

Official Transcript of Proceedings

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Title: Public Scoping Meeting on Environmental Issues Pertaining to the License Renewal of Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2

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Pages 1-36

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
PERTAINING TO THE LICENSE RENEWAL
OF NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

+ + + + +
Tuesday, September 21, 2004
Town of Scriba
Conference Room
42 Creamery Road
Oswego, New York 13126

The above-entitled meeting was conducted at
1:30 p.m.

I-N-D-E-X

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A-F-T-E-R-N-O-O-N S-E-S-S-I-O-N

1:30 p.m.

MR. CAMERON: If we could have everybody come in and take a seat we'll get started with this afternoon's meeting.

My name is Chip Cameron, I'm the Special Counsel for Public Liaison at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the NRC, and I'd like to welcome you to our meeting today.

Our subject is the NRC environmental review to assist us in evaluating a license application that we received from Constellation Energy to renew the licenses for Units 1 and 2 at the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, and it's my pleasure to serve as your facilitator today and in that role I'll try to help all of you to have a productive meeting.

I just wanted to talk for a couple of minutes about some meeting process issues, specifically the format for the meeting today, some simple ground rules and to introduce the speakers from the NRC that you're going to hear this afternoon.

In terms of format for the meeting, basically we're going to do the meeting in two parts. The first part is going to consist of some brief NRC presentations to give you some background on the license renewal process, and specifically on the

1 environmental review part of the license renewal
2 process. And then we'll go out to you for any
3 questions that you might have about the process to
4 make sure that we're clear about it and that you
5 understand it.

6 The second part of the meeting is going to
7 be an opportunity for us to listen to you to hear any
8 concerns, advice, recommendations that you might have
9 for us as we conduct our environmental review. What
10 types of information should we look at, what types of
11 methodologies, what types of alternatives, what types
12 of impacts we should consider. And that will be the
13 second part of the meeting and at that part of the
14 meeting you have an opportunity to come up here and to
15 address us.

16 We are taking written comments on these
17 issues and the NRC staff will give you some details on
18 that, but we wanted to be here in person with you and
19 just let me say that any comments that you offer at
20 today's meeting will have the same weight as written
21 comments that we receive.

22 In terms of ground rules, when we get to
23 the question and answer part of the meeting, if you
24 have a question just signal me and I'll bring you this
25 cordless microphone, and if you could just please
26 introduce yourself to us, give us your name and

1 affiliation, if appropriate, and we'll try our best to
2 answer your question.

3 I would ask that only one person speak at
4 a time for two reasons, the most important one is so
5 we can give our full attention to whomever has the
6 floor, whomever has the microphone at the time and,
7 secondly, so that we can get a clean transcript of the
8 meeting. Our Court Reporter today is Mary Ann and she
9 is taking a transcript and that will be available to
10 anybody who likes that, it will be our record of this
11 afternoon's meeting.

12 I would ask you to try to be as concise as
13 possible with your questions so that we can make sure
14 that we can get to everybody today. And when we get
15 to the part of the meeting where we ask for your
16 comments, I'm going to ask you to follow a five minute
17 guideline in terms of how long your remarks are.

18 And we know that there are broader
19 concerns in the community, in any community, where we
20 are where there is a nuclear facility located, and we
21 always want to listen to public concerns. But I just
22 want to emphasize that our primary focus this
23 afternoon is Nine Mile Point license renewal
24 environmental issues, which doesn't mean that we won't
25 listen to other issues, but we need to make sure that
26 we keep our focus.

1 In terms of our speakers for today, we're
2 first of all going to hear from Dr. Michael Masnik,
3 who's right here, and he's going to give you an
4 overview of the license renewal process. He's a
5 senior project manager in our license renewal program,
6 he's been with the NRC for about 30 years, done an
7 incredibly diverse amount of work in those 30 years,
8 including serving as an aquatic biologist evaluating
9 impacts on biota from various nuclear power plant
10 activities.

11 He's been extensively involved -- is this
12 one of your fans calling in or what? Okay, just let
13 it ring. All right. Involved in decommissioning
14 activities of nuclear power plants. Mike has a
15 bachelor's in biology from Cornell University, in fact
16 he grew up in the Syracuse area so this is home for
17 him in a way, and he has a master's and a PhD in
18 ichthyology from Virginia Tech. He'll be giving you
19 the overview in a minute. And our second speaker is
20 going to be Leslie Fields. Leslie is right here, and
21 she's the project manager on the environmental review
22 for this license application, the renewal application
23 for Nine Mile Point.

24 She's been with the Agency for eight
25 years, and before that she spent about seven years
26 with various engineering firms in the private sector.

1 She has a bachelor's of science in chemical
2 engineering from the University of Southern
3 California, and she's very, very close to completing
4 her master's degree in environmental management at the
5 University of Maryland.

6 And I just want to introduce some other
7 significant people to you before we get started.

8 Mr. P.T. Kuo right here, P.T. is the
9 manager of the license renewal program, which includes
10 the safety, evaluations and the environmental
11 evaluations, and thank you for being with us today
12 P.T.

13 And I also wanted to introduce our
14 resident inspectors. These are the NRC eyes and ears,
15 so to speak, at nuclear power plants who make sure
16 that our regulations are being complied with. Our
17 senior resident is Gordon Hunegs, and Gordon's right
18 there, and the other resident is Brian Fuller.

19 I would just say after the meeting the NRC
20 staff will be here, we have some expert consultants
21 assisting us on this project, please feel free to talk
22 to them, talk to our residents and we'll try to give
23 you as much information as possible about what we do.

24
25 And with that, I'll turn it over to Mike
26 Masnik.

1 DR. MASNIK: Thank you, Chip, and good
2 afternoon and welcome.

3 As Chip said, my name is Michael Masnik
4 and on behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission I'd
5 like to thank everyone for coming out here this
6 afternoon and participating in this process.

7 I hope that the information that we share
8 with you today will be helpful, and we look forward to
9 receiving your comments both tonight or this afternoon
10 during this meeting, and in the future.

11 I'd like to first start off by going over
12 the purpose of today's meeting. We're going to start
13 by giving you a brief overview of the entire license
14 renewal process, which includes both the safety review
15 and an environmental review.

16 Then we'll give you some details as to how
17 we conduct the environmental review, which will assess
18 the impacts associated with extending the operating
19 license for Nine Mile Point for an additional 20
20 years.

21 We'll also give you some information about
22 the balance of our review schedule and how you can
23 submit comments in the future.

24 And then we get to the real heart of
25 today's meeting, which is to receive any comments that

1 you may have related to the proposal to renew the
2 license for Nine Mile Point. Next slide.

3 But first let me provide some brief
4 background for the license renewal program itself. The
5 Atomic Energy Act gives the NRC the authority to issue
6 operating licenses for commercial and nuclear power
7 plants for up to 40 years. For Nine Mile Point Units
8 1 and 2, the operating licenses will expire in 2009
9 and 2026, respectively.

10 Our regulations also make provisions for
11 extending the operating licenses as part of a license
12 renewal program.

13 Constellation Energy has requested license
14 renewal for both units. As part of the NRC's review
15 of the application, we will be developing an
16 environmental impact statement. Right now we're in
17 the early stages of a process we call scoping, where
18 we seek to identify those issues which will require
19 the greatest focus during our review. This public
20 meeting is part of that scoping process.

21 After we develop our preliminary
22 assessment, we'll publish the draft environmental
23 impact statement and return here for another public
24 meeting in the future to present our findings.

25 And with that as brief introduction, I'd
26 like to ask Leslie to give the balance of the

1 presentation and, again, thank you for all taking the
2 time to come here this afternoon.

3 MS. FIELDS: Thank you, Mike. I am Leslie
4 Fields visiting you today from Rockville, Maryland.
5 I'm the environmental project manager for the Nine
6 Mile Point License Renewal Application. I'm
7 responsible for coordinating the activities of the NRC
8 staff and various environmental experts to develop an
9 environmental impact statement associated with the
10 license renewal for Nine Mile Points Units 1 and 2.

11 Today I'm going to present the details of
12 the NRC environmental review, and invite you to
13 participate in the process. Public participation is
14 very important to the NRC environmental process.

15 I am here this week with several members
16 of the NRC staff and environmental experts from two
17 national laboratories. Let me introduce Mr. Bruce
18 McDowell of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories
19 near San Francisco, California. Bruce is the team
20 leader of the experts from the national labs. Next
21 slide, please.

22 At the NRC, it is our mission to ensure
23 the protection of public health and safety, promote
24 common defense and security and protect the
25 environment. This slide shows parts of the NRC's

1 review of the license renewal application to ensure
2 that the Commission accomplishes its mission.

3 The first part is safety. For license
4 renewal, the safety review focuses on aging management
5 issues and new programs necessary to maintain
6 equipment. In particular, the kinds of issues subject
7 to license renewal review include long-lived passive
8 components of the plant that are not routinely covered
9 under existing preventative maintenance programs.

10 The NRC safety staff presents the results
11 of its review in a published Safety Evaluation Report.
12 The Safety Evaluation Report will be publicly
13 available and when completed will be posted on our web
14 site.

15 The second part of the review is the
16 environmental review, which is the subject of today's
17 meetings.

18 The next part of the review is plant
19 inspections. In conjunction with the development of
20 the Safety Evaluation Report, the NRC conducts safety
21 audits and conducts safety inspections to verify the
22 adequacy of aging management programs.

23 The Safety Evaluation Report is then
24 subject to the scrutiny and independent review of the
25 Commission's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards,
26 or the ACRS. The ACRS is an independent group of

1 academic and industry experts that serve as the direct
2 consultants to the Commission. Next slide please.

3 The NRC's review of the license renewal
4 application follows two parallel paths. The safety
5 review is shown in the upper portion of this flow
6 chart, and the environmental review is shown at the
7 bottom.

8 The safety review involves the NRC staff's
9 review, an assessment of the safety information that's
10 contained in the license renewal application. The NRC
11 has a team of about 30 technical reviewers and
12 contractors who are conducting the safety review right
13 now.

14 Let me introduce Mr. Tommy Le to all of
15 you. Tommy is my counterpart for the safety review.
16 So the NRC has a safety project manager, Tommy, and me
17 the environmental project manager for the Nine Mile
18 Point license renewal review.

19 The Safety Evaluation Report documents the
20 results of the staff's safety review. The safety
21 review process also involves audits and on site
22 inspections.

23 These inspections will be conducted by a
24 team of inspectors from both the NRC's headquarters as
25 well as the NRC regional office in King of Prussia,
26 Pennsylvania.

1 The results of the license renewal
2 inspections will be documented in a separate
3 inspection report, so the safety review consists of a
4 detailed review of the application, resulting in the
5 NRC staff's Safety Evaluation Report, and a series of
6 on site inspections and audits that result in a number
7 of inspection reports. The Safety Evaluation Report
8 is forwarded to the independent Advisory Committee on
9 Reactor Safeguards who then forwards a recommendation
10 of the staff's work to the Commission.

11 The lower portion of this slide depicts
12 the environmental review, which is the focus of
13 today's meeting.

14 Part of the environmental review leading
15 to an environmental impact statement is the scoping
16 process, and that's why we're here today, and that's
17 why we're seeking your input. You'll hear me repeat
18 this several times because this is an important step
19 in the environmental review.

20 The scoping process allows us to frame the
21 issues that will be reviewed and to engage you
22 directly to receive insights on the environmental
23 issues that you believe are important to license
24 renewal.

25 You should know that the Commission gave
26 considerable thought to the scope of the environmental

1 review for the license renewal already. NRC
2 developed a Generic Environmental Impact Statement, or
3 GEIS, that addressed license renewal applications.

4 This Generic Environmental Impact
5 Statement was issued for public comment and finalized
6 in 1996. This environmental impact statement took a
7 hard look at nearly a hundred environmental issues to
8 determine whether some of the issues and their impacts
9 were common, or generic to all plants.

10 The effort allowed us to focus on those
11 unique issues that could only be resolved on a site
12 specific basis.

13 The Nine Mile Point environmental impact
14 statement will be the 24th plant specific
15 environmental impact statement for license renewal. As
16 you might suspect, after 24 of these the staff has
17 gained a lot of experience.

18 Nevertheless, we are still interested in
19 any new or unique issues that might be related to this
20 facility; hence our interest in your comments.

21 The impact statement will be issued for
22 public comment. After the document has been publicly
23 available for about 30 days, we will come back here
24 and give you an opportunity to share your views with
25 us on the draft.

1 We'll reflect on the comments that you
2 offer and make adjustments where necessary before we
3 issue the impact statement again as the final
4 document. By the way, if you would like a copy of
5 your own draft and final environmental impact
6 statement, be sure to sign up in the back of the room
7 with Jenny. Jenny, please raise your hand and let
8 everyone know who you are. Leave your name and
9 address with Jenny and we'll be sure to mail you a
10 copy of the documents as soon as they are printed.

11 The final environmental impact statement
12 is the NRC staff's analysis on the potential impacts
13 associated with the continued operation of the Nine
14 Mile Point facility for an additional 20 years beyond
15 their current license expiration date.

16 That recommendation will, along with the
17 results of the safety review, be forwarded to the
18 Commission.

19 So as you can see from this slide, the
20 final agency decision on whether to approve or deny
21 the application for license renewal will factor in a
22 number of items: the Safety Evaluation Report, which
23 documents the results of the NRC safety review; the
24 final Environmental Impact Statement, which documents
25 the results of the environmental review; the

1 inspection reports issued by our regional offices, and
2 the recommendation from the independent ACRS.

3 I want to draw your attention to the
4 "splash" marks on this slide because they indicate the
5 opportunities for formal public participation in the
6 review. Of course, at any time during the review, you
7 can contact me on any issue related to the NRC staff's
8 license renewal review, and I will try to answer your
9 questions. If I do not know the answer, I will get in
10 touch with someone within the NRC that does.

11 The first opportunity for formal
12 participation is during this meeting. We will review
13 carefully the information that you share with us
14 today, and during the scoping period, and will address
15 those in scope issues in our impact statement.

16 The next opportunity for public
17 involvement during the environmental review is when we
18 share the results of our draft environmental impact
19 statement with you, and request that you comment on
20 the document.

21 Since no one to this point has requested
22 a formal hearing on the Nine Mile Point license
23 renewal application, none will be conducted.
24 Normally, without a hearing the review schedule is
25 about 22 months from when the application is tendered
26 until the final NRC action. Next slide.

1 Now I want to talk to you in a little more
2 detail about the NRC's environmental review,
3 particularly the legislation that governs our reviews,
4 the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, or
5 NEPA.

6 The National Environmental Policy Act
7 requires that federal agencies follow a systematic
8 approach in evaluating potential environmental impacts
9 associated with certain actions. We're required to
10 consider the impact of the proposed action and also
11 mitigation for those impacts that we consider to be
12 significant.

13 We're also required to consider
14 alternatives to the proposed action, in this case
15 license renewal, which is expiration of the current
16 operating license followed by decommissioning.

17 The National Environmental Policy Act and
18 the environmental impact statement are disclosure
19 tools. They are specifically structured to involve
20 public participation, and this meeting is part of
21 facilitating the public's participation in our
22 environmental review. Next slide, please.

23 This slide shows the legal language for
24 our decision standard. In other words, are the
25 potential impacts during the license renewal period so

1 great that continued operation of the station would be
2 unreasonable? Next slide, please.

3 This slide charts the environmental review
4 process in greater detail. We received Constellation
5 Energy's application for license renewal of the Nine
6 Mile Points Units 1 and 2 on May 27, 2004. On August
7 9, 2004, we issued a *Federal Register* Notice of Intent
8 to prepare an environmental impact statement, and
9 conducted scoping.

10 This started a 60-day clock defined as the
11 scoping period, and we are within the scoping period
12 right now.

13 This meeting is part of the scoping
14 process. At the end of the scoping period, which will
15 be October 11, 2004, we will issue a scoping summary
16 report. That will address all the comments we receive
17 from all sources during the scoping period.

18 This week, members of the NRC staff and a
19 team of environmental experts from Lawrence Livermore
20 National Labs and Argonne National Labs are conducting
21 the environmental review and site audit to gather
22 information. If in the conduct of our review we
23 require additional information beyond what was already
24 provided to us in the initial application, then we
25 will issue a request for additional information. If

1 necessary, we plan to issue a request for additional
2 information by November 2004.

3 The NRC will prepare a draft environmental
4 impact statement and the NRC staff will publish the
5 draft in April of 2005 for public comment. Once the
6 draft is published, it will go for public comment,
7 with a 75-day public comment period.

8 We plan to have another meeting out here
9 in late spring to receive your comments on the draft
10 environmental impact statement.

11 Once we get all the comments on the draft,
12 the staff will factor in those comments and publish
13 the final environmental impact statement, which is
14 expected in December of 2005. Next slide, please.

15 This slide shows some of the sources used
16 to prepare our assessment. In addition to this week's
17 site audit, we will communicate with federal, state
18 and local officials, as well as local service
19 agencies. We have frequent interactions with the
20 applicant and, as we have stated earlier, we consider
21 all the comments that we receive from members of the
22 public. Next slide, please.

23 This slide shows the breadth of our
24 review. We look at the facilities' impact on a number
25 of issues, including public health, ecology, cultural
26 resources, and environmental justice.

1 For the review we've established a team
2 made up of members of the NRC staff, supplemented by
3 experts in various fields from the national labs and,
4 again, those people are with us today. Next slide,
5 please.

6 This slide just recaps a couple of key
7 milestone dates on our schedule. As mentioned, we are
8 currently in the scoping comment period, which ends on
9 October 11, 2004. All comments from this transcribed
10 public meeting will be considered. We will be
11 publishing a Nine Mile Point Units 1 and 2 site
12 specific draft environmental impact statement,
13 referred to here as the SEIS or Supplemental
14 Environmental Impact Statement, in April of 2005.
15 That will be followed by a 75-day public comment
16 period.

17 After considering your comments on the
18 draft it will be published in final form in December
19 of 2005. Next slide, please.

20 This slide identifies me as your primary
21 point of contact with the NRC for the preparation of
22 the environmental impact statement, and it also
23 identifies where documents related to our review may
24 be found in the local area. The Penfield Library on
25 the campus of the State University of New York, SUNY

1 Oswego, has agreed to make the license renewal
2 application available for public review.

3 In addition, they have agreed to make
4 available any correspondence sent by NRC to
5 Constellation Energy or other agencies, regarding the
6 Nine Mile Point license renewal review.

7 The draft environmental impact statement
8 will also be available at the library when it is
9 published. All these documents will also be available
10 on the NRC's web site www.nrc.gov.

11 In addition as you came in, you were asked
12 to fill out a registration card at our reception
13 table. If you've included your address on that card
14 we will mail you a copy of the draft and final
15 environmental impact statement. Next slide, please.

16 Now in addition to providing comments at
17 this meeting, there are other ways that you can submit
18 comments for our environmental review process. You
19 can provide written comments to the Chief of our Rules
20 and Directives Branch and that will guarantee that
21 your comments get into our public record.

22 You can also make comments in person if
23 you happen to be in the Rockville, Maryland area.

24 You can also e-mail us your comments.
25 We've established a specific e-mail address at the NRC
26 for the purpose of receiving your comments on the

1 development of our draft environmental statement.
2 That e-mail address is NineMilePointEIS@NRC.GOV with
3 no spaces. All your comments will be collected and
4 considered.

5 This concludes my remarks. Thank you for
6 taking time to attend this meeting. Are there any
7 questions?

8 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much,
9 Leslie and thanks Mike. Are there questions for
10 either Mike or Leslie about the license renewal
11 process generally, or specifically on the
12 environmental review?

13 Okay. We're going to go on to the second
14 part of the meeting which gives us an opportunity to
15 hear from you. And I'd like to start with local
16 officials and then we're going to ask Constellation
17 Energy to give us a little bit of their vision
18 rationale for license renewal, and I wondered if, is
19 Assemblyman Barclay here yet? Not yet? Okay. Well
20 we'll pick him up when he comes in.

21 Mr. Banta, Ben Banta?

22 MR. BANTA: Yes.

23 MR. CAMERON: Mr. Banta is the Executive
24 Assistant to the Mayor of the City of Oswego.

1 MR. BANTA: Thank you Mr. Cameron, Mr.
2 Masnik and Ms. Fields for being here and providing us
3 this opportunity this afternoon.

4 I noticed on your NEPA slide, the second
5 bullet addresses the quality of human environment so
6 I took the term environment at a larger interpretation
7 of the word and will probably be talking more about
8 dollars and cents than I will birds and bees -- if
9 that's all right with you.

10 I'm here today on behalf of the Honorable
11 John J. Gosek, Mayor of the City of Oswego, New York,
12 to express his support for the operating license
13 renewal of Constellation Energy's Nine Mile Point
14 nuclear energy facility by the United States Nuclear
15 Regulatory Commission. This support is based on
16 several socio-economic reasons.

17 The primary reason, obviously, is
18 economic. Constellation provides hundreds of well
19 paying jobs in this area to its employees and
20 contractors. These important jobs contribute, via
21 home ownership and purchasing power, significant
22 property tax and sales tax revenues to the local
23 economy, revenues that are essential to providing the
24 quality of life we enjoy here in Oswego.

25 With the demise of our area's once
26 dominant manufacturing-based economy and the emergence

1 of Oswego as the energy producing capital of the
2 Northeastern United States, it is incumbent upon the
3 NRC to ensure that Constellation, a good corporate
4 citizen to the city of Oswego, continues to operate
5 and thrive in this area.

6 Constellation's presence in Oswego is
7 reflected not only by its healthy payroll and
8 considerable purchasing clout, but also by its social
9 commitment to Oswego. Constellation's community-
10 spirited employees volunteer hundreds of their
11 personal time, undertaking many civic minded projects,
12 all for the betterment of our community.

13 For example, Constellation is a major
14 supporter of Oswego's Harborfest, Central New York's
15 largest and most anticipated annual family summer
16 event. Harborfest is a major tourist draw for Oswego
17 -- more than 250,000 people attended this year's
18 three-day event -- and tourism is increasingly counted
19 upon as an additional source of revenue, helping to
20 ensure the continued vitality of our local economy.

21 Constellation's support of Harborfest is
22 critical to its success; without it, Harborfest and by
23 extension Oswego's economy, would be dealt a serious
24 setback.

25 Of course, the issues of safety and
26 security in operating a nuclear energy facility are of

1 paramount importance to everyone living in this
2 region, and I expect to those in this room today who
3 are conducting this hearing.

4 We must be certain that issue No. 1 is
5 safety in operating this facility, and that the
6 security in guaranteeing it to operate safely is
7 assured.

8 We as a nation owe it to our citizens to
9 protect them, so providing a safe and secure operation
10 for Nine Mile Point's nuclear facility is of major
11 importance to fulfilling that mandatory obligation.

12 In a larger context, however, another way
13 to protect ourselves is by controlling our destiny.
14 If we could lessen our dependence on foreign-based
15 energy sources, such as oil from the Middle East, we
16 as a nation will be far better off. With the continued
17 turmoil in the Middle East, nuclear powered energy
18 plays a vital and ever increasing role in our
19 government's goal to strengthen our national security
20 by helping us to become energy independent.

21 The continued operation of Constellation's
22 Nine Mile Point nuclear energy facility will certainly
23 enable us to achieve that noble goal.

24 In summary, Constellation's license
25 renewal for its Nine Mile Point nuclear facility will
26 ensure future Oswegonians a healthy and stable socio-

1 economic environment, while continuing to make a vital
2 contribution to our country's national security.

3 Thank you very much.

4 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Banta,
5 and as Ben correctly pointed out and as Leslie also
6 told us, the environmental review is broad and does
7 include socio-economic issues.

8 Is it Sheriff Reuel Todd? Sheriff, would
9 you like to come up and talk to us? Sheriff Todd of
10 Oswego County.

11 SHERIFF TODD: Hi, I'm Sheriff Reuel Todd
12 from the Oswego County Sheriff's Department and I'd
13 just like to take a couple of moments to speak on
14 security issues that we work with the nuke plants out
15 here.

16 Since I have been on the department, which
17 has been thirty some years now, we have either worked
18 with our SWAT teams or with our whole department,
19 trained and worked with the security aspects of the
20 plants out here.

21 We have had security issues that we have
22 worked with, with strikes, traffic control, as well as
23 with the 9/11 issues.

24 I can tell you that throughout some thirty
25 some years, the cooperation with the plants out here,

1 with Nine Mile 1 and 2, have been absolutely
2 astronomical.

3 They have helped us train our people.
4 They have provided us not only with equipment but with
5 money to provide more equipment, to train their people
6 with our people. We have procedures set up that if
7 we go into the plants, and I'm not going to get into
8 everything, where they put their people with our
9 people so that we are familiar with the way they
10 operate. And we train; once, twice, three times,
11 whatever time we think is needed throughout the year
12 to do this type of training.

13 9/11 when you talk and you read the
14 newspapers and saw it on the TV, some of the other
15 plants had some what I would call some publicity
16 problems, some press problems, you didn't see it in
17 this area. The people up here have become so used to
18 our people and seeing our people and the police out
19 there with the nuke plants, they are so used to seeing
20 us train and work with the operation out there was not
21 a major flow problem where people were the least bit
22 worried. There was nothing in the press because they
23 train their people to be ready for any type of
24 activity that can happen out there.

25 And not to say that something never could
26 happen out there, but I would be, I rest well assured

1 and I have relatives that work at that plant, both in
2 the building, and now I rest very comfortably knowing
3 between their security people and our security people,
4 their plant is probably one of the best protected and
5 have some of the best personnel out there -- their
6 security people -- are trained as well as any police
7 agency that I know of. And I certainly have no
8 problem putting my people out there to work and train
9 with these people, and would certainly have no problem
10 if we had another emergency stationing my people out
11 there again.

12 And I want to say thank you to the people
13 out there. They are wonderful people to work with and
14 they are wonderful neighbors.

15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you for those
16 comments, Sheriff.

17 Let's go to Maureen Quinlan now, who's
18 Executive Director of the United Way of Oswego, and
19 then we're going to hear from Mr. Jim Spina from
20 Constellation Energy.

21 MS. QUINLAN: Thank you. As I was just
22 introduced, I'm Maureen Quinlan, the Executive
23 Director of United Way of Greater Oswego County, and
24 I believe I stand here before you representing not
25 only the United Way but the many organizations and
26 human service agencies in this county, their staff,

1 their Board of Directors, volunteers, and the
2 thousands of clients that are served by our health and
3 human service organizations in the county.

4 Constellation Energy is the largest giver
5 of our campaign. They raise, a combination of
6 employee and corporate support, approximately a
7 quarter of a million dollars for our campaign, that's
8 27 percent.

9 Not only the financial resources are
10 critical to the County and to our health and human
11 service agencies, but also the man and women power
12 that we so generously receive, not only United Way but
13 the many health and human service organizations.

14 The employees at Constellation serve on
15 local Board of Directors, they roll up their sleeves
16 and volunteer for such events as Days of Caring when
17 a simple room needs to be painted at an agency, and
18 when critical decisions need to be made at our local
19 agencies in the county, Constellation employees are
20 here to lend their support.

21 Truly, Constellation adds to the quality
22 of life of Oswego County residents, and without their
23 existence in the county I really believe that the
24 quality of life for those who live and work in the
25 county would be quite different.

1 So on behalf of the agencies that I
2 represent, I want to just take this opportunity to be
3 able to speak to the group today.

4 The support that Constellation gives us
5 does not go unrecognized. We do appreciate everything
6 that Constellation does for our county. Thank you.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Maureen. Mr. Jim
8 Spina?

9 MR. SPINA: I'd like to thank you and the
10 rest of the NRC staff for your efforts in organizing
11 this meeting. Constellation Energy is pleased to have
12 the opportunity to present information about our
13 license renewal effort in this forum.

14 Let me start by saying that Nine Mile
15 Point has been through some changes over the past
16 several years, and we're going to continue to manage
17 these changes in ownership and how we do business.

18 But what hasn't changed is our continued
19 focus on safety, the focus of all of our employees on
20 safety for the people that work at the plant and the
21 people that live around the plant.

22 We haven't changed our focus on protecting
23 the environment. We continue to ensure that our
24 operations have little or no impact on the air, water
25 or endangered species. Nor have we changed our
26 commitment to supporting the community, as you've

1 heard and as I'll talk about briefly. And that's
2 support in the form of good, stable jobs and support
3 in terms of participating in and funding events in the
4 organizations important to the area.

5 Nuclear energy and Nine Mile Point
6 specifically is an important source of clean cost-
7 effective electricity. About one in five homes in the
8 United States are powered by nuclear energy. This
9 avoids dependence on foreign oil.

10 Nine Mile Point currently generates enough
11 electricity to power more than 2 million homes. I
12 firmly believe that nuclear energy needs to be part of
13 our country's diversified energy supply now and going
14 forward in the future.

15 Constellation employs roughly 1,300 people
16 in Oswego County. We're the largest private employer
17 in the county. Our payroll is more than \$115 million
18 dollars annually, and we pay nearly \$30 million
19 dollars in local taxes.

20 In terms of community support, last year
21 Constellation Energy and its employees provided a
22 total of \$270,000 dollars in support of community
23 organizations and events. For example, our employees
24 sponsored Harborfest, we walk in the American Heart
25 Association's heart walk, we buy daffodils to support
26 the American Cancer Society. We also buy scrubs from

1 Oswego Industries, a local not for profit organization
2 dedicated to helping people with disabilities.

3 In addition to the dollars, our employees
4 volunteer countless hours of their time in the
5 community for community support. There really is
6 little question about the value that Nine Mile Point
7 provides to the local community.

8 Every employee also understands that all
9 of our community efforts aren't meaningful if we don't
10 operate our facility in a way with unceasing
11 commitment towards safety and environmental
12 protection.

13 The normal routine for maintaining a
14 nuclear power plant involves inspection, repair,
15 refurbishment and replacement of its primary operating
16 components during scheduled refueling and maintenance
17 shutdowns. We also work not only to improve our
18 equipment but also our operational environmental
19 performance.

20 Nine Mile Point was the first nuclear
21 power station to obtain international accreditation
22 for its environmental management programs.
23 Constellation generation's mission includes
24 environmental stewardship at the core of its values.
25 At Nine Mile Point, protecting the environment is a
26 part of each employee's day-to-day job. In fact, a

1 significant part of the site itself provides a habitat
2 for wildlife, such as deer, turkey, fox and various
3 birds.

4 Constellation is a learning organization.
5 We continue to work in cooperation with other nuclear
6 facilities within Constellation Energy as well as all
7 of our industry peers in the industry to learn from
8 operational experience across the country.

9 We routinely share and benefit from
10 information provided by trade associations,
11 consultants and other organizations so that we can
12 continue to improve our site processes, programs,
13 protocols and procedures.

14 In summary, the reason that we've applied
15 for license renewal is that Nine Mile Point is
16 important to the local community. We provide jobs, we
17 pay taxes, and we play a part in our country's energy
18 future.

19 The improvements we've made ensure that we
20 meet today's exacting standards of operation for
21 commercial nuclear facilities.

22 You have my word that if we're given
23 permission to operate each station for an additional
24 20 years, our employees are going to continue to
25 demonstrate their ongoing commitment to all aspects of

1 safety, reliability, plant performance and
2 environmental stewardship. Thank you.

3 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much,
4 Mr. Spina. I should have pointed out that Jim is the
5 vice president of the Nine Mile Nuclear Station.

6 Our next speaker is Patricia Egan, who's
7 the director of the Oswego County Emergency Management
8 Office. Hi, Patricia.

9 MS. EGAN: Good afternoon and thank you
10 for the opportunity to make a brief statement to you
11 today.

12 During my 12 years at the Oswego County
13 Emergency Management Office I have appreciated the
14 strong working partnership between my department and
15 Constellation, particularly with the staff of their
16 emergency preparedness department.

17 Emergency Management in collaboration with
18 the Chairman of the County Legislature, has the
19 responsibility of coordinating and implementing the
20 response, excuse me, and protective action decisions
21 that will protect both the health and safety of the
22 residents affected by an incident at Nine Mile Point.
23 Since we take this preparedness issue very seriously,
24 we depend on an aggressive partnership with the Nine
25 Mile Point licensees.

1 Some examples that attest to
2 Constellation's commitment to the country's
3 preparedness planning program, include some of the
4 following:

5 A well organized approach to drill and
6 exercise developments, which always includes attention
7 to the county's preferences related to training
8 initiatives; a consistent dialogue with the county
9 that addresses safety concerns off site; a willingness
10 to support with expertise, personnel and finances,
11 projects that enhance the county's ability to
12 effectively oversee the radiological preparedness
13 program.

14 There's always an invitation to on site
15 training that would benefit our off site emergency
16 response organization, and in the accommodation of my
17 department's request for specific training in areas
18 that would make off site planning and response much
19 more effective. And a recent example of this kind of
20 training would be Constellation's recent discussions
21 with my staff regarding security issues, safeguards,
22 notification, and security responses.

23 I believe in Constellation's commitment to
24 not only its on site safety issues, but also to the
25 protection of the Oswego County community. Their
26 proven track record in preparedness efforts and

1 attention to the response needs of Oswego County
2 strongly attest to the validity of the request for
3 licensing extension. I thank you very much.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
5 Patricia. Do we have anybody else who would like to
6 give us any comments this afternoon? Any final
7 questions, or any questions I guess for the staff?

8 Okay. I'm just going to check one thing
9 to see if Assemblyman Barclay is on his way. I won't
10 disappear.

11 Okay. I guess that Assemblyman Barclay
12 who was going to be with us has been delayed and we'll
13 make sure that we accommodate getting his comments
14 whenever he does get here, but I think we can adjourn
15 for this afternoon, and I would just thank you for all
16 being here.

17 We're going to be back to start the
18 meeting at seven o'clock, but of course we'll have a
19 six o'clock open house for an hour before the meeting,
20 so thank you again and we'll see you later.

21 (Whereupon, the above entitled matter was
22 adjourned, and went off the record at 2:20 p.m.)