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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING :
VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING :
PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2, LICENSE :
RENEWAL APPLICATION :
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Thursday, September 27, 2007

Auditorium
Augusta Technical College
Waynesboro/Burke Campus
216 Highway 24 South
Waynesboro, Georgia

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

BEFORE: CHIP CAMERON, Facilitator

ALSO PRESENT:

J.P. LEOUS, on behalf of the Agency
ERIC BENNER, on behalf of the Agency

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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2 MR. CAMERON: Good afternoon, everyone. My
3 name is Chip Cameron; I'm with the Office of General
4 Counsel at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the NRC, and
5 I want to welcome you to this afternoon's meeting.

6 And our topic today is the Environmental Review
7 that the NRC conducts as part of its evaluation on whether
8 to grant a license application to renew the license for an
9 operating nuclear power reactor.

10 And we have such an application in from the
11 Southern Nuclear Operating Company, to renew the licenses
12 for the Vogtle Plant, Units 1 and 2.

13 And to just avoid any confusion for all of you,
14 the application is from the Southern Nuclear Operating
15 Company, but there are four owners of the operating units
16 at this point: Georgia Power; MEAG, which is the
17 Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia; Dalton Utilities;
18 and Oglethorpe Power.

19 And it's my pleasure to serve as your
20 facilitator for this afternoon's meeting, and my general
21 responsibility in that role will be to try to help all of
22 you to have a productive meeting this afternoon.

23 And I just want to talk a little bit about
24 meeting process before we get to the substance of today's
25 discussion. The meeting format is we're going to have a

1 two-part format, and the first part is going to begin with
2 a brief NRC presentation to give you an overview of what
3 the NRC looks at when it evaluates an application to renew
4 a license for an operating reactor.

5 And then we'll have some time to go out to all
6 of you for questions that you may have about the NRC
7 process, and we also want to emphasize how you can
8 participate in the NRC's evaluation process.

9 After we're done with questions, at some point
10 we'll have to move on to the second part of the meeting,
11 which is to give us an opportunity to listen to any formal
12 comments, advice, recommendations that you might have, on
13 the Environmental Review process.

14 Our focus is on the Environmental Review
15 process. This is a scoping meeting which is a term that's
16 used to refer to what should be examined in the
17 Environmental Impact Statement that the NRC prepares on
18 this license application: what alternatives should be
19 looked at, what types of impacts, what types of
20 methodology should be used.

21 So it is a scoping meeting, and the focus is
22 Environmental Review, but we know that people have broader
23 concerns with these types of applications, so we're here
24 to listen to whatever you have to say to us this
25 afternoon.

1 The staff from the NRC is going to tell you
2 that -- how to file written comments, but we're here today
3 to talk to you in person, and I just want to tell you that
4 anything that's offered today has jut as much weight as a
5 written comment.

6 In terms of ground rules -- and these are very
7 simple, and they're just designed to help us have that
8 productive meeting -- when we get to the question period,
9 if you have a question, just signal me and I'll bring you
10 this cordless microphone, and if you could please
11 introduce yourself to us and any affiliation if that's
12 appropriate, and we'll try to answer your question.

13 And I would ask you to try to be brief in your
14 questions, and to contain it to a question, hold the
15 comment for the comment period, and that will -- that way,
16 we'll make sure that we can get as many questions as
17 possible before we have to move on to the comment period.

18 And during the comment period, I'm just going
19 to set a guideline of five minutes, when we'll ask you to
20 come up to the front. We don't have a whole lot of
21 speakers, so that that five minutes is a guideline but I
22 just would ask you to try to keep it under an hour at
23 least, but --

24 (General laughter.)

25 MR. CAMERON: -- and one person at a time,

1 please. I don't think we have to worry about that. But
2 that always allows us to give our full attention to
3 whomever has the floor, whoever has the cordless mic at
4 the moment.

5 But it also allows us to get a clean
6 transcript, and we have Brenda Thompson with us, who is
7 our court reporter today, and she'll be taking down who's
8 saying what and exactly what you say.

9 And finally, just a note on courtesy, probably
10 doesn't have to be said, but you're going to hear opinions
11 this afternoon that may differ from your own, and I would
12 just ask you to respect the person who's giving it.

13 And with that, I thank you all for being here
14 this afternoon. And I just want to introduce our speaker
15 and some other people before we go on.

16 We have J.P. Leous, right here. And J.P.'s the
17 Project Manager for the Environmental Review on this
18 license renewal application. He's relatively new to the
19 NRC; he's been with us for ten months. But we have a lot
20 of confidence in J.P.

21 He has a master's degree from Columbia
22 University in New York City in Environmental Science and
23 Policy, and before the master's degree, he was in the
24 Peace Corps for two years in Grenada, and is a graduate of
25 Allegheny College in Pennsylvania.

1 And he's going to give you the overview, and
2 then we'll go out to you for questions.

3 I just want to make sure that everybody knows
4 Eric Benner. And Eric is the Chief of the Environmental
5 Review branch and the license renewal program; that's the
6 same program that J.P.'s in.

7 In fact, J.P. works for Eric and works in one
8 of the other branches. But Eric is one of our managers in
9 this program. And with that, J.P. do you want to talk to
10 us?

11 MR. LEOUS: You bet.

12 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

13 MR. LEOUS: Good afternoon. My name is
14 J.P. Leous. I'm the Environmental Project Manager with
15 the Division of License Renewal and am coordinating this
16 NAS review with Vogtle Units 1 and 2 license renewal
17 application.

18 Thank you all for taking the time to come to
19 this meeting. I hope the information we provide will help
20 you understand the process we're going through, and the
21 role you can play in helping us make sure that our
22 Environmental Review considers relevant information.

23 To reiterate what Chip mentioned, this meeting
24 is to discuss the NRC's environmental scoping process for
25 license renewal at Vogtle Electric Generating Plant

1 Units 1 and 2.

2 This is a distinct process from the early site
3 permit, members of the NRC staff are conducting. Should
4 you be interested in that process, there will be a meeting
5 here on October 4, 2007 to discuss the draft Environmental
6 Impact Statement for the early site permit.

7 However, this afternoon we'll discuss
8 environmental scoping pertaining to license renewal. In
9 August, we held a meeting here at the Augusta Tech College
10 to provide an overview of the license renewal process,
11 which includes both the safety and an Environmental
12 Review.

13 Today we will describe in more detail the
14 Environmental Review process associated with the license
15 renewal. But the most important part of today's meeting
16 is to receive any comments that you may have on the scope
17 of the Environmental Review.

18 We will also give you some information on how
19 you can submit comments outside of this meeting. At the
20 conclusion of this presentation we will start taking
21 comments on the scope of the Environmental Review.

22 As Chip has already indicated, this meeting is
23 being transcribed, and all comments recorded from this
24 meeting will be reviewed and considered.

25 Should you not wish to speak but would like to

1 share your comments with us, there are cards available for
2 you to fill out and return to us. Alternatively, you can
3 email Vogtle lr eis@nrc.gov or write to us, and I'll
4 provide that address in just a few minutes.

5 Before I get into the details of the
6 Environmental Review process, I'd like to take a minute to
7 recap some of the information that was presented here in
8 August. The NRC is a federal agency established by the
9 Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 that regulates the
10 civilian use of nuclear material.

11 The Atomic Energy Act of 1954 authorizes the
12 NRC to grant a 40-year operating license for nuclear power
13 reactors. This 40-year term was based primarily on
14 economic and antitrust factors, not on safety or technical
15 limitations. The Atomic Energy Act also allows for
16 license renewal.

17 The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969,
18 commonly known as NEPA, established the national policy
19 for considering the impact of federal decision making on
20 the human environment. As a matter of policy, the
21 Commission determined that reactor license renewal
22 constitutes a major federal action for which an
23 Environmental Impact Statement is warranted.

24 The NRC's regulations governing nuclear safety,
25 security and environmental protection are contained in

1 Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, commonly
2 referred to as 10 CFR.

3 In exercising its authority, the NRC mission is
4 threefold: to ensure adequate protection of public health
5 and safety; to promote the common defense and security;
6 and to protect the environment.

7 The NRC accomplishes its mission through a
8 combination of regulatory programs and processes, such as
9 establishing rules and regulations, conducting
10 inspections, issuing enforcement actions, assessing
11 licensee performance, and evaluating operating experience
12 from nuclear power plants across the country and
13 internationally.

14 The NRC has resident inspectors at all US
15 operating nuclear power plants. These inspectors are
16 considered the eyes and ears of the NRC. They carry out
17 our safety mission on a daily basis, and are on the front
18 lines of ensuring acceptable, safe performance and
19 compliance with regulatory requirements.

20 Now, turning to license renewal, the Vogtle
21 Reactor Units were licensed to operate in 1987 and 1989.
22 For Units 1 and 2, the current operating licenses expire
23 in 2027 and 2029, respectively.

24 The NRC received Southern Company's application
25 for license renewal of both units on June 29 of this year.

1 As part of the NRC's review of the Vogtle license renewal
2 application, we'll perform an environmental review to
3 assess the impacts on the environment of an additional 20
4 years of information -- or operation.

5 I'll explain that process in a few minutes.
6 I'll also share with you a schedule for the Environmental
7 Review.

8 License renewal involves two parallel reviews:
9 the Safety Review and the Environmental Review. These two
10 reviews evaluate two separate aspects of the license
11 renewal application.

12 The Safety Review focuses on the aging
13 components and structures the NRC deems important to plant
14 safety. The staff's main objective in this review is to
15 determine that the effects of aging will be adequately
16 managed by the Applicant. The results of the Safety
17 Review are documented in a Safety Evaluation Report, or
18 SER.

19 For the Environmental Review, the staff
20 considers, evaluates and discloses environmental impacts
21 of continued plant operation for an additional 20 years.
22 The staff also evaluates the environmental impacts of
23 alternatives to license renewal.

24 The objective of the review is to determine if
25 the environmental impacts of license renewal are so great

1 that license renewal would not be a reasonable option.

2 The staff prepares an Environmental Impact
3 Statement, or EIS, to document its environmental review.

4 This diagram illustrates the Safety and
5 Environmental Review processes, represented at the top and
6 bottom of the slide.

7 It also features two other considerations in
8 the Commission's decision of whether or not to renew an
9 operating license. The Independent Review is performed by
10 the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, or ACRS.

11 Statutorily mandated by the Atomic Energy Act
12 of 1954, the ACRS is a group of scientists and nuclear
13 experts who serve as a consulting body to the Commission.

14 The ACRS performs an independent review of the
15 license renewal application, and the NRC staff's Safety
16 Evaluation. The ACRS reports their findings and
17 recommendations directly to the Commission.

18 Hearings may also be conducted. Concurrent
19 with the staff's review, interested stakeholders may
20 submit concerns or contentions and request a hearing. If
21 a hearing is granted, the Commission considers the outcome
22 of the hearing process in its decision of whether or not
23 to issue to renewed license.

24 Now I'm going to describe the Environmental
25 Review in a bit more detail. The National Environmental

1 Policy Act of 1969 requires that federal agencies follow a
2 systematic approach in evaluating potential environmental
3 impacts associated with certain actions.

4 We are required to consider the impact of
5 license renewal, and also any mitigation to those impacts
6 that we consider to be significant.

7 We are also required to consider alternatives
8 to the license renewal, and that includes energy
9 alternatives to license renewal, mitigation alternatives,
10 and the environmental impact associated with not issuing a
11 renewed license.

12 The NRC has determined that an Environmental
13 Impact Statement will be prepared for proposed license
14 renewal of nuclear power plants. The staff has developed
15 a generic environmental impact statement that addressed a
16 number of issues common to all power plants.

17 The staff is supplementing that generic EIS
18 with a site-specific EIS which will address issues that
19 are specific to the Vogtle site. The staff also
20 determines if there are any new and significant
21 information that would change the conclusions reached in
22 the generic EIS.

23 In preparing the Environmental Impact
24 Statement, the NRC conducts a scoping process. The
25 purpose of the scoping process is to identify the site-

1 specific environmental issues.

2 We are now gathering information for an EIS and
3 are here to collect public comments on the scope of the
4 review. That is, what environmental impacts should the
5 staff consider for the proposed license renewal at Vogtle?

6 For the Environmental Review, we have
7 established a team of specialists from the NRC staff and
8 contractors who are experts in various fields and
9 disciplines. This slide gives you an idea of the various
10 areas we look at during the Environmental Review.

11 They include terrestrial and aquatic ecology,
12 environmental justice, hydrology, and radiation
13 protection.

14 The scoping period started on August 27, when a
15 Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS and Conduct Scoping was
16 published in the *Federal Register*. The NRC will be
17 accepting comments on the scope of the Environmental
18 Review until October 24, 2007.

19 In general, we are looking for sources of
20 information about the environmental impact of continued
21 operation at Vogtle, that we should consider as we prepare
22 our Environmental Impact Statement.

23 You can assist us in this process by telling
24 us, for example, what aspects of your local community we
25 should focus on: what local environmental, social,

1 economic aspects the NRC should examine during our
2 Environmental Review, and what reasonable alternatives are
3 most appropriate for this area.

4 These are just some of the examples of what
5 we're looking for and represent the kinds of information
6 we are seeking through the environmental scoping process.
7 Your comments today should be helpful in providing
8 insights of this nature.

9 Now, this slide illustrates the various
10 considerations that are factored into a decision to issue
11 a renewed operating license. So how do we use your input?

12 Public comments are an important part of the
13 Environmental Review process. We consider all of the
14 comments that we receive from the public during the
15 scoping process, as well as comments received on the draft
16 Environmental Impact Statement.

17 Now, in addition to providing comments at this
18 meeting, there are other ways you can submit comments for
19 our Environmental Review process. You can provide written
20 comments to the Chief of our Rules Directives and Editing
21 Branch. You can also make comments in person if you
22 happen to be in Rockville, Maryland.

23 Additionally, we've established a specific
24 email address at the NRC for the purpose of receiving your
25 comments on the development of our draft Environmental

1 Impact Statement, as well as scoping for the Environmental
2 Review.

3 That email address is Vogtle lr eis@nrc.gov.
4 Again, all of your comments will be collected, reviewed
5 and considered.

6 This slide shows important milestone dates for
7 the Environmental Review process. The Notice of
8 Opportunity for Hearing was published on August 21,
9 followed by the Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS and
10 conduct scoping.

11 The opportunity to submit contentions for a
12 hearing closes on October 22, and if you have comments you
13 would like to submit outside of today's meeting, you have
14 until October 24, as highlighted, to do so.

15 This slide identifies the primary contact at
16 the NRC for the Environmental Review: me, J.P. Leous,
17 Environmental Project Manager. It also identifies where
18 documents related to our review may be found in the local
19 area.

20 The Burke County Library has agreed to make the
21 license renewal application available for public review.
22 When it's -- when the document is published, the draft
23 Environmental Impact Statement will also be available at
24 this library.

25 These documents will also be on the NRC's

1 website, at the web address shown at the bottom of the
2 slide.

3 In addition, as you came in, you were asked to
4 fill out a registration card at our reception table. If
5 you've included your address on that card, we will mail
6 you a copy of the draft and final EIS's as they're
7 published.

8 This concludes my presentation. I thank you
9 very much, and I'll turn it back over to Chip.

10 MR. CAMERON: Thanks. Thanks a lot, J.P. So
11 that's the evaluation process in a nutshell, and we have
12 time for questions before we go to formal comments.

13 Are there questions about the license renewal
14 process?

15 (Pause.)

16 MR. CAMERON: Sara? And please introduce
17 yourself.

18 MS. BARCZAK: Sara Barczak with Southern
19 Alliance for Clean Energy in Savannah. I don't know if
20 this is a -- let me ask the two questions and --

21 The one question was whether there's any
22 clarification that you could explain -- and I may be
23 incorrect on this, but isn't Vogtle applying for their
24 license renewal early in terms of what other plants have
25 done? And I think it might be more specific to Unit 2?

1 And then the second question was just if either
2 of you have an itemization of how many license renewals
3 have been applied for across the country, granted, and --
4 or approved I should say, and also denied.

5 MR. CAMERON: Okay. J.P. or Eric, I don't know
6 how you want to divide this up, but I guess the first
7 question is is the Vogtle license renewal application --
8 did it come in earlier than most license renewal
9 applications, and I guess the underlying question, too, is
10 why do companies come in early on -- for license renewal.

11 And also, the second question is, how many have
12 been granted and have any been denied. And I would throw
13 in there, also, how many have been sent back because they
14 were unacceptable and may have come back in again.

15 MR. BENNER: Uh-huh.

16 MR. CAMERON: Eric?

17 MR. BENNER: Regarding the first question, the
18 way the regulations are laid out, applicants can come in
19 any time within 20 years of the end of the license. So
20 given the -- that for Unit 1, it expires in -- or excuse
21 me, Unit 2 expires in 2029, that is greater than 20 years.

22 They can request an exemption to that, and I
23 believe, J.P., we granted the exemption so that both --
24 indeed, both units are being reviewed as part of this
25 action.

1 Regarding the statistics, I don't have the
2 actual numbers of applications and granted. We can
3 probably have that for you sometime later today if we can
4 look that up.

5 We have returned applications that we found to
6 be unacceptable. We conduct an acceptance review before
7 we start our review, and we have had applications that
8 have not been acceptable.

9 Regarding, have we -- once we have accepted an
10 application, have we denied the renewal of any licenses,
11 they answer is, no. We haven't. And part of that is, the
12 rigor in the acceptance review, and the fact that the NRC
13 has developed regulations and significant guidance in this
14 area.

15 And applicants put a lot of energy into
16 ensuring that when they submit an application, that it
17 follows the regulations and the guidance, and then are
18 willing to supplement that application as the staff comes
19 up with additional questions and concerns.

20 MR. CAMERON: And it may be helpful in terms of
21 the exemption, was the exemption requested so that both
22 Units, 2 and Unit 1, could be considered at the same time?

23 MR. BENNER: Well, Unit 1 didn't need an
24 exemption. Right? They came in within the timeframe
25 specified in the regulations. So the exemption was only

1 so that Unit 2 could come in. You know, if you track back
2 from the 20-year requirement, you would expect their
3 application to come in, in 2009. Because they came in in
4 2007m that's what the exemption had to be granted for.

5 MR. CAMERON: So that we'll do one review --

6 MR. BENNER: So that -- it will be one review,
7 for both units.

8 MR. CAMERON: Okay. All right. Anybody else
9 have a question that -- at this point? And we probably
10 have the luxury of coming back for further questions if
11 something occurs to you during the Formal Comment part of
12 the meeting.

13 MR. BENNER: And certainly at the end of the
14 Formal Comment --

15 MR. CAMERON: Right.

16 MR. BENNER: -- portion of the meeting, we'll
17 be available.

18 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Terrific. Well, why don't
19 we go to Formal Comment, and I often find it useful at the
20 first scoping, or at the scoping meeting on license
21 renewal for -- people are, always wonder why is the
22 company coming in for license renewal at this time.

23 And it's useful to have the company's vision on
24 this explained briefly, and we do have Mr. Walter Dukes,
25 who's a regional vice president for the company, who is

1 going to talk to us for a few minutes.

2 Do you want to come up, Mr. Dukes?

3 MR. DUKES: Appreciate it.

4 Good afternoon. Let me just take this
5 opportunity, first of all, to thank you so much for the
6 opportunity to make some comments on behalf of the Georgia
7 Power Company, and also as co-owners, MEAG, Oglethorpe and
8 others. We thank you so much for allowing us to make some
9 comments here this afternoon.

10 I'm -- as stated earlier, my position is Vice
11 President of the Regional Operations here in the 13-county
12 area. Offices are down here in Augusta. But I just want
13 to kind of put it in context here as I speak.

14 I started out here. I'm originally from Burke
15 County, and this is home here in Burke County. And
16 certainly -- I started out at Plant Vogtle as a
17 construction engineer many years ago when I graduated from
18 Georgia Tech.

19 So I know much about Plant Vogtle. I worked
20 there for five years, and spent a lot of time there, at
21 Plant Vogtle even after that, and I've spent much time
22 there going in and out of Plant Vogtle over the last 20
23 years.

24 And I do want to say for over the last 20
25 years, Plant Vogtle has operated safely. And I think

1 that's very important, that we've had it operated safely
2 and we've been very reliable, and at very low cost to
3 consumers.

4 And we've been good stewards, very good
5 stewards of the environment, and I can say that, as I said
6 earlier on, I visit Plant Vogtle regularly, because my
7 family lives here, and certainly I live in the community
8 as well, and I visit them and look at their safety
9 procedures and how they operate, and how they test the
10 employees within the confines of Vogtle, and even
11 measuring radioactivity at the plant site and outside of
12 the plant site. I think they do an outstanding job there.

13 And I also want to tell you that this plant is
14 not getting older, but it's gotten better. In fact, we've
15 spent millions of dollars in upgrade, new technology, and
16 I would say that as we look at Plant Vogtle and look
17 forward to the future, we need Plant Vogtle and more like
18 Plant Vogtle, because we know the demand for electricity
19 is only growing, and in fact is -- it will grow by 30
20 percent over the next 15 years.

21 And the population is going to be expanding in
22 the state of Georgia; in fact we have added over 127,000
23 customers just in the last three years alone.

24 Again, when I think about our relationship with
25 the local community, we've had a great relationship over

1 the last 20 years, a great partnership, and I think it's
2 been a partnership of trust.

3 I think that the -- they trust us to operate it
4 safely, and we've enjoyed that relationship, but it's
5 definitely been based on trust, and I think it goes back
6 to our core values of the company.

7 We -- one thing about us, and -- Southern
8 Company, we believe in total commitment, unquestionable
9 trust and superior performance. And I think all three of
10 those we've kept in mind as we operated Plant Vogtle.

11 Again as in the past, our record is clear. We
12 provide at low cost, we provide reliable electricity, very
13 safe, and we've been good stewards of the environment.

14 And as going forward we want to be able to do
15 the same thing, as we ask that we be able to be extended,
16 extend the life of those units. Thank you so much.

17 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Walter.

18 James Hendrix is our next speaker.

19 MR. HENDRIX: Good afternoon. My name's James
20 Hendrix. I'm the Executive Director of the SRS Community
21 Reuse Organization. Appreciate the opportunity to speak
22 to this meeting today.

23 I'm going to read a letter that I've already
24 provided the original to the staff here, and we'd like
25 this entered into the record.

1 "The SRS Community Reuse Organization is a two-
2 state five-county economic development board established
3 by Congress to assist communities surrounding Department
4 of Energy facilities. Our mission is to apply Savannah
5 River Site assets to regional cooperation, leading to a
6 diversified and growing economy for our communities. Our
7 22 directors include community leaders appointed by
8 business organizations, local governments, and the United
9 States Congressman. They volunteer their time to serve as
10 the 'voice of the community' on things related to the
11 Savannah River Site.

12 "We applaud the NRC for holding events such as
13 this meeting and trust that you will diligently consider
14 all input received."

15 Our board has recently expanded our focus to
16 include an interest in commercial nuclear topics, because
17 of the impacts on the community that we serve.

18 "We have recently become more involved with the
19 important issues surrounding energy supply for this
20 region, and the Southeastern United States. It is
21 predicted that over 40 percent of all US population will
22 live in the Southeast in the next few decades.

23 "We participate today to express our full
24 support for license extension for Vogtle units 1 and 2.
25 We agree with the Southern Company assertion that they

1 must maintain a proper balance among their electric
2 generating capacity. This approach makes good technical
3 sense and it also makes good economic sense.

4 "The electrical generation capacity resident in
5 the Southeastern United States is going to grow. It is
6 imperative that utilities meet that need in a way that
7 protects the environment, provides the electricity needed
8 to meet demand, and minimizes cost to the average
9 consumer.

10 "License renewal for Vogtle Units 1 and 2 is
11 critical to maintaining adequate electricity supply for
12 this region. Throughout the last century, the development
13 of continents, nations, and regions can be shown to have
14 direct correlation to the availability of affordable,
15 abundant and reliable electricity. The Vogtle plants help
16 meet that requirement, and our Board strongly endorses the
17 request for license renewal."

18 Thank you.

19 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, James.

20 We're going to go to Billy Hopper next, and
21 then we're going to go to Sara Barczak.

22 MR. HOPPER: My name is Billy Hopper. I reside
23 at 413 MacIntosh Drive here in Waynesboro. I'm the
24 retired County Administrator for Burke County, and also
25 served as City Administrator for eight years prior to

1 that.

2 I became County Administrator in November 1973
3 and retired in January 2002. So as you can see, for that
4 entire time, I was involved with the process at Plant
5 Vogtle, and became very involved as far as working with
6 Georgia Power and its partners.

7 During that time, we received excellent
8 cooperation from the company. The relationship was always
9 good. I feel that Burke County was good for -- you know,
10 is good for Plant Vogtle, and Plant Vogtle is good for
11 Burke County.

12 Because of that relationship, and I know of
13 no -- I'm no expert on environmental problems by any
14 means, but during that time, I certainly know of nothing
15 that caused any problems in the county.

16 Because of that relationship that we have had,
17 and because of, as Mr. Dukes said, because of our trust in
18 Georgia Power and its partners, and because of what has
19 happened in the past, I certainly see nothing that should
20 cause that -- any difference in that relationship in the
21 future.

22 And for that reason, I certainly wholeheartedly
23 support the extension of the license to operate Units 1
24 and 2. Thank you.

25 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

1 Sara?

2 MS. BARCZAK: I've got to come to the afternoon
3 sessions more often, because I get to talk longer.

4 Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Sara
5 Barczak, and I'm the Safe Energy Director with Southern
6 Alliance for Clean Energy. We are a nonprofit energy
7 policy organization with members throughout Georgia and
8 the region.

9 We promote responsible energy choices that
10 create global-warming solutions and ensure clean, safe and
11 healthy communities in the Southeast. And I'm also a
12 resident of the downstream community of Savannah.

13 The issue of extending the operating life of
14 Plant Vogtle will not affect just this local community but
15 Georgia as a whole, and our regional overall. And we hope
16 the NRC staff understands that we need to do what will
17 benefit all -- not just a select few.

18 The NRC needs to fully research other energy
19 choices, including energy efficiency and conservation, as
20 the application from Southern Nuclear is woefully
21 inadequate. Renewable energy supplies are available here
22 in Georgia, such as biopower, solar and wind. In fact,
23 according to a 2006 report from the Georgia Environmental
24 Facilities Authority, Georgia has the potential to meet
25 1500 to 1600-plus megawatts of the state's forecasted

1 electricity demand through new, renewable resources, from
2 biomass, wind, hydropower, landfill gas, and solar
3 photovoltaics.

4 These energy supplies should be supported due
5 in part because they keep dollars here at home, and they
6 don't pose the risk to the community that nuclear power
7 does.

8 The NRC should be aware that new, certified
9 wind maps of Georgia were released by the National
10 Renewable Energy Lab in October 2006, that show there is
11 substantial wind power available, especially offshore,
12 with the potential of 10,000 megawatts.

13 You can go to the Georgia Wind Working Group
14 website at www.gaw.wg.org. And that stakeholders include
15 Southern Company, Georgia Tech, Southern Alliance for
16 Clean Energy, many; it's a diverse group of stake holders.

17 Yet information in the application is
18 completely outdated. In terms of wind, what I read said
19 it referenced 1986 data, in spite of Southern Company
20 being involved in an offshore wind study with Georgia Tech
21 that was released in part earlier this summer.

22 Additionally, the potential to use Georgia's
23 plentiful agriculture and forestry resources should be
24 evaluated. A conservative estimate from the University of
25 Georgia study showed that as much as 12 percent of

1 Georgia's total electricity demand could be generated from
2 biomass.

3 The benefits to Georgia include increased self-
4 sufficiency, improved water resource quality, and long-
5 term environmental and rural development benefits.

6 The application is deficient in its analysis of
7 energy efficiency. Energy efficiency and conservation
8 represent the quickest, safest, cheapest way to provide
9 more power and to best protect our air and water
10 resources.

11 And I'm sorry if I'm talking really loud;
12 it's -- I'm whispering, so if I'm hurting your ears, I'll
13 apologize and blame Chip. Just kidding.

14 As an added benefit, increased energy
15 efficiency reduces water consumption by power plants that
16 compete with local industries and cities for much-needed
17 water. The NRC should be aware that in 2001, the Energy
18 Information Administration ranked Georgia eighth in the
19 nation for per capita energy consumption for electricity,
20 and 40th in per capita spending on energy efficiency
21 programs.

22 Additionally, we are an energy-exporting state.
23 We use our natural resources, impact our citizens' health,
24 and pile up nuclear waste within our borders to power
25 other states' air conditioning units. The NRC needs to

1 evaluate both Georgia's actual need for power and how
2 conservation and efficiency could reduce that supposed
3 need.

4 Power plants have a tremendous impact on our
5 water resources. Our energy choices do make a big
6 difference in the future of the river basins and the
7 communities and businesses relying on those water
8 resources.

9 And given that the license renewal for Vogtle
10 is for 20 additional years of operation, which would take
11 us to 2047 and 2049 if approved, we believe the NRC needs
12 to evaluate not only the Georgia of today, but the Georgia
13 we may be living in 40 years from now.

14 And I heard some of my previous speakers talk
15 about some of that, the increased need for power, the
16 increased population. But we also have to look at what
17 are those future environmental changes going to be from
18 those two things right there. I didn't see that in the
19 application.

20 Most people are not aware that the nuclear
21 plants in Georgia have larger water permits than most
22 municipalities, including nearby Augusta. Plant Vogtle is
23 currently the largest water user in the entire Savannah
24 River Basin, and has an average withdrawal of 64 million
25 gallons per day from the Savannah River, with an average

1 consumption of 43 million gallons per day. That means
2 that Vogtle is returning only about a third of what it
3 withdraws from the River.

4 An additional 20 years of operation as
5 populations increase and the demand for water increases
6 will not be a positive development for our water
7 resources.

8 Further, the proposed new reactors at Plant
9 Vogtle are estimated to use over 50 million gallons of
10 water per day, with 50 to 75 percent of that lost as
11 steam, and that's from Southern Nuclear's August 2006
12 application.

13 This means that more water will be lost from
14 the two existing and two proposed reactors at Plant Vogtle
15 than is currently used by all residents of Atlanta,
16 Augusta, and Savannah combined.

17 Yet the application doesn't discuss the
18 cumulative impacts of the existing and proposed reactors.
19 Instead, it says in Section 2.12.3 that the NRC will do
20 such an analysis in the draft EIS for the early site
21 permit.

22 That was released earlier this month, actually
23 after this application was submitted. While I have not
24 yet had time to read the draft EIS word for word that
25 we're going to talk about next Thursday, but I can tell

1 you that it appears that the cumulative impact on water
2 quality and quantity have not been satisfactorily
3 evaluated in the draft EIS for the early site permit.

4 And that's a problem, because this early
5 license renewal is saying that that's going to be a draft
6 in the early site permit, and I don't see it there, so
7 it's a concern.

8 The NRC should not make its decisions or
9 evaluations in a vacuum. If the two new reactors are
10 approved and actually built, the existing two reactors
11 will be operating at the same time, and this application
12 and all other applications associated with Plant Vogtle
13 have to address the cumulative impacts -- not pass the
14 buck, assuming that some other committee within the NRC
15 working on some other project is going to cover it.

16 My fear is that there doesn't appear to be any
17 assurance that things won't slip through the cracks, so to
18 speak. We have grave concerns that too many permits are
19 occurring at the same time with Plant Vogtle. A license
20 renewal, an early site permit and an upcoming application
21 for a combined construction and operating license.

22 Can the NRC keep up with all of this in a
23 manner that is truly protective of public health? We are
24 doubtful.

25 As we all know, bureaucracies themselves have

1 their deficiencies. The idea that everything will be
2 coordinated seamlessly between all of these different
3 staffs and projects -- and you know, putting full faith
4 that we have great staff at the NRC.

5 But there's a lot going on, and we're just
6 concerned that these different projects are not going to
7 be integrated, and expecting that to be integrated is
8 somewhat almost unrealistic. But we'd hope that it could
9 happen.

10 And I am wrapping up. I did time this last
11 night, so it's five minutes, but I may have been talking
12 slower.

13 Additionally, since we are discussing the
14 prospects of these reactors operating for many decades
15 from now, the NRC needs to evaluate predictive effects of
16 global warming on this region, and how nuclear power
17 plants may be negatively impacted or unable to generate
18 electricity. This was demonstrated, as many of us in the
19 room know, by the heat wave this past summer in Europe,
20 when nuclear power plants from Sweden to France had to
21 shut down because of the lake -- I'm sorry -- the summer
22 of 2006, when nuclear power plants from Sweden to France
23 had to shut down because the lake or river water
24 temperatures were too high.

25 Further, if we're looking to support a nuclear

1 power infrastructure, we need to make sure we're able to
2 support the needs to oversee it properly for the public.

3 Right now the NRC must be aware that we've got
4 a shortfall in terms of funding and capacity in the state
5 of Georgia to monitor the nuclear facilities we already
6 have, let alone extending their operating lives of what
7 we've already got, or monitoring more that could be
8 brought online in the future.

9 Lastly, as a downstream resident I'm very
10 concerned about tritium, a radioactive form of hydrogen
11 that can impact our health. Faced with saltwater
12 intrusion of the Floridan Aquifer, both Beaufort and
13 Jasper Counties in South Carolina and the Savannah area
14 will become more dependent on the Savannah River for
15 drinking water. I did not see that discussed in the
16 application.

17 Plant Vogtle already contributes to the tritium
18 in the River, although they are not the major culprit; and
19 allowing the reactors to operate for longer will do
20 nothing to reduce this reality, let alone when and if more
21 reactors come online.

22 The NRC needs to study tritium in the river,
23 future projections, especially given the Savannah River
24 site's already large contribution to the tritium
25 pollution, and to analyze this with droughts and future

1 population growth in mind. The future safety of not only
2 this community, but many, many, others are at stake.

3 And thank you for your time and consideration.

4 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Thank you,
5 Sara.

6 Okay, our next three speakers will be Dick
7 Byne, Ellis Godbee, and Bobbie Paul. Is Mr. Byne here?

8 (Pause.)

9 MR. CAMERON: Could you come up and speak to
10 us. Thank you.

11 MR. BYNE: Okay. Thank you for letting me
12 speak. Thank you for the opportunity. I'm Dick Byne; I'm
13 on the Waynesboro County Council.

14 I've been to every one of the meetings, I in
15 tend to be on as many meetings as you have, if you have
16 500 between now and then, I'll be at every single one of
17 them.

18 I appreciate the opportunity of living in a
19 free country, to be able to bring concerns. You are open,
20 and you're letting us decide if this is good for our
21 community, and I really do appreciate that.

22 I don't know how many other countries do that,
23 but I know America does, and I appreciate that. I also
24 appreciate the Southern Nuclear going as slow as they are;
25 they're being meticulous about what they're doing. I

1 appreciate that, and I appreciate them being open with
2 everything that they're trying to do, and I appreciate
3 their challenges that they're getting; they're addressing
4 each challenge, and we appreciate that too. And that
5 really means a lot to me.

6 Being in Waynesboro and growing up here all my
7 life, I'm very concerned about this community. And I've
8 been in Burke County, and my family's been here. I have
9 four little girls that are depending on their father to
10 make a decisions for each one of them.

11 I believe in wind power; I believe in solar,
12 solar energy. I believe in walking when necessary; I
13 believe in mass transit, I believe that you should ride
14 your bike when you can.

15 I also believe in eating a lot and storing it
16 up in case you need it sometime down the road. I also
17 believe in nuclear power. And I believe in Georgia Power,
18 and I think what they have done to this community has
19 really helped us.

20 Now, I think there's a lot of things that won't
21 be discussed at this meeting, but a lot of us have known a
22 lot of the Georgia Power employees for a long, long time.
23 We go to a lot of parties with them. We go to a lot of
24 social functions, weddings, funerals or whatever.

25 And I can tell you something that I've looked

1 at: I see professional employees. I don't see an
2 intoxicated employee or a drug-overdosed employee, because
3 they know that they could be on call at any time. And I
4 appreciate that, because they could be.

5 At any time they could be called and have to go
6 to work. And those men are going to work their controls
7 that have a lot to do with the future of Burke County and
8 Waynesboro. You want responsible men that have common
9 sense, to know that they have to do the best job that they
10 possibly know how to do.

11 And I said this at the last meeting and I'll
12 say it from now on: We trust the Southern Company; we
13 trust Georgia Power. As of 2:20, September 27, 2007, we
14 just pray and hope that that trust level will continue to
15 be 100 percent. And we just ask the Georgia Power and
16 Southern Nuclear to do the best job that they can possibly
17 do, to be honest with us and tell us the truth in what's
18 going on, good or bad.

19 And I think they've done it up to this point,
20 and we'd just ask for your trust level to continue to be
21 the same, and I hope you'll feel comfortable in working
22 with us. Thank you very much.

23 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Councilman
24 Byne.

25 Ellis Godbee?

1 MR. GODBEE: I'm Ellis Godbee, resident of
2 Burke County -- well, I've been a resident of Burke County
3 all my life. And I reside at 616 Godbee Road, and that's
4 located in the eastern part of the county. I'm eight
5 miles north of Plant Vogtle.

6 And I am a former County Commissioner, and I
7 was on the Commission during the time of the beginning of
8 the construction of Vogtle, their license and operation.
9 I was on the Commission for 16 years.

10 And as some of the speakers before me have
11 said, we embedded our trust in Georgia Power and the other
12 officials of other power companies and NRC, and we put our
13 trust in them and they put their trust in us, and we just
14 made this whole thing a success.

15 And I wouldn't even attempt to try to even
16 mention the benefits here that this county has received
17 from Georgia Power and the other power companies involved.
18 And I just feel it's safe. I live fairly close to Vogtle;
19 I don't even go to bed worrying about the safety of Plant
20 Vogtle.

21 And I just noticed how they practice safety in
22 the area where I live, I think that within a ten-mile
23 radius of Vogtle; I always called them sirens, but they
24 are some kind of signals, and some of you guys know
25 exactly what I'm talking about.

1 If we have a thunderstorm or anything, the next
2 morning around 6:00 they have employees out checking these
3 signals and all, you know, to make sure they are
4 functioning and all. This is on the weekend, holidays, or
5 any time that -- any time we have bad weather you can see
6 them coming to check these systems and all, like I say,
7 and make sure they are in good working order.

8 With me not being an elected official now, I'm
9 not as involved with Georgia Power officials or NRC, or
10 whatever, but I still support this 100 percent, and I'm
11 just excited about the new reactors that's coming, and I
12 just want to just continue to trust each other, our county
13 officials put their trust in Georgia Power officials and
14 they continue to put their trust in us.

15 And so being said that, I'm just real excited
16 about all of this now, because I just know what the
17 benefit will bring to this county. Thank you.

18 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Godbee.

19 We're going to go next to Bobbie. Bobbie Paul?

20 MS. PAUL: Hello. I guess I'm addressing
21 mainly you here. My name is Bobbie Paul. I reside in
22 Atlanta. I spend a lot of time over here for the past
23 twelve to 15 years especially watch dogging Savannah River
24 Site and the area.

25 We have a lot of members with Atlanta WAND, of

1 which I'm a director: Women's Action for New Directions.
2 We are a national organization with twelve chapters, and
3 the Atlanta one is the only southern chapter other than
4 Arkansas.

5 Pardon me; I have a terrible cold so I'm trying
6 not to cough. One of the things that I think is -- should
7 be considered seriously is a calculation of the overall
8 impact to the region, of the many nuclear activities that
9 are going on in this region.

10 Very often we -- I myself have stayed away from
11 the nuclear power arena until the new reactors were
12 proposed, thinking we had enough to deal with at Savannah
13 River Site. But because of the waste, because of the
14 terrorist activities and potential, because of the health
15 issues and the consequences, latent cancers -- I am a
16 doctor's daughter; I've become more and more concerned
17 about all of this.

18 And as you probably know, although I do find
19 that sometimes as Sara said, there's a lot of disjointed
20 where people are kind of working in a vacuum. But it
21 reminds me of the arcade game where the little guy keeps
22 popping his head up and you keep trying to bat it down.

23 I feel like there are nuclear things popping
24 all over this region, and as we know, this is the most
25 radioactive region, this 15-mile area, in the whole

1 country; not for volume, but for radioactivity.

2 So right now I guess as people in the audience
3 are probably full aware the Savannah River Site is now the
4 recipient, continually will be the recipient, of more
5 plutonium from Hanford, from Lawrence Livermore in
6 California, and Los Alamos in New Mexico.

7 This has an impact on the region, not only from
8 transportation but other things. We also have active
9 tritium extraction going on at Savannah River Site, and
10 added to that now we're having the likelihood of -- well,
11 I hope not the likelihood of two new reactors, which may
12 disappoint people in the room, and I do understand what an
13 economic treasure Plant Vogtle has been to this area,
14 because I have many friends who live in this area.

15 But I sincerely think that that cumulative
16 burden that's really being put on the people in this 40-
17 to 50-mile radius of this should be considered, whether
18 it's an independent study or what.

19 As you know, there's been a controversial
20 health study that's put out, but one of the things that
21 the National Cancer Study did note that in Aiken,
22 Barnwell, Burke County, the cancer rates before the
23 startup of Vogtle were less than 26 percent of the rest of
24 the country.

25 And the most recent, from '99 to 2003, shows

1 Burke County with an 11 percent increase over the rest of
2 the country. I'm not saying, again, just like the tobacco
3 industry, why this is happening. But I would put it in
4 your laps that we really should have and support with our
5 federal dollars an independent study that we can all agree
6 upon, really takes a look at the burden of impact of this.

7 And I know we like to compartmentalize: We're
8 not DOE; we're NRC, we're blah, blah, blah. But the
9 people on the ground are the ones who are getting the
10 benefits or the deficiencies of such major mission.

11 So I for one whose tax dollars will be going
12 into this -- and in fact right now up in Washington, they
13 are debating in the House \$50 billion -- not million but
14 billion dollars -- in loan guarantees to the nuclear
15 industry.

16 Fifty billion dollars. This industry as we
17 know could not exist without our federal dollars, because
18 people will just not fund it, because it is too risky.

19 My next-to-last point would be waste. We have
20 no solution for the waste. Yucca Mountain is likely not
21 to be built. If it was, the transportation risks and
22 everything else are terrific. There was just a little
23 earthquake tremor out in Yucca Mountain in Nevada the
24 other day.

25 I know they're talking about GNEP, and I was

1 interesting -- interested to hear the man from Savannah
2 River Site say, We're looking at energy. I know the
3 global nuclear energy partnership coming down the pike for
4 the last two years has all of these indications that
5 there's going to be a hope for getting rid of some of this
6 waste through a return to reprocessing.

7 This is one of the most filthy, dangerous
8 plutonium cycles that we could ever engage in, and will
9 create more waste. This spent fuel and these rods that
10 come out that have to sit in cooling ponds are highly
11 radioactive and have to sit in these ponds for five years
12 before we can even deal with them.

13 This is a huge security risk. We all know that
14 if those planes on 9/11 crashed into Indian Point, that
15 whole area around New York would be totally uninhabitable.

16 And that leads me to the last thing and back to
17 my friends here in Burke County. How are we communicating
18 with the folks on the ground here? Let's do a worst-case
19 scenario. Even from a business standpoint, I realize
20 Southern Company is a business and has to make a profit.

21 Let's look at a worst-case scenario. Don't we
22 owe it to the people here in Burke County to show what
23 would happen in the worst possible case, if there was a
24 meltdown, if there was a valve like there was at Farley in
25 Alabama that didn't quite work right.

1 What would be the worst, or the A, B, or C,
2 what are the evacuation plans? How many people would
3 survive? How many hospitals would it take, what are the
4 flights out? What about the river?

5 Don't we owe it to our community to be
6 precautionary, and then if we can answer those questions,
7 to the approval of everyone in the community and those at
8 large, which I think is nationwide because we're weighing
9 in on it and paying for it; just then move forward.

10 But I think it's time for us to stop
11 downplaying all of the risks of nuclear. We all know that
12 radiation kills. That's a known fact. I'm not being
13 hysterical about that. But let's look at the worst case
14 and then move from there, forward together. Thank you.

15 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Bobbie.

16 We're going to go to Teresa, Teresa Carter,
17 American Cancer Society. And then we'll see if Reverend
18 Utley wants to talk to us.

19 Hi, Teresa.

20 MS. CARTER: Good afternoon. I come before you
21 as Teresa Carter, Burke County Community Manager for the
22 American Cancer Society. I'm here today to provide you
23 with information on Plant Vogtle's support for the
24 American Cancer Society.

25 Plant Vogtle has been a dedicated supporter of

1 the American Cancer Society and its Relay for Life in
2 Burke County for several years, not only raising money but
3 also awareness to support life-saving cancer research,
4 programs and services.

5 Plant Vogtle is a corporate sponsor of the
6 Society's Relay for Life, with teams of employees who
7 raised nearly one-third of the total \$77,000 raised at a
8 Burke County Relay.

9 The Plant's strong support of our cancer
10 fighting activities ensures Burke County's cancer
11 patients, their caregivers and families, that they receive
12 education, advocacy and services such as Reach to
13 Recovery, Road to Recovery, Look Good Feel Better,
14 Dietician On Call, and 24/7 patient resources to help them
15 to fight against that terrible disease. Thank you for
16 your time.

17 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Thank you,
18 Teresa.

19 Reverend Utley, do you want to speak to us?
20 And then we're going to go Mr. Hasan.

21 REVEREND UTLEY: Good evening. Just wanted to
22 say that I'm primarily interested in environmental justice
23 in this area. I've been working with communities
24 throughout the country and most of those are EJ
25 communities.

1 And I'm interested in the amount of extract of
2 water from the river, for the use of the plant not exceed
3 that. It's going to be used for those farmers along the
4 river, as well as those who would like to use it as a
5 recreation facility.

6 And so I -- my primary interest in that part of
7 it at this time, because if it's not addressed, that young
8 man or that young lady who would like to just go strolling
9 down the river, are we going to pull out more than a power
10 boat would able to even go down, and enjoy it.

11 So as we look at anything that's going to
12 impact our river, and the use of it now from Augusta down,
13 we know we have Olin Chemicals as well as Federal Paper,
14 and others who are pulling from the river constantly.

15 There's only one river; there's only one
16 provider. And let us use it for the best that we can use
17 it for and not put those farmers who are using it for
18 irrigation -- put them out of business. So let us look at
19 what we can return to the river, as safe, usable water,
20 because once it's gone, it's gone, and we can't replenish
21 it.

22 So that's my thinking, that's my goal, is to
23 make sure that the little man like I am, is taken care of,
24 in any type of restructuring, redevelopment. And thank
25 you very much.

1 MR. CAMERON: Thank you for those comments.

2 Mr. Hasan?

3 MR. HASAN: My name is A.K. Hasan. I live at
4 5029 Dierdre Court, Hephzibah, Georgia. I'm a lifelong
5 resident of Augusta, Georgia.

6 I am founder and chairman of CSRA Citizens for
7 Nuclear Energy. We are a grassroots organization of local
8 citizens that live near Plant Vogtle. Let the record show
9 we are not environmentalists, but we are environmentally
10 conscious.

11 We are relevant stakeholders, interested in the
12 preservation of our environment, and the continued long
13 term stability and economic viability of Burke, Richmond
14 and the surrounding counties.

15 Accordingly it is indeed an honor and a
16 privilege to address the United States Nuclear Regulatory
17 Commission hearing, concerning environmental scoping for
18 license renewal for Plant Vogtle Units 1 and 2,
19 applications review.

20 CSRA Citizens for Nuclear Energy join the
21 thousands of citizens throughout Georgia who appreciate
22 the wisdom of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's initial
23 approval of Plant Vogtle as the site to build the two
24 reactors currently under review.

25 The NRC's foresight enabled the Southern

1 Nuclear Operating Company to be a major player in the
2 delivery of clean and safe electrical energy at an
3 affordable price to Georgians.

4 Additionally, the Southern Nuclear Company is a
5 wonderful private partner, engaged in the development,
6 maintenance and restoration of our natural resources.

7 Regarding the assessment of need, the State of
8 Georgia projected population growth demands an increase in
9 our nuclear energy production capabilities. Just
10 recently, the heat wave in Georgia caused consumers to put
11 such a strain on Georgia Power's transformers until many
12 of them burned out.

13 Such natural occurrences affecting our
14 environment further demonstrates Georgians' need for
15 adequate energy production and preparation for predictable
16 and unpredictable forecasts.

17 Additionally, the more energy production
18 strategies we employ at home in the United States, the
19 less we as a nation will have to rely on foreign countries
20 for fuel.

21 CSRA Citizens for Nuclear Energy supports the
22 Nuclear Regulatory Commission in its mission to license
23 and grant license renewals to companies that are capable
24 and have the experience of producing clean and safe
25 nuclear energies for consumer usage. Souther Nuclear

1 Operating Company is such a company. Thank you.

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Hasan. Thanks.

3 That's the last speaker that we have for this
4 afternoon session, and before we close I'd just like to
5 ask if there's -- if there are any other questions people
6 have about the process.

7 And the staff will be here after the meeting to
8 talk to anybody about whatever, and we also have officials
9 from the company here, who will be available if you want
10 to talk to them.

11 Yes, Sara?

12 MS. BARCZAK: I think it's -- and this is a
13 question directly to what I said earlier in our
14 statements. Is there a process that the NRC has
15 established, given the reality that there are so many more
16 applications and things going on, and new hires, or fairly
17 new, to -- like a license renewal happening within an ESP
18 and then a COL, Early Site Permit and Combined Operating
19 License?

20 Do you have a mechanism within the Agency to
21 get public comment from one entity that may not be
22 reviewed but would be relevant for the COL or the ESP? I
23 mean, the COL hasn't been applied for, but --

24 MR. CAMERON: That's a good question that
25 occurs --

1 MR. BENNER: I'm going to speak mostly for the
2 Environmental Review, just because that's what I'm most
3 familiar with, but I believe it's similar for the Safety
4 Review.

5 Organizational in the Nuclear Regulatory
6 Commission, all of the new reactor work at one point was
7 being done in the same office as the operating reactor
8 work, and those two offices -- the operating reactor work
9 was in an office called Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

10 Because of the growth, a new office was created
11 called the Office of New Reactors. So while that allowed
12 for easier management instead of having to manage a
13 thousand people, having two offices manage 500, 600
14 people, it raised the concern, the same concern that you
15 just pointed out: the interaction between the two
16 offices.

17 Internal to the NRC we just issued a procedure
18 that outlines the processes to ensure technical
19 consistency. And elements of that procedure are I meet
20 periodically with my counterpart in new reactors; any
21 significant issues that we highlight we're supposed to
22 forward to our counterparts.

23 The technical staff interact all of the time;
24 and part of that is for resulting in a better review. But
25 part of that is just from the standpoint of, you know,

1 particularly in the environmental space, the staff bring
2 many different experiences to the table. So the more they
3 interact, the better solution, and the better assessment
4 would come up, come up with, with the issues.

5 I can say, specific to Vogtle, I passed the
6 staff with interacting with the NRC staff doing the early
7 site permit work. And J.P. has had some interaction with
8 the project manager, for the early site permit.

9 All of our technical reviewers have been
10 reviewing the technical work done on the early site
11 permit. So we -- I mean, we are looking at those two
12 actions together.

13 You pointed out earlier in your statement the
14 concept of an overall review. I think several people have
15 pointed out an overall review. NEPA, National
16 Environmental Policy Act, does require that we look at
17 cumulative impacts.

18 And I haven't personally read the early site
19 permit, the EIS, but I can say that for the license
20 renewal EIS, we will be looking at the cumulative impacts
21 of both actions and some discussion of Savannah River
22 Site. So that is part of our review procedures.

23 MR. CAMERON: And will we be -- well, obviously
24 we can do this, but any comments that are made in regard
25 to scoping on license renewal that may also be relevant to

1 the draft EIS on the ESP, we can specifically refer those
2 comments --

3 MR. BENNER: Right.

4 MR. CAMERON: -- obviously, the --

5 MR. BENNER: And we will be. That's part of
6 the interaction we have, is our technical staff will be
7 reviewing any comment submitted on the early site permit
8 EIS, and I'm sure that the new reactor staff will be
9 reviewing any scoping comments or any subsequent comments
10 that are received on the license renewal application.

11 MR. CAMERON: Okay --

12 MR. BENNER: I just --

13 MR. CAMERON: Go ahead.

14 MR. BENNER: -- wanted to point out, scoping --
15 because I think we've really met the intention of the
16 scoping process, with this meeting, because the -- we do
17 have technical experts on the staff; we have biologists,
18 and hydrologists and health physicists; and they know
19 their material very well.

20 But what scoping assists with is providing
21 local information that can ensure that we do a thorough
22 review, and I think the comments that we've heard today on
23 overall impacts and cumulative impacts get right to the
24 heart of that. I think some of the comments we've heard
25 on alternatives get to the heart of that, because I think

1 it's -- you know, alternatives particularly are an area
2 where the local community probably knows best which
3 alternatives could work.

4 So those sorts of comments are very helpful.
5 The Reverend pointed out water-use conflicts; that is an
6 issue we look at explicitly, and hearing local feedback
7 on, you know, what are the water-use issues, and what I
8 heard was local farming and recreational use.

9 Hearing those sorts of comments helps us to do
10 a complete review.

11 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Eric. I was
12 going to ask you to close out for us for this afternoon
13 session. That sounded like a pretty good close-out you
14 had --

15 MR. BENNER: Yes, I'm --

16 MR. CAMERON: -- but anything else that you
17 want to add?

18 MR. BENNER: Just to reiterate that, you know,
19 if this meeting causes you to think of something else, the
20 scoping period is still open, so you can submit comments
21 by any of the mechanisms raised on J.P.'s slides.

22 Certainly, specific comments are helpful, any
23 comments are accepted, but I think when we get comments
24 like pointing out a website where we may find additional
25 information on wind power, those sorts of pointers really

1 help the staff dig in in looking to the details of an
2 issue.

3 But I think -- I mean, I just want to use that
4 to reiterate again that I think this meeting really met
5 the intent of NEPA when it speaks of scoping, to help us
6 define the scope of the review.

7 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you.

8 And thank you all for being here, and we'll be
9 here tonight, seven o'clock; a six-o'clock open house, and
10 the NRC will be back next Thursday, October 4, a seven
11 o'clock meeting on the draft Environmental Impact
12 Statement on the early site permit, and that meeting will
13 be preceded by a one-hour open house from 6:00 to 7:00,
14 and the staff's here for informal discussion.

15 Thank you all. Thanks.

16 (Whereupon, at 2:47 p.m., the meeting was
17 concluded.)

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