountstown,
12 it probably gets down to two feet sometimes and there's some problems there. If
13 they go back to the channel that they had there prior to the War Between the
14 States, they would have a river that would flow again. But they blocked that
15 channel at one time to keep the yankees from coming up it and causing some
16 damage up here.

17 My point is this -- I'm interested in this, I've seen it from the very beginning
18 and I have fished that river and I've eaten fish out of that river and I think the flow
19 of the river below the dam and across from the Cedar Springs paper mill there --
20 I think the paper mill is being run just as well and just like Farley, but at that time
21 I'm positive that they promised that the water that went back into the river would

1 be of the same temperature and would not disturb that water. And I have not
2 heard any fishermen's complaints over this period of time. Now I have not been
3 on that river fishing below the Farley Plant perhaps in the last 20 years, but
4 fishing still goes on over there and I don't know that there's been any discharge
5 there of any consequence at all that stopped anybody from putting their boats in
6 down at Gordon. Thank you.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you for that history and local information, Seldon.

8 I'm going to start off the formal comment part of the meeting with some
9 local officials who are with us and then go to some officials from Southern
10 Nuclear Operating Company to talk to us a little bit about their vision and
11 rationale for applying for a license renewal extension.

12 I'd like Mr. Culver, Mark Culver, he's the Chair of the Houston County
13 Commission, to come up and talk to us.

14 MR. CULVER: You know, you give a politician a podium, five minutes
15 won't be enough. So I'll do the best I can.

16 My name is Mark Culver and I am Chairman of the Houston County
17 Commission. I've served on the Commission for 17 years, a very pleasurable 17
18 years. I am a full time elected official, it's my full time job to represent Houston
19 County and its citizens and I appreciate the opportunity to come today and
20 speak.

1 Our Commission has adopted a resolution and passed and sent forward a
2 resolution in support of the relicensing. We feel very strongly on behalf of the
3 community and its citizens that this needs to take place and move forward, not
4 only of that, but one day down the road, I've got plans to add another generator
5 and do some additional things. I haven't let y'all know that yet, but --

6 I want to talk about a couple of things. I think when you talk about an
7 environmental impact, there is the natural environment that all of us think about -
8 - the water -- but there's also a human environment and the impact that the
9 human portion of this plant has on our community.

10 My contacts have been in a couple of areas. One, they've been a very
11 vital partner with Houston County. Houston County, through our EMA office, and
12 our EMA staff is here today, is an integral part of the safety plan for Farley. In
13 return, Farley has been a tremendous asset to us and our EMA office. We've
14 got a partnership second to none and we thank Southern Nuclear and Farley for
15 doing that.

16 From the community input or aspect of it -- I'm not going to speak too
17 much about this, but Farley is by far the largest taxpayer in our county. You said
18 this decision was going to be made in -- what did you say, February of 2005?
19 That's about the time I'll decide if I'm going to seek re-election because if it's not
20 relicensed, I don't want to be Chairman of the County Commission. It's that
21 important to us -- a tremendous portion of our budget and we thank Farley and

1 Southern Nuclear and Alabama Power for the millions of dollars that they put into
2 our economy and tax base.

3 But that's just a small part of it. That goes to government so that we can
4 provide services, but that's just a small part of it. They are a tremendous
5 corporate citizen out there, they're involved in many activities in our community --
6 the Chamber of Commerce, we have representatives here from the Chamber. I
7 know every year we have what's called a Houston County Spirit of Service Day
8 and Plant Farley is always involved in that and is always working with the art
9 museum to help them, and I could go on and on. They're members of Rotary
10 Club and Kiwanis Club and various organizations and vital people in our
11 churches. I see some church member friends of mine here. But the corporate
12 citizen portion that they play is extremely important.

13 Their employees do two things for us. One, they are also involved in the
14 community, but they really help sustain our county. We just were notified that we
15 are the -- our tax base this year, our sales tax increases are up eight percent
16 over last year. Well, you know, we have a lot of in-shopping, but a lot of it is
17 because of people like the employees that we have at Farley that are
18 tremendous community citizens, that live here and stay here and raise families
19 here. And that's important to us.

20 In addition, Farley impacts the community in out-sourcing. I know Mark
21 Sellers, for example, one friend of mine, that has a company here in town that

1 works directly with Farley, and there are many, many, many other organizations
2 that feed off of Farley, although they're not actually working with the Nuclear
3 Regulatory Commission or with Southern Nuclear.

4 So all those things very briefly are extremely important to us, not just the
5 tax dollars, but the impact that the good people that work out there have.

6 Now from the natural resources, we have had a very positive experience
7 with Farley. Just north of the plant, the county owns a park that's open to
8 children and families and people come in and out with boats and we have never
9 had one incident there of anybody complaining about anything environmentally.
10 Just below Farley, there's another one, the Gordon boat landing, I think Seldon
11 mentioned. Never had any issues there other than flooding occasionally and that
12 wasn't Farley's fault.

13 So I say to you both from a human aspect and from an environmental
14 natural aspect, Farley is an asset to our community. I say many times in
15 speaking engagements that we're extremely blessed in Houston County to have
16 the things we do and we hope you'll see fit to let Farley continue to be part of
17 that blessing.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Chairman Culver.

20 Maybe we should tell people, clarify what the date is, if we haven't
21 already, for not when the final environmental impact statement is ready, but

1 when the safety evaluation report will be done and a decision made on this
2 license renewal application. I don't know if we put that on the record, but Tilda,
3 could you tell us that?

4 MS. LIU: Yes. There will be a draft safety evaluation report and that will
5 be ready October 15 of this year. And the final decision of whether the license
6 will be renewed will be July 15 of 2005.

7 MR. CAMERON: Okay, July 15, 2005 will be when the NRC is going to
8 make a decision on this.

9 MS. LIU: Correct.

10 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Tilda.

11 Mr. Manley, Jack Manley, from the City of Headland.

12 MR. MANLEY: Thank you, Mr. Cameron.

13 Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, I'm Jack Manley, I'm the City
14 Administrator for Headland, Alabama. Headland is a small community about six
15 miles north of Dothan. We also lie about the same distance west of the Farley
16 plant as the City of Dothan does, and on behalf of the Mayor and the governing
17 body of Headland, we want to encourage the NRC to renew the license for
18 Farley Plants 1 and 2.

19 I could repeat a lot of what Mr. Culver covered in the civic involvement of
20 the employees, they're just too numerous to name, but I would like to talk from a
21 country point of view from a small town city manager who grew up in a country

1 town in east Alabama, that we have hardly any concern in the City of Headland
2 on anything environmentally adverse effects from the Farley Plant. We have a
3 lot of farming in Henry County, which is just across the county line. I think there's
4 more concern about what's in the fertilizer and the defoliants for the peanuts and
5 the cotton than there is the Farley Plant.

6 I could relate to Mr. Seldon earlier. I grew up on the Chattahoochee River
7 in Chambers County, and I was more concerned about the fish that I ate 90
8 miles out of Atlanta than I would be south of the Farley plant -- a lot more
9 pollution I believe than you would ever believe right below Lake West Point and
10 West Point Dam.

11 We do enjoy the Farley employees in our city, they serve in many
12 capacities, from our civic boards to our city commissions, our city planning
13 commission, our city board of adjustment. We find that the Farley employees
14 are not only family oriented, church oriented, but they're also community
15 oriented. I've met many of them in my four years in Headland that live in
16 Headland and it has always amazed me at the knowledge they have, if you ask a
17 question, as a layman. I'm not a scientist, I'm not an environmental expert, but a
18 simple question that I would have as a citizen. They're very knowledgeable of
19 their job and where they work and the safe environment they provide.

20 The economic impact of the Farley plant, there's no doubt is tremendous
21 in the Wiregrass or the state.

1 We want to thank the NRC, the staff of the NRC and we feel like as
2 country folks in Headland, with the expertise that I've heard mentioned today, the
3 degrees and the expertise of NRC and of the people we know at Farley, with the
4 educational expertise we have, we feel really safe in a small town, being that
5 close to a nuclear plant and we just want to encourage the NRC to please renew
6 this license.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Mr. Manley.

9 Next, I'd like to go to the officials from the Southern Nuclear Operating
10 Company. First of all, Mr. Mike Stinson, who is the Vice President for the Farley
11 project. Mike.

12 MR. STINSON: Good afternoon. My name is Mike Stinson, I am the Vice
13 President of the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant and I appreciate the opportunity
14 to speak with you and our neighbors today.

15 I'm going to share with you some general information about Plant Farley,
16 and then following me, Don Grissette, the General Manager of Plant Farley, will
17 discuss our environmental commitment. We believe this information will help
18 demonstrate why we chose to seek license renewal for Plant Farley.

19 Our history of safe and reliable operation, our strong environmental
20 commitment, our reputation as a good neighbor and the potential for this to

1 continue through the extended 20 year license period makes Plant Farley a
2 strong candidate for license renewal.

3 I want to begin by giving you a little information about myself. I've been
4 with the Southern Company more than 30 years. Most of this time, I've spent
5 here at Plant Farley in Dothan. As a matter of fact, my wife and I raised our
6 family here and we just moved to Birmingham in 2002 when a promotion took me
7 to our corporate offices. So I have a strong personal conviction in Plant Farley's
8 safety, reliability and environmental commitment, and to the dedication of our
9 900+ employees here.

10 While here at Farley, I held various positions of responsibility, starting
11 there in 1972 during the construction phase. Held the position of quality
12 assurance engineer-construction, startup test engineer, startup supervisor,
13 systems performance supervisor, plant modifications and maintenance support
14 supervisor and manager, assistant general manager of both plant support and
15 operations and general manager of the plant. Before becoming Vice President, I
16 was General Manager of Nuclear Support in our corporate office in Birmingham.

17 I share this with you because I wanted to give you some perspective of my
18 experience in the nuclear industry. I believe this experience has given me the
19 knowledge and insight to stand before you today and say with the highest of
20 confidence that Plant Farley can safely and reliably continue to serve the people
21 of Alabama for an additional 20 years beyond its original license.

1 Plant Farley is a two-unit plant located on the Chattahoochee River in
2 Houston County. Each unit is capable of generating approximately 888
3 megawatts for a total combined capacity of 1776 megawatts. The plant is
4 powered by Westinghouse pressurized water reactors. Over the years, Plant
5 Farley has demonstrated high levels of safety and reliability. It serves as an
6 economical source of electric generation for the people of Alabama.

7 As you're aware, Plant Farley is owned by Alabama Power Company and
8 operated by Southern Nuclear, which is the licensee. Both companies are
9 subsidiaries of Atlanta-based Southern Company. As a matter of fact, Plant
10 Farley provides about 20 percent of Alabama Power's electricity. Since
11 commercial operation of the first unit began in 1977, Plant Farley has generated
12 more than 232 billion kilowatts of electricity for the people of Alabama. That's
13 enough generation to supply every Alabama residential customer with electricity
14 for 14 years. This makes Plant Farley a vital economic engine for all
15 Alabamians, providing safe, reliable and low-cost electricity to the state's homes,
16 businesses, hospitals, schools and factories. That's one key reason we believe
17 license renewal is appropriate for Farley. Extending the plant's license for 20
18 years means that we can get the most out of our investment along with the
19 ratepayers of the State of Alabama.

20 Plant Farley was originally granted license to operate Unit 1 until 2017 and
21 Unit 2 until 2021. Further, the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 granted nuclear

1 licensees the opportunity to apply for license renewal at some point later in the
2 life of Farley Nuclear Plant. For the past 27 years, our employees have worked
3 hard to sustain the continued operation of both Farley units well beyond their
4 initial 40 years of operation, through their dedication to the highest maintenance
5 and safety standards. Their extraordinary commitment has made Plant Farley
6 one of the most reliable and efficient nuclear plants in the industry.

7 In 2000, Plant Farley employees set a record by working seven million
8 work hours without a lost time accident. I believe this is just one statistic that
9 demonstrates our employees' professionalism and their focus on operating our
10 plant safely. No other generating plant owned by Alabama Power has achieved
11 such a milestone. And Plant Farley's employees have also gained recognition
12 from a variety of industry organizations for their outstanding performance.

13 Plant Farley and its employees have been good neighbors in Dothan,
14 Houston County and the surrounding towns and communities for nearly 30
15 years. And we hope to continue being good neighbors for many years to come.

16 We're a strong contributor to educating the state's children. Our
17 community outreach programs reach about 10,000 children each year. The
18 Alabama Science Teachers Association recognized the excellence of Plant
19 Farley's educational programs when it presented the plant the organization's
20 inaugural industry partnership award. The award was given in recognition of the

1 plant's teacher-in-residence program, its certified nuclear science educator
2 workshop and overall support of science.

3 Further, our employees are involved in a variety of community service
4 activities in our surrounding communities. They are much too numerous to name
5 all of them, but they include Wiregrass United Way, Wiregrass Habitat for
6 Humanity, American Red Cross, American Cancer Society and March of Dimes.
7 Our employees have worked with about 20 local elementary schools on Read
8 Across America Day and we've supported the Dothan Area Chamber of
9 Commerce Spirit of Service Day for the past five years.

10 Plant Farley is also an important part of the local economy. With some
11 900 employees, the plant has an annual payroll of over \$50 million. The plant
12 pays annual property taxes of some \$8 million.

13 Public opinion research conducted by the Nuclear Energy Institute shows
14 that 83 percent of Americans support renewing the licenses of nuclear plants
15 that continue to meet federal safety standards. It's clear that Americans
16 understand and support the continued role nuclear plants, including Plant Farley,
17 should continue to play in meeting the electricity needs of our state and country.

18 I believe a major contributor to that public support is the license renewal
19 process that provides an open public process through which such major
20 considerations as safety and environmental impact can be evaluated.

1 It's our opinion that the procedure for license renewal is sound and we are
2 committed to fully complying with all the requirements of the licensing process for
3 technical and safety review, environmental review and opportunities for public
4 comment.

5 We submitted our license renewal application September 15, 2003. It
6 includes more than 1000 pages of information supporting our application for
7 license renewal. Preparation and support for that application has been a major
8 undertaking of our company. We have used expertise throughout our company.
9 We have called on reactor vendors, industry groups and other companies to help
10 us prepare that application. Thousands of hours have gone into generating the
11 information in this application and we believe it supports our position that Plant
12 Farley can continue to provide electricity safely and reliably well into the 21st
13 century.

14 I thank you for the opportunity to present this information about Plant
15 Farley and now I'd like to turn it over to Don Grissette for his discussion of Plant
16 Farley's environmental commitment.

17 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mike.

18 Go ahead.

19 MR. GRISSETTE: Good afternoon, I'm Don Grissette, the general
20 manager of Plant Farley. Like Mike, I've spent quite a number of years in
21 Houston County and Dothan as an employee of Southern Nuclear and the

1 Southern Company at Plant Farley. I've been there 23 years and during the
2 1980s I was responsible for the environmental program, so I have a very close
3 tie and a strong belief in the environmental program and the commitment of
4 Plant Farley.

5 I'm very proud of what we do for our environmental program here at
6 Farley. I'm very proud of what we do to preserve our natural resources and
7 protect the environment. It's a pleasure to share this information with you today.

8 First of all, I'd like to take just a minute to introduce some members of the
9 team that have worked very hard on this environmental report. First of all, Mr.
10 Jim Davis -- Jim, if you would stand up. Jim Davis is with our corporate and Jim
11 led the effort to prepare the environmental report and he is supporting the review
12 that's being conducted currently by the NRC.

13 Secondly, Mr. Tom Moore -- Tom, if you would stand up. Tom provided
14 environmental review and input for the report as well. He's been a key player.

15 And finally Chuck Pierce -- Chuck. Chuck is the license renewal manager
16 and he has directed the Farley license renewal effort from the very beginning.

17 Thank you, Chuck; thanks, Jim; thanks, Tom.

18 In addition, there are quite a number of Alabama Power employees,
19 Southern Nuclear employees as well as many consultants who have helped
20 complete this very important project. I want to echo Mike's statement and say

1 that we appreciate you being here today and we appreciate our opportunity to
2 present this information.

3 We've always tried to be a very good neighbor in our community and we,
4 therefore, fully support and appreciate the open nature of the NRC's license
5 renewal process.

6 Before actual construction of Plant Farley, we established an
7 environmental program. The purpose of that program was to monitor, maintain
8 and safeguard the environment around Plant Farley. This is the foundation for
9 our environmental program at the plant. As a part of our environmental review to
10 support the license renewal application, we reviewed the NRC's generic
11 environmental impact statement to understand what we needed to do in order to
12 complete our report. We've also consulted with many different state and local
13 agencies -- the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, the
14 Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Georgia
15 Department of Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office, the United
16 States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine and Fisheries Service.
17 We contacted all these agencies to ensure that we had considered all the
18 relevant issues pertinent to continued operation.

19 Our resulting environmental report includes 12 major environmental
20 areas. These 12 areas are grouped into five categories -- people, plants and
21 animals, water, air quality and land. We'll start off with water.

1 Our study included a review of water quality, water flow at the intake and
2 at the discharge structure of Plant Farley, our water use and the aquatic life of
3 the Chattahoochee River. The evaluation of the historic data indicates very
4 clearly that no changes to the water resources. There is no planned change in
5 our operation as a result of license renewal; therefore, we will continue to
6 maintain the same water quality as we've had throughout the years.

7 Our environmental review of the water shows that Plant Farley is a very
8 good steward of the valuable resource and has no significant impact on the flow
9 and the habitat in the Chattahoochee River.

10 The second category is plants and animals. We consulted with the United
11 States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Alabama Department of Environmental
12 Services, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources regarding the
13 threatened and endangered species inhabiting the Plant Farley property and also
14 inhabiting the areas of the transmission line corridors that were built for
15 supporting our plant operation. We conducted a detailed field survey of these
16 species, looking for these species, both on the property and the transmission line
17 corridors to identify any threatened or endangered species and potential
18 habitats.

19 As a result of this survey and a historical review, Southern Nuclear
20 developed a list of state and federally listed species that are known to occur both
21 on the site and in these transmission corridors or in the Chattahoochee River.

1 License renewal will not result in any modification of the plant or
2 transmission lines. We have concluded that the extended operation due to
3 license renewal will have no adverse impact or threaten any endangered or
4 threatened species living in or near Plant Farley.

5 The third category is air quality. One of the great benefits of living in this
6 part of the country is the quality of air that we breathe. For the past 26 years, the
7 operation of Plant Farley has not had any adverse impact on the quality of air in
8 this area. In fact, the operation of Plant Farley prevents about 10 million tons of
9 carbon dioxide and other pollutants every year from going into the air that we
10 breathe and entering the environment.

11 That positive impact on air quality will continue during the extended period
12 of operation brought about by the renewed license.

13 The fourth category we looked at was how -- we looked at how our
14 continued operations would affect the land around the plant. We consulted with
15 the state Historic Preservation Office to identify new information regarding sites
16 of archeological, historical, architectural significance on the Plant Farley site. At
17 this time, we believe that there are no significant archeological, historic or
18 architectural sites identified on the Plant Farley site.

19 License renewal will not require additional land usage and our activities
20 will remain within the existing site boundary. Based upon these evaluations, we

1 determined that the renewal of the Plant Farley license will not impact historic,
2 archeological or land resources on the site or in the community.

3 Finally, the most important detail and that's the people who live in the
4 communities around the plant. Plant Farley has established a national
5 reputation as a very well-run nuclear facility. We are committed to protecting the
6 health and the safety of the public as well as protecting the health and safety of
7 our employees. This commitment will continue as long as Southern Company is
8 a part of this community.

9 The men and women who work at Plant Farley live in the surrounding
10 counties. I've lived here in Dothan for over 23 years. My children were born
11 here, they've gone to school here and one of them has graduated from school
12 here. Our roots are very deep and very broad in the city and in this community.
13 Therefore, we have a very strong vested interest in the environment of this area.
14 I have a very strong personal and professional interest in preserving and
15 protecting the environment around Plant Farley and in Houston County. I share
16 this with my co-workers at the plant and we are very proud to be such good
17 environmental stewards.

18 The plant has 1300 acres of its 1850 acre site protected as a wildlife
19 habitat. Our employees have set up approximately 70 bluebird boxes, 28 wood
20 duck boxes, 11 larger boxes for kestrels. We built an osprey nesting platform

1 and we also have Bard owl nesting boxes and purple martin structures. All this is
2 a part of our environmental program.

3 Because of our habitat and wildlife protection efforts, the National Wildlife
4 Council has certified Farley as a wildlife habitat. The Wildlife Habitat
5 Enhancement Council has twice recognized Plant Farley for its wildlife and land
6 management stewardship.

7 Examples of these commitments, including Plant Farley's certification as a
8 wildlife habitat are available in the open house area and if you haven't had a
9 chance, I would appreciate you going and taking a look at that. There's a lot of
10 interesting information and it certainly again echoes the commitment toward our
11 care and concern for the environment.

12 I appreciate the opportunity to speak here today and I certainly appreciate
13 your interest in Plant Farley, and thank you for being here.

14 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Don.

15 Next, we're going to go to Mr. Steve Turkoski. Steve is with the Dothan
16 Area Chamber of Commerce.

17 MR. TURKOSKI: As he said, my name is Steve Turkoski with the Dothan
18 Area Chamber of Commerce, and obviously we'll be talking about the social and
19 economic impacts of the power plant here in the community.

20 699 out of 900 employees in Plant Farley live in Houston County and we
21 assume that the remaining 201 live in the surrounding counties. This being an

1 economic hub, a retail hub, then those 201, wherever they live, are still having an
2 impact here on our community. That's 78 percent of the employees though that
3 live within this county.

4 With Farley's \$50 million payroll and using a modest 2.5 turnover rate on
5 the dollar, we estimate the impact to the economy is \$125 million annually. In
6 1970, prior to the Farley Nuclear Plant locating in Houston County, the
7 population was 56,574, and today, according to 2003 estimations, Houston
8 County population is 90,989.

9 Since the location of Farley in the 1970s, Dothan has emerged and grown
10 with a diversified manufacturing base tied to aviation, automotive, electronics,
11 distribution, fabricated metals as well as a strong healthcare service and retail
12 businesses. Plant Farley's influence in all of these areas cannot be over-
13 estimated.

14 Due to Farley's low-cost production of electricity and the sheer volume of
15 electricity it produces for Alabama Power, which is 20 percent of the total, it
16 allows Alabama Power Company to have electricity rates among the lowest in
17 the nation. Utility rates are always one of the key factors in determining site
18 selection for business and industry.

19 Some of the local businesses that are impacted greatly by Farley include
20 local vendors such as Dothan Warehouse, Eastern Technologies, May's Office
21 Supply, Mayer Electric, Houston Paper Company, Service Industrial Supply,

1 Fastener Services, Motion Industries, Premier Catering, Buffalo Rock,
2 Professional Facilities Management, Alabama Electric and Enterprise Car
3 Rental.

4 In addition, Southern Company employees, contractors and visitors
5 traveling from other areas have a substantial impact on the local hotels,
6 restaurants, retail stores and Dothan Regional Airport.

7 Houston County has the highest retail sales per capita in the state and
8 this indicates that people from other areas are coming into the county to shop.
9 You probably just saw that recently in the paper, about our out-shopping index.

10 Another key issue for attracting business and industry are quality of life
11 issues in which Farley Nuclear Plant influences many areas that are key.

12 Farley pays \$8.12 million in property taxes, which is the largest single
13 payment in the county. Of this amount, \$2,500,000 goes to education. In
14 addition, Farley is one of the largest corporate contributors to the Wiregrass
15 United Way and has been a pace setter for some years. Also, their personnel
16 are involved on the Board of Trustees of the United Way. Farley is the largest
17 corporate sponsor of the Wiregrass Habitat for Humanity. Farley has worked
18 with 20 local elementary schools on Read Across America Day, sponsored a
19 reading event with the Cat in the Hat at each school and donated books to the
20 libraries.

1 Farley has supported the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's Spirit of
2 Service Day for the past five years which involves employees working on
3 community projects such as landscaping at the airport or painting hallways at the
4 Dothan Cultural Art Center.

5 Farley provided manpower to help the House of Ruth, which is a local
6 battered women's shelter to move from one location to another after a lot of the
7 state funding was cut last year. Employees also support this charity by helping
8 staff at its annual Christmas poinsettia sale and providing volunteers at its
9 holiday gift wrap center at Wiregrass Mall.

10 Farley holds quarterly blood drives for the Red Cross. Farley employees
11 also participate in Walk America and the March of Dimes and America Heart
12 Walk.

13 Farley's leadership has headed up the federal school to career grant for
14 Henry and Houston Counties.

15 Farley financially supports Dothan by Design, which is the economic
16 development arm of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce. They also
17 sponsor and employees participate in the Dothan Leadership Program each
18 year.

19 If in fact the plant was not renewed, the loss of 900 jobs with the multiplier
20 would include an effect of basically 2250 lost jobs. The lost of \$50 million in
21 payroll with the turnover value of these dollars would result in the loss of \$125

1 million. The loss of over \$8 million tax infusion into the county would leave a
2 substantial hole in the county's budget.

3 According to the October 2003 figures furnished by the Alabama
4 Association of Realtors, the average selling price of a home in Houston County
5 was \$135,736. If the 699 Farley employees moved out of Houston County, this
6 would result in a net deficit of almost \$95 million in the real estate market.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Steve.

9 Next, I'd like to go to Kaye Barbaree. And Kaye, I apologize if I didn't put
10 you on with local government officials, I had Houston Company and I realize it's
11 Houston County.

12 MS. BARBAREE: I appreciate the opportunity to speak on behalf of
13 Farley, but I am not a local government official -- there were those days. Right?

14 I wanted to speak, backing out a little bit, from the non-professional
15 impact of Farley on Houston County, and this has been alluded to, but when I
16 thought about what I would say, I thought about coming back to Dothan.

17 I grew up here but I was away for a long time and I'd been living in Europe
18 for three years and I came back to Dothan in '69 and my dad, a local business
19 man said the most exciting thing is being talked about in Dothan. He began to
20 tell me about the idea of having the nuclear plant. I had some questions in my

1 mind and I asked those questions. And I was told a lot about the environmental
2 impact study that had already been held and how they were building up to that.

3 1970, my dad ran for Chairman of the County Commission and was
4 elected. And a big part of that campaign was the concern of the people of
5 Houston County and what is happening with the nuclear power plant coming in.
6 And it was so positive. I watched my dad go from being inquisitive and
7 questioning to being very enthusiastic about the potential and the possibility.

8 I was away for a few more years and I came back and lived here in '74
9 when my husband was overseas for a year and I saw almost every family that I
10 came in contact with, with my son's school or at church or wherever I was,
11 almost every family was impacted by somebody that was working on the
12 construction of Farley. And there was excitement and there was money and it
13 was an important part of what was going on in the county.

14 And then I was away for a few more years and I came back and Farley
15 was up and running and there was a lot of new people in town, a lot of fun
16 people. I was a military wife and the hardest move I ever made was back home
17 to Dothan, but the Farley people were here and they were new people and they
18 didn't care that I was old Dothan and should know everybody. And I made a lot
19 of friends with the Farley folks. I was working for the county and in 1983, I
20 worked my first Farley drill. Every year we drill to make sure that Farley is able to
21 meet the emergency capabilities if something happened, and all of a sudden, I

1 knew how much they cared. It wasn't how are we going to react if we have a
2 disaster as much as it was a proactive how can we keep it from happening.

3 I've been working Farley drills since 1983, for awhile because I was a
4 county employee and for awhile because after I retired, Shelby wouldn't let me
5 leave. And for the last five years, I've worked as a volunteer with Houston
6 County Emergency Management.

7 But I think I've had an opportunity over all these years to see Farley from
8 a perspective, perhaps not exactly where the average citizen sees it, but a closer
9 view, but not necessarily the professional view. And I really hope that Farley is
10 always a part of our community because it does wonderful things for us, both
11 environmentally and economically, and brings the best people in the world.

12 They do a lot of things in local charities and they talked at House of Ruth,
13 I serve on that board. A Farley employee's wife is the president of that board
14 and has been for two years. But their elves project, which to a lot of people
15 wouldn't be a lot, is the most wonderful thing. I mean I just sat and cried when I
16 saw what Farley had done for the children of battered women in Houston
17 County, and they do it every year, and it rarely makes the papers.

18 So we appreciate them and we need them. Thank you.

19 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

20 Mr. Hendrix, Mr. Bob Hendrix. Bob is the Executive Director of the
21 Convention and Visitors' Bureau.

1 MR. BOB HENDRIX: That's correct. Bob Hendrix, Dothan Area
2 Convention and Visitors' Bureau.

3 Mark and Steve mentioned a lot of things that I could be saying, so I want
4 to just kind of zero in real short on something that Steve brought up.

5 I represent the 26 hotels that are in the Dothan area and our hotels love
6 Farley, because every 12 to 18 months, we have something called a refueling
7 outage and when they have a refueling outage, they bring in many workers and
8 engineers for many, many, many days that stay in the Dothan area and in our
9 hotels and eat in our restaurants and shop in our stores. Our hotels are calling
10 Farley all the time like when is the next refueling outage because they use this in
11 their budgets and they plan for this. I mean this is a regular thing. So we count
12 on this very heavily, it adds a lot to our hotel/motel tax.

13 Tourism in the Dothan area employs indirectly and directly 2877 people.
14 That is a Hyundai plant. So we're proud of our tourism industry and Farley is a
15 great proponent of that and a big building block in our tourism industry and we
16 want to keep them here. So we want Farley to stay.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Hendrix.

19 Our next speaker is Mr. Walter Hill. Mr. Hill is the CEO of the Wiregrass
20 United Way.

1 MR. HILL: Thank you. It's my pleasure to be here to represent the
2 Wiregrass United Way. We are a five-county United Way serving Coffee, Dale,
3 Geneva, Henry and Houston Counties.

4 Steve mentioned some of what Farley has done with the United Way, but
5 I want to give you some of the specifics and details, because Farley is a very
6 important part of the Wiregrass United Way and the 35 agencies that we provide
7 funding for. We are completing our 2004 campaign right now and Farley, with
8 their corporate donation and their employees' donations, pledge \$151,335. And
9 out of the \$2.2 million budget, that is very important to us and to the 35 agencies
10 that will receive those funds.

11 However, more important than that to us as staff that work for the
12 Wiregrass United Way are the leadership roles that are served by employees of
13 the Farley Nuclear Plant. Because we are a volunteer-based organization, we
14 have seven staff members for five counties, and hundreds of volunteers. So I
15 want to tell you a few of the roles that have been played in just the last several
16 years by employees from Farley.

17 These include the chairman of our Houston County Board of Directors
18 several years ago. This year our Houston County Pacesetter chairman was a
19 Farley employee. Last year our Houston County Industrial Division chairman
20 was a Farley employee. This year we had two loaned executives from Farley
21 and each of those worked on five different accounts for us, so they helped to

1 raise money at 10 different companies outside of Farley. We have a
2 representative of Farley on our Board of Trustees which is representatives from
3 all five counties. Our chairman of our Planning Committee for the last two years
4 has been a Farley employee. We have one Farley employee this year serving
5 on our Houston County Funds Distribution Committee. That is a very important
6 committee because they decide where the \$2.2 million that we have raised will
7 be going to these 35 agencies. We've had a representative on our Henry County
8 Board of Directors and also of course our Houston County Board of Directors.

9 So you can see not only the financial impact that they make with the
10 United Way and our 35 agencies, but also in major leadership roles.

11 Also, I did not have time to survey this, but almost all of our 35 agencies
12 have either board members or volunteers from Farley. And I had hoped to be
13 able to say it was 100 percent, but I just ran out of time before today's meeting.
14 But they depend on Farley very much for financial support but also for volunteer
15 support.

16 So you can tell that the nonprofit organizations in the Wiregrass, and
17 especially in Houston County that provide much needed programs and services,
18 are very, very dependent on Farley.

19 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Mr. Hill.

20 I just wanted to take the opportunity now to introduce some key NRC staff
21 in regard to the Farley Plant.

1 I mentioned that some of our speakers had been resident inspectors and
2 I'd like to introduce the resident inspectors from the NRC at Plant Farley. The
3 senior resident is Mr. Charles Patterson, right here. And our other resident is Mr.
4 Rodney Fanner. Thank you for being here with us today.

5 That's -- Mr. Hill was the last speaker that we had signed up. I wanted to
6 see if there was anybody else who had anything to say before we close.

7 Yes, sir? Do you want to come up? All right.

8 MR. DAVID HENDRIX: My name is David Hendrix. No relation to Bob,
9 although we do both spell our name the same. I'm the planning director with the
10 City of Dothan. I bring apologies from the Mayor and acting City Manager who
11 had a conflict that made it impossible for them to attend.

12 I don't want to belabor the points that have been made other than to say
13 or to communicate to the NRC the City's support of the application to renew the
14 operating license for the Farley Nuclear Plant.

15 If you would indulge me for just a personal comment, I had an opportunity
16 yesterday to talk with representatives of the NRC and others in my capacity as
17 planning director. And I prefaced my remarks to them by saying I would have to
18 admit that this past Sunday, as is my normal practice, I ate lunch after church
19 with two engineers at the plant, one of the senior operators at the plant.
20 Ironically, I will eat dinner tonight with one of the engineers at the plant. And I
21 will repeat what I said to them. My personal experience has been that I have

1 every reason to trust the people who work at the plant and exercise responsibility
2 at the plant. I count many of them as my personal friends, but that's not nearly
3 as important as the fact that I have trust in their judgment.

4 I would also echo the comments made by many who have noted the
5 contributions that employees have made and in ways that you can quantify such
6 as the contribution to the United Way, but also in ways that are very difficult to
7 quantify and yet are very important. I've had the opportunity over the years to
8 serve on the board of directors of a number of organizations that you've heard
9 mentioned -- Habitat for Humanity, Dothan Landmarks Foundation. I followed
10 one of your Farley Nuclear employees as chairman of the Houston County Board
11 of Directors for the Wiregrass Humanity, and I would simply say that if we lost
12 these people, yes, there would be a real monetary loss, a great tax base loss,
13 but the civic and community life of Dothan and Houston County and the
14 surrounding Wiregrass area would suffer a loss that would be, in my mind, even
15 greater than those quantifiable financial losses.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Hendrix.

18 Is there anybody else who wants to talk with us today?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. CAMERON: Okay, well, I'm going to turn it over to John Tappert to
21 close the meeting and just remind you and invite you that we do have a lot of

1 NRC staff and expert consultants here with us, so please stick around. If there's
2 any issues you want to talk more about, we're here.

3 John.

4 MR. TAPPERT: I just want to thank everyone for coming out again today.
5 And if you have any additional comments or response, the scoping period does
6 run until February 6, so please use those addresses or e-mail addresses that
7 Jack gave you earlier.

8 And as Chip said, we will be staying after the meeting if anyone has any
9 questions. Thank you for coming.

10 (Whereupon, the meeting was closed at 3:02 p.m.)

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ENCLOSURE 3

2

CORRECTED EVENING TRANSCRIPT

1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
2 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
3
4

5
6 A PUBLIC MEETING
7 TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS FOR
8 JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT RENEWAL APPLICATION
9

10 CORRECTED TRANSCRIPT
11
12
13

14 MEETING ROOM
15 QUALITY INN
16 3053 ROSS CLARK CIRCLE
17 DOTHAN, ALABAMA
18 Thursday, January 8, 2004
19 7:01 p.m.
20

21 F. CAMERON, Facilitator

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MR. CAMERON: Good evening, everyone and welcome to the NRC's public meeting tonight. My name is Chip Cameron, I'm the special counsel for Public Liaison with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and it's my pleasure to serve as your facilitator tonight and in that capacity, I'll try to help all of you to have a productive meeting.

Our subject for tonight is the NRC's evaluation process for a request that we have from the Southern Nuclear Operating Company to renew the operating licenses for Plant Farley -- Units 1 and 2 of Plant Farley. We're going to discuss our evaluation process and specifically we're going to talk about the environmental review process part of our evaluation of the license renewal application.

In terms of the format for the meeting, it's going to be a two-part meeting. The first part is for us to try to give you some clear information about what our process is all about and answer any questions that you have about that process. The second part of the meeting is to hear from you any comments, any recommendations, any concerns that you might have on the license renewal process. Specifically this is called a scoping meeting and so we're looking for any comments that you might have on what issues we should look at as we do the environmental review. The NRC staff can tell you more about that process in a few minutes.

1 The ground rules are simple. When we get to the question and answer
2 part of the session, if you have anything that you want to say, just give me a
3 signal and I'll bring you this cordless microphone and if you could give us your
4 name and affiliation, if appropriate at that time.

5 I would ask that only one person speak at a time so that we can get a
6 clean transcript. We are transcribing the meeting and Bill Warren is serving as
7 our stenographer tonight. That transcript will be available to anybody who wants
8 it. It's our record of the meeting.

9 The NRC is asking for written comments on these issues too, but anything
10 that you say to us tonight will be on the record, so it has the same weight as
11 written comments.

12 I don't think we're going to be pressed for time tonight, but I always ask
13 people to try to use a little brevity in their comments and questions so that we
14 can make sure that everybody has an opportunity to talk. And when we get to
15 the formal comment part of the meeting, we usually ask people to come up to
16 this podium, but I can bring you this if you'd rather talk from your seat. Usually
17 we have about a five to seven minute guideline in terms of how long people talk.
18 But again, I don't think we have any concerns along those lines at all.

19
20 John Tappert is going to give us a welcome in about a minute and he'll go
21 over the agenda for the meeting, the brief NRC presentations, with you, but I did

1 want to introduce the people who are speaking to you tonight so you can get an
2 idea of their background and expertise.

3 John Tappert is the Chief of the Environmental Section in our office of
4 Nuclear Reactor Regulation at the NRC. And John and his staff are responsible
5 for overseeing the development of the environmental review, not only for this
6 Farley license renewal application, but for any license renewal application that
7 comes in, or indeed any reactor licensing activity that we do an environmental
8 review for. John has been with the agency for about 11 years. He
9 comes to the NRC from the nuclear Navy. He was a resident inspector for us,
10 and our resident inspectors are the NRC employees who are our eyes and ears
11 at the nuclear power plants. They live in the community. He serves as a
12 resident inspector. He has a Bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech University in
13 aeronautic and ocean engineering and a Master's degree in environmental
14 engineering from Johns Hopkins University.

15 And just let me do this at the beginning of the program -- we do have our
16 resident inspectors for the Farley Plant that are with us tonight. The senior
17 resident is Mr. Charles Patterson, who is right there. And then we have our other
18 resident and it's Rodney Fanner. Rodney. Thank you.

19 After John is done, we're then going to turn to Ms. Tilda Liu. Tilda is the
20 project manager on the safety evaluation of the Farley license renewal
21 application. After she talks, it'll become clear exactly what that involves.

1 Tilda's been with us for about 10 years. Before that, she actually worked
2 for a nuclear utility. And she has a Bachelor's in electrical engineering from
3 Georgia Tech and a Master's in technical management again from Johns
4 Hopkins University.

5 Then we're going to go to Mr. Jack Cushing and Jack's the project
6 manager for the environmental review on the Farley license renewal application.
7 He's been with us for five years. He also worked at a nuclear utility, and in fact
8 Jack is a licensed reactor operator. So he's licensed to actually run one of these
9 plants. He has a Bachelor's in marine engineering from the Massachusetts
10 Maritime Academy. With that, I would just thank all of you for
11 coming out tonight and we're looking forward to hearing from you and to
12 answering any questions that you have about this process. I'll turn it over to
13 John.

14 MR. TAPPERT: Thank you, Chip and good evening, everyone, and
15 welcome.

16 As Chip said, my name is John Tappert and on behalf of the Nuclear
17 Regulatory Commission, I'd like to thank everyone for coming out here tonight
18 and participating in this process.

19 I hope that you're going to find the information that we will share with you
20 tonight to be helpful, and we look forward to receiving your comments, both
21 tonight and in the future.

1 First off, I'd like to briefly go over the purposes and agenda of tonight's
2 meeting. First of all, we're going to give you a brief overview of the entire license
3 renewal program. This includes both a safety review as well as an
4 environmental review, which is the principal focus of tonight's meeting. We'll
5 give you some more information about how we're going to perform that
6 environmental review, which will assess the environmental impacts associated
7 with extending the operating licenses for the Farley Nuclear Power Plant for an
8 additional 20 years. Then we'll give you some information about our schedule
9 and how you can submit comments in the future. And finally we get to the real
10 heart of tonight's meeting, which is to receive any comments that you may have
11 for us tonight.

12 But first, let me provide some quick contexts for the license renewal
13 program itself.

14 The Atomic Energy Act gives the NRC the authority to issue operating
15 licenses to commercial nuclear power plants for a period of 40 years. For Farley
16 Units 1 and 2, those operating licenses will expire in 2017 and 2021 respectively.
17 Now our regulations also make provisions for extending those operating licenses
18 for an additional 20 years as part of our license renewal program, and Southern
19 Nuclear has requested license renewal for both units.

20 As part of the NRC's review of that application, we will develop an
21 environmental impact statement. Right now, we're in the early stages of that

1 review, in what we call scoping, where we seek to identify those issues which will
2 require the greatest focus during our review.

3 We will then develop our preliminary assessment and publish a draft
4 environmental impact statement and we'll return here again this fall to receive
5 your comment on that draft.

6 Again to reiterate, the purpose of tonight's meeting is to receive any
7 comments that you may have on the scope of our review.

8 And with that brief introduction, I'd like to ask Tilda to give us some
9 information about the safety review.

10 MS. LIU: Thank you, John. Thanks for being here today, welcome.

11 As John mentioned, my name is Tilda Liu and I'm the NRC Safety Review
12 Project Manager for the Farley License Renewal application.

13 Before I get into the discussion of the license renewal process, I'd like to
14 take a moment to talk about the Nuclear Regulatory Commission -- the NRC -- in
15 terms of what we do and what our mission is.

16 The NRC's mission is really three-fold. One is to ensure adequate
17 protection of public health and safety; two is to protect the environment and
18 three, is to provide for common defense and security.

19 The NRC accomplishes its mission through a combination of regulatory
20 programs and processes such as inspections, enforcement actions,

1 assessments of licensee performance and evaluation of operator experience in
2 nuclear plants across the country.

3 The NRC's license renewal review is similar to the original licensing
4 process in that it involves two parts -- a safety review and an environmental
5 review.

6 What does the safety review consider? There are two types of safety
7 issues. One is the current operating issues, these are the ones that are dealt
8 with in the current licensing phase; and two, aging management issues that are
9 dealt with in the license renewal phase.

10 The NRC's regulatory oversight under the current operating license deals
11 with current safety issues. We do not wait for a plant to come in for a license
12 renewal before requiring them to address these safety issues. Because the NRC
13 has or is dealing with those issues, such as security and emergency planning,
14 we do not re-evaluate them in the license renewal.

15 The safety review is focused on aging management issues and the
16 applicant's aging management program to maintain the plant equipment during
17 the period of extended operation. The safety evaluation report is independently
18 reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. Commonly we
19 refer to them as the ACRS.

20 The ACRS is a group of academic and industry experts reporting directly
21 to the NRC Commission, but independent and separate from the NRC staff.

1 The environmental review evaluates the impact of license renewal on a
2 number of areas. These areas include, among others: ecology, hydrology,
3 cultural resources and socio-economic issues. Part of the environmental review
4 is the scoping process. The scoping process is where we define issues and ask
5 the public to provide comments on the environmental issues. Today's meeting is
6 part of the scoping process. In the next slide we will discuss the license renewal
7 process.

8 How does this all come together? This slide gives you a big picture
9 overview of the license renewal process and, as you can see from the slide, the
10 process involves two parallel paths -- safety review being one and the
11 environmental review being the other.

12 The safety review involves the NRC staff's review and assessment of that
13 technical information that's contained in the applicant's license renewal
14 application. We have a team of more than 30 technical reviewers and
15 contractors back at the NRC headquarters in Washington, who are currently
16 conducting the review. Therefore, there's a lot of expertise in our team to
17 conduct the safety review.

18 The safety review is focused on the effectiveness of the proposed aging
19 management programs that are contained in the license renewal application.
20 The NRC staff reviews the effectiveness of the proposed aging management

1 program to ensure that the plant's safety can be maintained throughout the
2 period of extended operation; i.e., going from 40 to 60 years.

3 The safety review process also involves on-site audits and inspections.
4 These audits and inspections are conducted by a team of auditors and
5 inspectors pulled together from both the NRC headquarters as well as the NRC
6 regional office. The results of the audit and inspections will be documented in
7 separate reports. The results of the staff 's safety review will be documented in
8 the safety evaluation report, commonly referred to as the SER. And a copy of
9 this will be provided to the ACRS for an independent evaluation. Again, the
10 ACRS stands for Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards.

11 The second part of the license renewal process involves an environmental
12 review and that involves the scoping activities which this meeting is a part of. It
13 also involves developing a draft supplement to the generic environmental impact
14 statement which we will then publish for comment.

15 Eventually, we will be issuing a final supplement to the generic
16 environmental impact statement which will address comments we receive on the
17 draft.

18 So, as you can see from the slide, the final agency decision of whether to
19 approve or deny the application will factor in a number of items -- one, the safety
20 evaluation report, which documents the results of the safety review; two, the final
21 supplement to the generic environmental impact statement, which documents

1 the results of the environmental review; audit report and inspection report and
2 the independent report from the ACRS -- all of which will be factored into the
3 final agency decision.

4 The slash marks on the slide indicate the major opportunities for public
5 participation. The first opportunity is during the scoping process, which this
6 meeting is a part of. In the scoping process, we determine the relevant issues
7 that need to be addressed during the environmental review. The next
8 opportunity during the environmental review is when we request comments on
9 our draft environmental impact statement. As you can also see from the slide,
10 hearing is another opportunity that provides a time for the public to participate.
11 In the case of Farley, there were no petitions filed; therefore, no hearing will be
12 held. Provisions, however, do exist in the regulation to file late contentions and
13 request for hearing if required.

14 Currently, the Farley license renewal process is 22 months. At the end of
15 that time, which is around July 2005, the agency decision will be made on
16 whether the license will be renewed.

17 This concludes my part of the presentation this evening. I want to thank
18 you for being here.

19 MR. CUSHING: Thank you, Tilda. My name is Jack Cushing and I'm the
20 environmental project manager on the NRC staff and I'm responsible for
21 coordinating the review of the NRC staff and our team of experts from the

1 national laboratories in producing an environmental impact statement associated
2 with license renewal for the Farley Nuclear Plant.

3 I'd like to take a moment to explain why we do an environmental review
4 and an environmental impact statement. The National Environmental Policy Act
5 of 1969, or NEPA, requires that federal agencies follow a systematic approach in
6 evaluating the potential environmental impacts associated with certain major
7 federal actions. We're required to consider the impacts of the proposed action
8 and also any mitigation of those impacts that we feel are significant.

9 We're also required to consider alternatives to the proposed action. In
10 this case of license renewal, one of the alternatives is the no-action alternative.
11 What are the environmental impacts associated with not renewing the license.

12 The National Environmental Policy Act and the environmental impact
13 statement are disclosure documents and they are specifically structured to invite
14 public participation and this meeting is a big part of our review process.

15 Our Commission has determined that we will prepare an environmental
16 impact statement for license renewal. In preparing the environmental impact
17 statement, the NRC conducts the scoping process. The purpose of a scoping
18 process is to identify significant issues that need to be evaluated in depth and to
19 eliminate from review peripheral issues.

1 We are now gathering information for the EIS and are here to collect the
2 public's comments on the scope of the review. What special issues should the
3 staff consider for the proposed renewal of the Farley Nuclear Plant?

4 When we started license renewal we developed a generic environmental
5 impact statement that evaluates the environmental impacts that are common to
6 all nuclear plants. The staff determined that there were certain environmental
7 impacts for which a site-specific evaluation was required. For those issues, we
8 supplement the generic environmental impact statement. And we also re-
9 evaluate the generic to see if there's any new and significant information that
10 would change our conclusion.

11 This slide, in common English, is basically what we're trying to decide in
12 the environmental statement, we're trying to determine is renewal acceptable
13 from an environmental standpoint. Should the option be preserved for the plant
14 to operate an additional 20 years.

15 This slide is an expansion of the slide that Tilda had up earlier, on the
16 lower portion, it provides in greater detail the environmental review. On
17 December 5, 2003, we issued a Federal Register notice and also put out other
18 information to the public in regards to our intent to prepare an environmental
19 impact statement and to conduct the scoping process. And this started a 60-day
20 clock on the scoping process and we're in the middle of that now.

1 This meeting is part of the scoping process where we seek out the public
2 comment to guide us in our review.

3 Earlier this week -- yesterday in fact -- we went to the site and conducted
4 our site audit and that is also part of our scoping and information gathering
5 process.

6 If in the conduct of our review, we require additional information beyond
7 what was already provided to us in the initial license application, we will issue a
8 request for additional information, and I plan to have that completed by February
9 25, 2004 and the response from the applicant will follow in about eight weeks
10 after that. Those documents will be available on our website, they are publicly
11 available.

12 After we gather all this information, we will publish a draft environmental
13 impact statement for public comment. And we will be back here in September to
14 receive your comments on that draft environmental impact statement.

15 This slide shows some of the sources where we gather our information for
16 our draft environmental impact statement. The major source was the license
17 renewal application that was submitted by the Farley Nuclear Plant. Also
18 through a site audit that we conducted, we talked to state and local agencies,
19 permitting authorities, social service, and the public comments we receive here
20 and through the mail. We also have an e-mail that I will get to later.

1 When we review, we establish a team of experts made up of the NRC
2 supplemented by experts from the various national laboratories.

3 Some of the areas that we look at are socio-economics and environmental
4 justice. You may not be familiar with those terms. Socio-economics is the social
5 and the economic impact associated with the plant on the local community;
6 environmental justice is are there any disproportionate environmental impacts on
7 low income and minority groups. We also look at archeology, atmospheric
8 science, hydrology, terrestrial and aquatic ecology.

9 I'd like to reinforce a few key dates. The first is the scoping period, which
10 we're in right now. That expires on February 6, 2004 and this is the time frame in
11 which we're accepting comments from the public. Once we received all the
12 comments, we will address those comments and issue a draft supplemental
13 environmental impact statement in August 2004. We will come back here in
14 September to receive your comments on our draft environmental impact
15 statement. We will then go back and address those comments and modify our
16 draft as necessary and issue our final supplemental environmental impact
17 statement in March of 2005. We will also be producing a scoping summary
18 report of this meeting that will be available for anyone that signed up with the
19 cards out there, if you would like to be on our mailing list for scoping summary
20 report or the draft or final environmental impact statement.

1 This provides information on how you can contact me. I'm the primary
2 contact point for the environmental review. You can reach me at the phone
3 number shown. We also have documents available at the Houston Memorial
4 Library and the Lucy Maddox Memorial Library. We also place our documents
5 on our website at www.nrc.gov. If you have any problems accessing or finding it
6 on our website, please give me a call and I will guide you to the documents that
7 you're interested in.

8 Now we also have other ways of providing comments besides this
9 meeting. This meeting is being transcribed and we'll capture your comments and
10 address them, but if you think of a comment afterwards, you can provide those
11 by mail to the address, and if you happen to be in Rockville, Maryland, you're
12 more than welcome to drop them off at the NRC headquarters. That's probably
13 unlikely, but it is an option. And we also established an e-mail address,
14 FarleyEIS@nrc.gov, and you can e-mail those there and we will address those
15 comments.

16 That completes my comments. Are there any questions?

17 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thanks, Jack.

18 The staff covered a lot of ground on those presentations, not only on the
19 process, but Tilda mentioned some of the safety issues that are looked at and
20 Jack mentioned some of the types of environmental issues that we're going to be
21 looking at.

1 Are there any questions that we can answer for you on either the process
2 or the types of issues that we're looking at at this point?

3 (No response.)

4 MR. CAMERON: Okay, well, let's go on with some of our formal
5 comments for tonight.

6 We have two officials from the Southern Nuclear Operating Company who
7 are going to give us a comment on basically what the company's vision and
8 rationale was for filing the license renewal application for Farley. First of all,
9 we're going to go to Mr. Mike Stinson, who is right here, who is the Vice
10 President for Plant Farley. Mike.

11 MR. STINSON: Good evening. My name is Mike Stinson and I am
12 currently the Vice President of the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant. I do
13 appreciate the opportunity to speak with you, our neighbors, tonight.

14 Today, I'm going to share with you some general information about Plant
15 Farley. Following me, Don Grissette, the General Manager of Plant Farley, will
16 discuss our environmental commitment. We believe the information we will
17 present will help demonstrate why we chose to seek license renewal for Plant
18 Farley.

19 Our history of safe and reliable operation, our strong environmental
20 commitment, our reputation as a good neighbor and the potential for this to

1 continue through the extended 20 year license period makes Plant Farley a
2 strong candidate for license renewal.

3 I want to begin by giving you a little information about myself. I have been
4 with the Southern Company more than 30 years. Most of that time I spent here
5 at Plant Farley. As a matter of fact, my wife and I raised our family here in
6 Dothan and we only moved to Birmingham in 2002 when a promotion took me to
7 the corporate offices. So based on that, I have a strong personal conviction in
8 Plant Farley's safety, reliability and environmental commitment, and to the
9 dedication of our 900+ employees here.

10 While at Farley, I held various positions of responsibility, since I started
11 there in 1972. I've held the positions of quality assurance engineer for
12 construction, startup test engineer, startup supervisor, systems performance
13 supervisor, plant modifications and maintenance support supervisor and
14 manager, assistant general manager of both plant support and plant operations
15 and general manager of the plant. Before becoming Vice President, I was also
16 General Manager of Nuclear Support in Birmingham.

17 I share this with you because I wanted to give you some perspective of my
18 experience in the nuclear industry. I believe this experience has given me the
19 knowledge and insight to stand here tonight and say with the highest of
20 confidence that Plant Farley can safely and reliably continue to serve the people
21 of Alabama for an additional 20 years beyond its original license.

1 Plant Farley is a two-unit plant located on the Chattahoochee River in
2 Houston County. Each unit is capable of generating approximately 888
3 megawatts for a total of 1776 megawatts. The plants are powered by
4 Westinghouse pressurized water reactors. Over the years, Plant Farley has
5 demonstrated high levels of safety and reliability and serves as an economical
6 source of electric generation for the people of Alabama.

7 Plant Farley is owned by Alabama Power Company and operated by
8 Southern Nuclear, which is the licensee. Both of these are subsidiaries of
9 Atlanta-based Southern Company. As a matter of fact, Plant Farley provides
10 about 20 percent of Alabama Power's electricity. Since commercial operation
11 began in 1977, Plant Farley has generated more than 232 billion kilowatts of
12 electricity for the people of Alabama. That's enough generation to supply every
13 Alabama residential customer with electricity for 14 years. This makes Plant
14 Farley a vital economic engine for all of Alabama, providing safe, reliable and
15 low-cost electricity to the state's homes, businesses, hospitals, schools and
16 factories. That's one key reason we believe license renewal is appropriate for
17 Plant Farley. Extending the plant's license for 20 years means that we can get
18 the most out of the investment we and our ratepayers have made in Plant Farley.

19 Plant Farley was originally granted license to operate Unit 1 until 2017 and
20 Unit 2 until 2021. Further, the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 granted nuclear
21 licensees the opportunity to apply for license renewal at some point later in the

1 life of all nuclear plants. For the past 27 years, our employees have worked hard
2 to sustain the continued operation of both Farley units well beyond their initial 40
3 years of operation, through their dedication to the highest maintenance and
4 safety standards. Their extraordinary commitment has made Plant Farley one of
5 the most reliable and efficient nuclear plants in the industry.

6 In 2000, Farley employees set a record by working seven million work
7 hours without a lost time accident. I believe this is just one statistic that
8 demonstrates our employees' professionalism and their focus on operating our
9 plant safely. No other generating plant owned by Alabama Power has achieved
10 such a milestone. In addition, Plant Farley's employees have also gained
11 recognition from a variety of industry organizations for their outstanding
12 performance.

13 Plant Farley and its employees have been good neighbors to Dothan,
14 Houston County and the surrounding towns and communities for nearly 30
15 years. And we hope to continue being good neighbors for many years to come.

16 We're a strong contributor to educating the state's children. Our
17 community outreach programs reach about 10,000 school children each year.
18 The Alabama Science Teachers Association recognized the excellence of Plant
19 Farley's educational programs when it presented the plant the organization's
20 inaugural industry partnership award. The award was given in recognition of the

1 plant's teacher-in-residence program, its certified nuclear science educator
2 workshop and overall support of science.

3 Further, our employees are involved in a variety of community service
4 activities in our surrounding communities. These are much too numerous to
5 name them all, but they include Wiregrass United Way, Wiregrass Habitat for
6 Humanity, Wiregrass Museum of Arts, Dothan Cultural Arts Center, American
7 Red Cross, American Cancer Society and March of Dimes. Our employees have
8 worked with about 20 local elementary schools on Read Across America Day
9 and we've supported the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce Spirit of Service
10 Day for the past five years.

11 Plant Farley is also an important part of the local economy. With some
12 900 employees, the plant has an annual payroll of over \$50 million. The plant
13 pays annual property taxes of some \$8 million.

14 Public opinion research conducted by the Nuclear Energy Institute shows
15 that 83 percent of Americans support renewing the licenses of nuclear plants
16 that continue to meet federal safety standards. It's clear that Americans
17 understand and support the continued role nuclear plants, including Plant Farley,
18 should continue to play in meeting the electricity needs of our state and country.

19 I believe a major contributor to that public support is the license renewal
20 process that provides an open public process through which such major
21 considerations as safety and environmental impact can be evaluated.

1 It's our opinion that the procedure for license renewal is sound and we are
2 committed to fully complying with all the requirements of the licensing process for
3 technical and safety review, environmental review and opportunities for public
4 comment.

5 We submitted our license renewal application September 15, 2003. It
6 includes more than 1000 pages of information supporting our application for
7 license renewal. Preparation and support for that application has been a major
8 undertaking of our company. We have used expertise throughout our company.
9 We've used expertise from reactor vendors, industry groups and other
10 companies helping us prepare our application. Thousands of hours have gone
11 into generating the information in this application and we believe it supports our
12 position that Plant Farley can continue to provide electricity safely and reliably
13 well into the 21st century.

14 I thank you for the opportunity to present this and now I turn the program
15 over to Don Grissette for his discussion of Plant Farley's environmental
16 commitment.

17 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mike.

18 MR. GRISSETTE: Good evening, I'm Don Grissette, like Mike said, I'm
19 the general manager of Plant Farley and I've been at Plant Farley for 23 years.
20 Back in the mid-'80s I was responsible for the environmental program, the
21 environmental supervisor, so I have a great deal of ownership and a lot of pride

1 in what we do for the environmental program at Farley and every year, the
2 program seems to continue to get better and to make a more positive impact on
3 the environment around the plant and our community.

4 I'm very proud of what we have done at Plant Farley to protect and
5 preserve our natural resources. It's my pleasure to be here tonight to talk to you
6 about our environmental program and about our commitment to the
7 environment.

8 Before I get started, I'd like to recognize the members of our license
9 renewal team. If I could have you to stand, Jim Davis, are you here? Jim led the
10 effort to prepare the environmental report and is supporting this ongoing review
11 by the NRC. Thank you, Jim.

12 Tom Moore -- Tom is in our Environmental Services Department in
13 Birmingham, he's provided a great deal of review to the environmental report and
14 also provided a great deal of input to the report. Thank you, Tom.

15 And of course, our license renewal manager, Chuck Pierce -- Chuck, if
16 you'd stand. Chuck has directed the Farley license renewal effort from the start.
17 We certainly do appreciate the effort of these people and many other people.

18 There are quite a number of Alabama Power employees, Southern
19 Nuclear employees and contractors that have been involved in the preparation of
20 the environmental report and they've all done an exceptional job and we certainly
21 appreciate their effort as well.

1 I want to echo Mike's comments and say that we appreciate you being
2 here today and we certainly appreciate our opportunity to present our
3 environmental program to you.

4 We've always tried to be a very good neighbor in our community and we
5 certainly fully support and appreciate the openness of the NRC's license renewal
6 process.

7 Before actual construction began on Plant Farley, we established an
8 environmental program. The purpose of that program was to monitor, maintain
9 and safeguard the environment around the plant and around all of our generating
10 facilities associated with Plant Farley. This is the foundation for the
11 environmental program at Farley. As a part of the environmental review to
12 support the license renewal application, we reviewed the NRC's generic
13 environmental impact statement to understand what issues we had to address.
14 Also in preparing our report, we consulted with the Alabama Department of
15 Environmental Management, the Alabama Department of Conservation and
16 Natural Resources, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, State Historic
17 Preservation Office, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National
18 Marine and Fisheries Service. We contacted all these agencies to ensure that
19 we had considered all the relevant issues associated with continued operation of
20 Plant Farley.

1 Our resulting environmental report includes 12 major environmental
2 areas. These 12 areas are grouped into five categories -- first of all, people,
3 plants and animals, water, air quality and finally, land. We'll start with water.

4 Our study included a review of water quality, the water flow at the intake
5 and at the discharge structures of Plant Farley, water use and also the aquatic
6 life of the Chattahoochee River. The evaluation of this historic data indicates
7 clearly that there are no changes to water resources. There is no planned
8 change in our operation as a result of license renewal. We will continue to
9 maintain the same water quality as we have for the previous 20+ years.

10 The review shows that Plant Farley is a very good steward of this valuable
11 water resource and has no significant impact to the Chattahoochee River.

12 The second category is plants and animals. We consulted with the United
13 States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Alabama Department of Environmental
14 Services -- Environmental Resources, I'm sorry, the Georgia Department of
15 Natural Resources regarding threatened and endangered species inhabiting the
16 Plant Farley property and also the transmission line corridors that were built to
17 support plant operation. A detailed field survey was performed on the plant
18 property and the transmission line corridors to identify any threatened or
19 endangered species that made their homes there.

20 As a result of this survey and a historical review, Southern Nuclear
21 developed a list of state and federally listed species that are known to occur on

1 the site or on the transmission corridors or make their home in the
2 Chattahoochee River.

3 It is very important to know that license renewal will not result in any
4 modification of the plant or the transmission lines. We have concluded that
5 extended operation due to license renewal will have no adverse impact to
6 threatened or endangered species on or near Plant Farley.

7 The third category is air quality. One of the great benefits of living in this
8 area of the country is the quality of air that we breathe. For the past 26 years,
9 Plant Farley has not adversely impacted the air quality in any way. In fact, the
10 operation of Plant Farley has prevented about 10 million tons of carbon dioxide
11 and other air pollutants from entering the air that we breathe.

12 That positive impact on air quality will continue into the period of
13 continued operation of Plant Farley brought about by the license extension.

14 The fourth category we looked at how our continued operations would
15 affect the land around the plant. We consulted with the state Historic
16 Preservation Office to identify new information regarding archeological, historical
17 or architectural significant areas on the Plant Farley site. Our environmental
18 report concludes that there are no significant archeological, historic or
19 architectural sites on the Plant Farley property.

20 License renewal will not require additional land usage and our activities
21 will remain within the existing plant site boundary. Based upon these

1 evaluations, we've determined that the renewal of the Plant Farley licenses will
2 not impact any historic, archeological or land resources in our community.

3 Finally, the most important detail and that's the people who live in the
4 communities around the plant. Plant Farley has established a well-known
5 national reputation for being a very well-run nuclear facility. We are committed
6 to protecting the health and the safety of the public and the health and safety of
7 the people that work at our plant. This commitment will continue as long as
8 Southern Nuclear and Southern Company operate Plant Farley in this
9 community.

10 The men and women who work at Plant Farley live in the surrounding
11 area. I've lived here in Dothan for 23 years. My children were born here, they go
12 to school here and one graduated. Our roots are very deep and very wide in
13 Dothan/Houston County and our area. This is our home and we take great pride
14 in living here and we take with great importance -- or I do as a member of
15 management at Plant Farley -- the commitment to our environment here. I have
16 a very personal and professional interest in preserving and protecting the
17 environment. I share this with all of my co-workers at Plant Farley and we are
18 very proud to be the strong environmental stewards that we are.

19 The plant has 1300 acres of its 1850 acre site protected as a wildlife
20 habitat. Our employees have set up 70 bluebird boxes, 28 wood duck boxes, 11

1 larger boxes for kestrels. We built an osprey nesting platform and we also have
2 a Bard owl nesting box as well as habitats for purple martins.

3 Because of our habitat and wildlife protection efforts, the National Wildlife
4 Habitat Council has certified Farley as a wildlife habitat. The Wildlife Habitat
5 Enhancement Council has twice recognized Plant Farley for its wildlife and land
6 management leadership.

7 If you haven't had an opportunity to step back in the corner and look at the
8 environmental display here, I think you'll see some very noteworthy efforts that
9 our environmental program brings to the environment in and around Plant Farley.

10 In closing, I just again want to thank you for being here tonight, thank you
11 for your support, I thank you for your comments, and again, we really do
12 appreciate the openness of the license renewal process.

13 Thank you very much.

14 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Don.

15 Next, we're going to go to Mr. Steve Mashburn and then we're going to go
16 to Mr. Tim Pritchard. Mr. Mashburn.

17 MR. MASHBURN: Don't know how I got to be first on the list this evening.
18 Good evening, my name is Steve Mashburn, I'm a retired educator that has
19 taught in the Houston County School System for 25 years and I've also had the
20 privilege to be affiliated with post-secondary education for the past 15 years.
21 Those ran concomitantly, not 25 and then 15 on top of it. I'm not going to make

1 myself any older than I appear. I currently am still affiliated as an adjunct faculty
2 member at Troy State University in Dothan here, and proud to be so.

3 I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you this evening and express my
4 support of the Farley Nuclear Plant relicensing project. I promise to make my
5 comments very brief and I'll certainly stay within the allotted time frame.

6 I do not pretend to be an expert in nuclear science or nuclear engineering
7 or particle physics, but I am a long time member of this community and familiar
8 with the impact that Plant Farley has had and continues to have on our
9 community here.

10 I want to mention a few key areas that I feel are of great importance when
11 considering the relicensing issue. The first of these is the impact that Plant
12 Farley has upon the local educational community. The plant has been an
13 exceedingly strong supporter of education over the past many years in our tri-
14 state area. The economic impact that Farley has had on educational institutions
15 in this county since its inception is really immeasurable. There is no way to put
16 any kind of measurement upon the positive impact that Plant Farley has had on
17 our educational institutions throughout the state of Alabama, and even reaching
18 across the state lines in the tri-state area.

19 The plant generates some \$8 million of tax revenue each year and a large
20 amount of that money goes to support our local school systems. The current
21 educational funding from the State of Alabama is woefully lacking. Education is

1 suffering a major financial crunch, in case you haven't heard about it or read
2 about it in the newspaper -- I'm sure you have. But the state has problems right
3 now with educational funding. Alabama school systems are in I believe their
4 third year of proration -- going into the third year of proration at this time.
5 Funding for the next few school years promises to be probably no better,
6 possibly worse. Many schools have cut programs of study, cut teacher units, in
7 other words actually laying off teachers. They've cut maintenance budgets,
8 they've cut technology programs and at the current time, many educational
9 institutions in the State of Alabama are hanging on by the skin of their teeth,
10 literally.

11 Fortunately, for school systems in Houston County, tax revenue from
12 Farley has provided a means of survival. When many systems throughout the
13 state have been taken over by the State Department of Education and suffered
14 drastic cuts that eliminated a lot of basic education service for the children of our
15 state, the schools in Houston County have been able to garner enough local
16 support, largely through tax base that is provided by Farley Nuclear Plant, to
17 provide our children with strong educational programs.

18 Now if Plant Farley ceases to provide such revenue, the funding for our
19 local school systems will suffer a devastating blow. And I personally hate to think
20 what might happen to the schools in our county if something happens and we
21 don't get that revenue from Farley to continue to operate our school systems.

1 Now I know that Farley greatly impacts many other facets of our
2 community as well as schools, but I don't have any expertise in those areas.
3 Other people will talk about that I'm sure and I think Mike and Don have probably
4 already given you some information regarding that.

5 But I do want to mention a little bit more about other ways that Plant
6 Farley has impacted our schools. Plant Farley has and continues to work in our
7 schools directly with students and teachers, and this is very important. Farley
8 Visitor's Center employees provide programs in science and ecology and
9 environmental science to school children throughout the area. For example,
10 Farley has had a long running bluebird nesting program for elementary school
11 children. I think somebody mentioned that earlier -- Mike, I think you mentioned
12 it -- was it Don? somebody mentioned it.

13 The Farley employees from the Visitors' Center also go into schools with
14 programs in basic sciences and engage in hands on activities with children in
15 many, many age groups, not just elementary but also middle school and high
16 school.

17 Farley is also very active in the area of teacher training, not only in
18 Houston County but throughout the entire state. I think someone mentioned
19 awhile ago about nuclear science education workshops. They did the initial one
20 here in Dothan at TSUD, it was a major success and they have actually

1 expanded that and gone into other areas of the state with that and provided
2 some very needed training for teachers.

3 Unfortunately in the State of Alabama in the educational preparation for
4 teachers, nuclear science is one area that's very weak and it has also been weak
5 in the high school curriculum, the science education that students get.
6 Fortunately, largely due to the efforts of Farley Nuclear Plant and Southern
7 Nuclear Operating Company, the State Board of Education has actually
8 strengthened nuclear science education programs to make our students now
9 scientifically literate in the area of nuclear science. That has been done within
10 the last four years. The last curriculum guide and course of study that was
11 issued and published by the Alabama State Department of Education has
12 requirements now that must be taught to our students to make them scientifically
13 literate in the area of nuclear science. That probably would not have -- in fact, I
14 know it would not have been put in that curriculum guide and course of study
15 published by Alabama State Department of Education were it not for the efforts
16 and the backing and support that the State Department received from Southern
17 Nuclear and Plant Farley. They played a large role in keeping our children
18 scientifically literate, for the first time really making them scientifically literate.
19 That's an important thing that they have accomplished.

20 Another thing is that the teacher in residence program has been a
21 tremendous benefit to teachers in our area. This provides teachers with hands

1 on experience in many areas of science, in chemistry, nuclear physics,
2 engineering, environmental science. Teachers are provided opportunities to
3 learn in this position and take part in real world industrial activities where science
4 is applied. They can then take that back into their classrooms and make those
5 experiences real for children in the classroom.

6 South Nuclear also provides lesson plans to teachers in many scientific
7 disciplines, and these can be used with children of all ages, they're not just for
8 elementary children, they're not just for middle school or not just high school.
9 They provide those lesson plans for all age groups and grades.

10 Farley also provides some science equipment such as water testing kits.
11 If you're familiar with Alabama Water Watch, they have a specific test kit that
12 must be used and Farley provides some of those kits to teachers. It trains
13 teachers and students how to use those kits. It also provides some Geiger
14 counters and the training on how to use Geiger counters and conduct
15 experiments in nuclear science using those Geiger counters in the classroom.

16 Southern Nuclear has been a strong supporter of post-secondary
17 education in our community as well. Farley and Southern Nuclear spearheaded
18 the engineering degree program offered at TSUD. Dr. Alford may say something
19 about that in a few minutes, I'm not sure. But they were key in developing that
20 program and we're proud to have it at TSUD.

1 Plant Farley has also provided many meaningful experiences for students
2 in science classes at TSUD. I know first hand, because many of my students at
3 TSUD have benefitted from such experiences.

4 I'll just interject this -- it's not in my notes here, but Farley also has played
5 a role in influencing many students to enter scientific fields, fields that they major
6 in in college, such as engineering or chemistry or physics. As a matter of fact, I
7 have a student that I taught that now has her doctorate in physics. She attended
8 Auburn and got her undergraduate and master's degree in physics. She went to
9 I believe it was Northwestern and got her doctorate in physics and now she is on
10 faculty at a major college in the northeast and is teaching physics.

11 So Farley has had some very positive influences on students as they
12 choose their life's vocation. And I am proud of that.

13 Another major area that Farley impacts greatly in our community is in our
14 environment and our local habitats. Farley is classified as a certified wildlife
15 habitat. I think Don mentioned this earlier. They implement strict land
16 management practices and they provide a safe, healthy community for our local
17 flora and fauna. They set up nesting boxes for many, many species of birds.
18 They monitor air and water quality in the whole tri-states area, not just on Plant
19 Farley's property. I think it's an 18-mile radius around the plant where they
20 monitor air quality, water quality. They utilize wildlife biologists and they
21 encourage healthy environmental practices throughout the community.

1 Perhaps the single greatest significant factor that supports the relicensing
2 effort for Farley is that they provide a safe, reliable means of generating
3 electricity for the southeastern United States. They produce clean electricity.
4 That is to say, Farley produces a steady supply of power, without harming the
5 world in which we live. When produced properly, nuclear energy production is
6 one of the most environmentally friendly methods used today.

7 It is an undeniable fact that fossil fuel based plants produce thousands of
8 tons of harmful emissions each year. For example, coal-fired plants release
9 harmful particulates that emit both alpha and beta radiation into the atmosphere.
10 Nuclear power plants such as Farley do not emit these harmful particulates.

11 Nuclear power plants also do not emit carbon dioxide, they do not emit
12 sulfur compounds, they do not emit any kind of nitrogen oxides and therefore,
13 they don't influence the greenhouse effect and they don't contribute to global
14 warming like many of our petroleum based or fossil based plants do.

15 Now I know that my time is probably gone by and I'm fixing to conclude,
16 but I did want to say that in my opinion, there are few, if any, reasons to deny the
17 relicense request and every reason to grant the renewal of the license for Plant
18 Farley. I can't list all those reasons. I've tried to point out a few things I think
19 that indicate that, but I do want to reiterate three little things.

1 First of all, Farley provides a safe, reliable means of electricity. One that
2 does not harm our environment, and makes us less dependent upon foreign
3 petroleum and waning coal reserves.

4 Second, Farley has an exemplary safety record. It is as good or better
5 than any in the United States. In my opinion, Plant Farley is a world class plant.
6 You won't find one any better anywhere.

7 And finally, Plant Farley has had and continues to have a major economic
8 impact on our community, our state and the entire southeastern United States.

9 Thank you again for allowing me to express my views this evening. I
10 wholeheartedly support the relicensing of Plant Farley and I urge the NRC to do
11 the same.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Mashburn.

14 We have a number of other educators with us tonight and we really
15 appreciate the fact that you're here. Let's go to Mr. Pritchard, who is the
16 principal at Houston County High School.

17 MR. PRITCHARD: Steve, you stole my thunder, so I'll be very brief.

18 (Laughter.)

19 MR. PRITCHARD: As he mentioned, I'm Tim Pritchard, I'm the principal
20 at Houston County High School at Columbia, which is approximately five miles
21 north of Plant Farley. I'm also a farmer, we have family farms and actually have

1 one family farm that's within two miles of the plant. And I've hunted and fished
2 on the Chattahoochee River all my life. I'm not here to address the
3 environmental issues, but because Steve has covered most of the issues, I will
4 mention what Mike and Don have mentioned -- the good neighbor issue.

5 Thirty years ago, my wife and I, who is here with me, we were 18 years
6 old and both freshmen in college and we had a baby on the way and to say the
7 least, we were struggling and getting frustrated and about to give up our dreams
8 of a college education. But she was working there at the college and I got a job
9 out at Plant Farley during the construction phase. I worked at night and we were
10 able to achieve our goals.

11 And I say that to say this, that that's just one example of thousands of
12 people in this area who have, because of the employment opportunities at
13 Farley, have achieved their goals and lived -- fulfilled their life long goals
14 because of those opportunities. Many students at my school -- and I don't have
15 the exact figures -- but I would say around 15 or 20 percent of the students at my
16 school are employed, or their family members are employed at Plant Farley.

17 Professionally, echoing Steve's comments, as an educator and as a
18 principal of a local school, I shudder where we would be without the seven or
19 eight million dollars of local tax revenue that's created by Plant Farley, during
20 these tough times.

1 And lastly, I would like to thank the Alabama service organization there at
2 Plant Farley. We're a little small school at Columbia and I've gone to them on
3 numerous occasions with needs, needs for our computer lab, computer software,
4 needs for our library accelerated reader, and each time, they've helped us do
5 fund raisers. We've sold lunch plates and got out and sold tickets and raffles for
6 us, and I just want to say that I'll never forget it. My faculty, and I'll make sure
7 our students never forget it.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Tim.

10 Next we're going to go to Dr. Barbara Alford who is at Troy State
11 University-Dothan.

12 DR. ALFORD: Good evening, my name is Dr. Barbara Alford and I am
13 the interim President at Troy State University-Dothan. Having served as an
14 administrator at TSUD for 12 years and having had 27+ years experience in
15 education in this region, it's a very special pleasure for me to speak with you this
16 evening about the importance of Plant Farley to our university and to this
17 community.

18 Dr. David Bryner, the CEO of the Alabama Retirement System, and
19 arguably one of the greatest investment strategists in this country, recently told a
20 regional audience -- some of these educators are laughing -- recently told an
21 audience of public administrators that the most important economic development

1 asset that any city can claim is its own university. Well TSUD is this community's
2 university and we believe, somewhat biasly, that we are a very, very good one.
3 But we're also a very small institution and that means that we must stay very,
4 very close to the community and listen actively to the leadership, if we are to
5 serve effectively. Plant Farley is an important part of that connection for TSUD.

6 About 10 years ago -- Mike, you will remember this real well -- major
7 industries in our area determined a need, current and future need, for
8 professional engineers. Fortunately, Alabama is blessed with several very, very
9 good engineering colleges. Unfortunately, none of them is in southeast Alabama
10 and the chances of bringing a new one to this region were absolutely zero. But
11 the leadership, the creativity and I'll say the persistence of local industry, led by
12 Farley Nuclear, caused an amazing thing to happen. Two community colleges --
13 Enterprise State and Wallace College -- one research institution, the University
14 of Alabama, and one regional institution, Troy State-Dothan, came together to
15 form a partnership to bring a mechanical engineering degree to Houston County.
16 So right now, talented employees as well as new high school grads can obtain
17 their entire mechanical engineering degree right here in the Wiregrass without
18 incurring the cost of a residential institution, without leaving their families and
19 without leaving their homes. Four education entities, which ladies and
20 gentlemen, I can assure you historically have competed for turf and for dollars,

1 came together because the leadership of Plant Farley looked us fairly in the eye
2 and said why not. We have that program thanks to Farley Nuclear.

3 This may have been the most notorious interaction between TSUD and
4 Farley, but it was not an isolated case. Just to name a few others -- I think Steve
5 has touched on one of these -- TSUD has been able to take advantage of the
6 talents of an area science teacher who happened to be Steve Mashburn, who
7 had the benefit of working a summer residence program through the Farley
8 Visitors' Center. We put this professional to work leading a federal project, a
9 grant that we had received to enhance the science curriculum and teaching
10 methods and tools for K through 12 teachers, not just in this particular area, but in
11 a 25 county tri-state region.

12 Farley professionals and Farley executives actively and enthusiastically
13 participate on our advisory board in arts and sciences, in business
14 administration, and on my community advisory board for the college at large.

15 Through the plant's corporation foundations and the individual generosity
16 of its employees, TSUD has been able to add technology and science equipment
17 to our campus to help ensure that the local students here receive a first rate
18 higher education. And I invite you, ladies and gentlemen, if you've got a extra
19 day to come on out to Troy State-Dothan and let me show you some of what
20 Plant Farley has enabled us to do.

1 And the weighty support of Plant Farley has just enabled TSUD to get
2 state approval for a chemistry education degree program at a time in our state
3 when getting approval for any new degree programs is just about impossible.
4 But when you put before the Commission of Higher Education letters from
5 industries like Farley Nuclear Plant, it's hard for them to say your community
6 doesn't need this degree. So we now have a chemistry program, degree
7 program, here in the Wiregrass that was not possible before.

8 Farley not only assists TSUD in growing our campus and our curriculum, it
9 helps us to ensure that we become the economic development asset for this
10 community.

11 One final thought, TSUD has only about 130 full time employees, but we
12 are committed to doing whatever we can to support the community through
13 people projects. But everywhere we go with our small group of people, no
14 matter what activity we participate in -- March of Dimes, Alzheimer's, Heart
15 Association, Habitat, United Way, Spirit of Service -- wherever we go with our
16 small group, there is always a huge group of employees from Farley who are
17 there working along with us. And by the way, they always have the best tee
18 shirts of any group in this particular area. It's infuriating to us.

19 (Laughter.)

20 DR. ALFORD: But they're leaders, and this is what's impressive to me --
21 the employees are always there, they're enthusiastic, they're not just there

1 because they have to be there, they really want to be participants in whatever
2 that project is to benefit people in our community -- people to people. And you
3 always see the leaders, the administrators, the managers of Plant Farley right
4 there with them with their sleeves rolled up, not just giving orders but planting the
5 sod or doing whatever it is that has to be done for these projects. That's
6 impressive to me, not just as a CEO of a university, but as a mother and a parent
7 here in Houston County and the City of Dothan.

8 Plant Farley is not only a critical participant in university development and
9 in economic development for our county, it's also an exemplary community
10 partner and one that we earnestly desire to keep here to continue building a
11 great future for our region for just as long as the NRC can possibly see fit to let
12 us have them.

13 I thank you for the opportunity to speak with you this evening.

14 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Dr. Alford.

15 Next we're going to hear from Cindy Huff.

16 MS. HUFF: Good evening. I'm an educator in the area as well, but I don't
17 want to speak to you simply as an educator. I have spent most of my life in this
18 area, my husband and I have raised our children here. I have family members
19 who have worked at Farley Nuclear Plant and continue to work there, and I want
20 to speak to you as a citizen, a concerned citizen of the Wiregrass area.

1 I had the opportunity this summer to work at Farley in the teacher in
2 residence program. Besides the educational part, I was allowed to go into the
3 plant and shadow many of the positions that were there. At no time when I was
4 in that plant were my questions left unanswered, were my questions -- and they
5 were many -- skirted around, nor was anybody unenthusiastic. The entire time I
6 was there, everything I asked was answered. I was impressed by the personnel
7 and their abilities and their enthusiasm for their jobs. And even more so, I was
8 impressed by the safety, the redundancy of the systems, the tight security, the
9 community support, all the many, many things that make Farley Nuclear Plant a
10 plant that is safe, that is caring for the community and that provides us with
11 necessary service.

12 So other than all the many wonderful things that have been brought out to
13 you as far as education is concerned, as just a mere citizen in the area, I would
14 like to point out to you that I have never ever lost sleep at night over whether or
15 not there was going to be a problem at Farley Nuclear Plant. I can assure you if
16 my electricity went off and stayed off, I would lose some sleep. So as a citizen
17 and as one who tries to stay informed and abreast of the situation and have a
18 good knowledge of things, I would like to assure you that Farley Nuclear Plant is
19 top notch, grade A, well run and it deserved to be relicensed because there will
20 never be a problem out there.

21 So thank you very much.

1 MR. CAMERON: And thank you, Cindy.

2 Next we're going to go to Mr. Jack Kale. Jack, would you come up?

3 MR. KALE: Looking around, I may be preaching to the choir. I speak to
4 you as an environmentalist and as a citizen. I am an employee at Farley, I have
5 been for 25 years, but the opinions you are about to hear are my own.

6 I am an environmentalist of sorts. My wife is the former -- some years ago
7 -- president of the local Audubon Club, which was involved in starting the
8 bluebird program that was mentioned earlier. I brought the first low
9 environmental impact camping techniques to the Boy Scouts in this area. Before
10 I ever became acquainted with nuclear power, I was hiking in the Blue Ridge
11 mountains and I know how the trees on the ridge strain the water out of the
12 clouds as the fog rolls over the mountain, and I don't like acid rain because I
13 know what it does and I've seen it.

14 You talked earlier about the license renewal process and the decision that
15 you have to make, as if that was one decision whether to renew this license or
16 not. That decision will not be made in isolation, it's one of about five decisions.
17 If you decide to renew the license here, then we will go on generating electricity
18 here the way we have, hopefully as you said, without adverse environmental
19 impact. If you choose not to renew that license, you need to examine some
20 other things -- what are the environmental impacts of not renewing the license?
21 Well, if we don't renew the license and we go without the generation, we'll make

1 the grid less stable. The northeast United States can tell you about the
2 environmental and social impact of a less stable grid. Or maybe we say well,
3 we'll generate the electricity somewhere else and bring it in. Now you've got the
4 environmental impact of running additional power lines into the area to supply
5 this area because there's no other major local generation and this plant was put
6 here to control the voltage in this area. So you have to think about what you'll do
7 there.

8 Then you can think about going from the NIMBY syndrome -- not in my
9 back yard -- to the BANANA syndrome -- build absolutely nothing anywhere near
10 anybody. And if you get through both of those, you get to take a NAP and that
11 means not available at any price anywhere.

12 (Laughter.)

13 MR. KALE: And I don't really think we want to go without electricity, so
14 that says if you don't renew the license, you're going to generate your electricity
15 some other way. Well, you could generate it with coal and, as I said, I have seen
16 what acid rain does and I don't like it. I don't care much for greenhouse gases
17 either, although the jury may still be out, there's a scientific conundrum there. If
18 we wait until we know, it's too late. And I don't have an answer, but nuclear
19 doesn't make any greenhouse gas, which coal does. Natural gas makes less,
20 but of course we'd have I'm sure real stable prices on our electricity if we
21 replaced Farley with natural gas. Our other options, renewable energy sources

1 such as wind -- well, the southeastern United States is not the great plains, we
2 have less wind than anybody else. And as for biomass or other renewables, the
3 Europeans in a pre-industrial society started mining coal several centuries ago
4 when they ran out of fire wood. So biomass will never make it. That leaves you
5 nuclear or one of these other options.

6 So I think you have to consider seriously the environmental impact of all
7 the other decisions that will have to be made, not just what operating the plant
8 will do, yes or no; but what other things will happen if you don't. And pick the
9 best alternative from among all these choices.

10 I think you can probably guess what mine is. I may be rare, but I'm a pro-
11 nuclear environmentalist. I got into nuclear for environmental reasons and it has
12 always baffled me that more environmentalists weren't pro-nuclear.

13 I think I'll shut up now. Thank you very much.

14 (Laughter.)

15 MR. CAMERON: Thanks a lot, Mr. Kale, for that analysis and I think that
16 our staff is going to look at exactly those types of issues.

17 MR. KALE: I appreciate that.

18 MR. CAMERON: All right. We have our Chamber of Commerce
19 representative, Mr. Steve Turkoski.

20 MR. TURKOSKI: Good evening.

1 Excuse me if I'm redundant. Most of the things have been said more than
2 once and I'll probably repeat them again, maybe we'll attach some numbers to
3 them. I was here this afternoon and spoke these same words basically, but I
4 think it bears repeating.

5 Of the 900 employees at Farley Nuclear Plant, 699 live in Houston County
6 and that's 78 percent. And even the ones that don't live in Houston County do
7 their shopping here I'm sure. We are the retail hub and of course the medical
8 hub. The payroll at Farley is \$50 million and at a modest 2.5 turnover rate, that's
9 \$125 million impact annually, which is definitely significant.

10 The other aspects that benefit the community from Farley operating in our
11 area are the business connections they have with the local businesses, which
12 are numerous. I'm not going to go over them all, but they do a lot of business
13 locally. And whenever the plant undergoes routine or scheduled maintenance,
14 the individuals that come in to perform that stay in our local hotels, eat at our
15 local restaurants, and that has a significant economic impact.

16 So as the management themselves professed, they have been a very
17 good neighbor and they continue to be. They have a significant positive impact,
18 socially and economically on our region.

19 The property taxes at Farley are \$8.12 million annually and of this
20 amount, approximately \$2.5 million goes to education.

1 The personnel that work at Farley are deeply involved in all of the civic
2 organizations and the activities that go on in our community. I'm going to list
3 some of them. It's one of the largest corporate contributors to the Wiregrass
4 United Way and today, Walter Hill from the United Way was here and he
5 enumerated the various positions that have been filled by individuals who are on
6 loan from Farley or that fill positions part time on a voluntary basis, and I think his
7 presentation was about as long as I'm going to talk here. So it's rather
8 significant.

9 Farley is the largest corporate sponsor to the Wiregrass Habitat for
10 Humanity. Farley has worked with 20 local elementary schools on Read Across
11 America Day sponsoring a reading event with the Cat in the Hat at each school
12 and donated books to the library. They support the Dothan Area Chamber of
13 Commerce Spirit of Service Day and they have done so for the last five years.
14 They provided manpower to the House of Ruth when they moved from one
15 location to another because of loss of state funding. They hold quarterly blood
16 drives for the Red Cross. They participate in Walk America for the March of
17 Dimes and the American Heart Walk. The Farley leadership led up the
18 Farley federal school to career grant for Houston and Henry Counties, for which I
19 was kind of the grant administrator for three and a half years and they did an
20 excellent job. They provide financial support for Dothan by Design, which is the
21 economic development marketing arm for the Dothan Area Chamber of

1 Commerce and they sponsor an employee to participate in the Dothan
2 Leadership Program each year.

3 We appreciate all their support in all of those activities and hope they can
4 continue to operate for the 20 year extension.

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Steve.

6 Do we have anybody else who wants to address us at this point?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. CAMERON: Okay, well, thank you for your comments and your
9 courtesy and I'm going to ask John to close the meeting for us.

10 MR. TAPPERT: I'd just like to thank everyone for coming out again and
11 remind you that if you do have any comments in the future, the scoping period
12 does go through February 6 and you can contact Jack through his e-mail or
13 phone numbers there.

14 So thanks again for coming out and drive home safe tonight.

15 (Whereupon, the meeting was concluded at 8:23 p.m.)

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