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**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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                              Public Meeting: Evening Session

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC MEETING

LICENSE RENEWAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS,

SEABROOK STATION LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

+ + + + +

Thursday, August 19, 2010

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Galley Hatch Conference Center

Palladium Room

815 Lafayette Road

Hampton, New Hampshire 03842

7:00 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS:

Elva Bowden-Berry, Esq., NRC

Jeremy Susco, NRC Division of License Renewal

Richard Plasse, NRC Division of License Renewal

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

(7:00 p.m.)

1  
2  
3 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Good evening,  
4 everyone. My name is Elva Bowden Berry. I'm an  
5 attorney with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
6 or the NRC, as you'll hear it called today. And it's  
7 my pleasure to co-facilitate this meeting with Lance  
8 Rakovan. He's out -- well, he just appeared.  
9 Standing there with his hand up. He's a  
10 communications specialist with the NRC. We're going  
11 do our best today to help make this meeting worthwhile  
12 for everyone and we hope that you help us in that  
13 process.

14 The purpose of this evening's meeting is  
15 to discuss the License Renewal and Environmental  
16 Scoping process for review of the license renewal  
17 application for the renewal of the operating license  
18 for Seabrook Station and to provide members of the  
19 public with an opportunity to provide comments  
20 regarding environmental issues that the NRC should  
21 consider during its review.

22 The mission of the NRC is to regulate the  
23 nation's use of byproduct, source and special nuclear  
24 materials to ensure adequate protection of public  
25 health and safety, to promote common defense and

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1 security and to protect the environment.

2 Now, a term you're going to hear quite a  
3 bit this evening is scoping -- which means determining  
4 the scope of the Environmental Review -- in this case  
5 for the Seabrook Station site. Today's meeting is  
6 just one way you can participate in this process and  
7 you'll hear later on more ways that you can  
8 participate.

9 The meeting this evening will essentially  
10 have two parts. First, we'll hear from the presenters  
11 from the NRC staff about the License Renewal and  
12 Environmental Review process -- information we think  
13 is important for you to understand when it comes to  
14 Seabrook license renewal. There are couple of copies  
15 of the presentation that were on the registration  
16 table and if you need a copy I can ask Lance to -- if  
17 you didn't pick it up, I can ask Lance to provide you  
18 a copy of that.

19 We're going to try to keep the  
20 presentations short this evening so we can get to the  
21 real reason why we're here -- giving you all the  
22 opportunity to comment. There were some yellow cards  
23 that were on the registration tables -- some yellow  
24 and blue cards -- and we ask that you fill them out.  
25 The yellow cards were for those who knew that they

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1 wanted to speak and I'll have the stack of cards and  
2 be able to call upon them. The blue cards were if you  
3 wanted to be on our mailing list. We've got a number  
4 of yellow cards here and we'll just call people up.

5 If you haven't filled out a card and you  
6 decide you want to comment, you can just get my  
7 attention or get Lance's attention and we'll get a  
8 yellow card to you and he'll provide it to me and  
9 we'll add you to the list.

10 I also want to inform you that this  
11 meeting is being transcribed, so I would ask you so  
12 that we can fully capture everyone's comments to speak  
13 clearly and when you come to the mic to give your name  
14 and spell your name if necessary and tell us who  
15 you're represented by. Also, in order for us to get a  
16 clean copy, we ask that you keep sidebar conversations  
17 to a minimum and low. The last thing I would like to  
18 ask you to do in order to keep the transcript nice and  
19 clean is to turn-off or silence your electronic  
20 devices.

21 We're going to do our best to address any  
22 questions that you have about license renewal or any  
23 other NRC regulatory topics that you may want to  
24 discuss. However, keep in mind that there's just a  
25 few NRC staff here today and the right person may not

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1 be available to answer your question, but we'll  
2 definitely try to provide you the best answer we can  
3 and have someone get back to you, if necessary.

4 One other item I'm hoping you picked up  
5 when you came in was our Public Meeting Feedback form.

6 You can fill this out here this evening and give it  
7 to any NRC staff member or you can drop it in the mail  
8 for sometime in the future and the postage is free.

9 Your opinion on how today's meeting went  
10 will help us improve upon future meetings, so please  
11 take a moment to let us know what you think and fill  
12 out the card. The restrooms are located out these  
13 doors to your right. The emergency exits are right  
14 here to my left or back out the door that you entered  
15 in.

16 Okay, let's go ahead and get started with  
17 the meeting. I'd like to introduce some of the NRC  
18 staff that is here. Bo Pham is the Branch Chief in  
19 the Division of License Renewal. He's standing in the  
20 back of the room. Jeremy Susco is the Environmental  
21 Project Manager -- up here in front. Rick Plasse is  
22 the Safety Project manager. Leslie Perkins is the  
23 Project Manager and she's doing the slides for us this  
24 evening. Jon Johnson is standing in the back of the  
25 room. He's our Plant Resident Inspector. And Michael

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1 -- Dreher is up in the front. I was afraid I was  
2 going to mispronounce his name, so I had to pause.  
3 He's in front. He's an attorney in our Office of the  
4 General Counsel. And Scott Burnell is with our Office  
5 of Public Affairs -- standing over by the door.

6 With that I'll turn things over to Rick  
7 and Jeremy. I'll be back for the second portion.  
8 Thanks.

9 RICHARD PLASSE: Thank you, Elva.

10 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Okay.

11 RICHARD PLASSE: Okay. Thank you for  
12 everyone for coming to the meeting tonight. Can  
13 everyone hear me? I have a habit of getting away from  
14 this mic. We'll try to make sure I stay near it.  
15 Okay, the first slide basically -- the Meeting  
16 Purpose. We're going to provide an overview of our  
17 process -- the Safety Review. That's my  
18 responsibility as the Safety Project Manager from the  
19 Division of License Renewal. And then the  
20 Environmental Review -- Jeremy's the Environmental  
21 Project Manager. Then, as Elva said -- we'll collect  
22 your input on the scope of the Environmental Review.  
23 Next slide.

24 NRC's Mission -- in exercising its  
25 authority, the NRC's mission is threefold: one to

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1 ensure adequate protection of public health and  
2 safety; two to promote the common defense and  
3 security; and three to protect the environment. The  
4 NRC accomplishes its mission through a combination of  
5 regulatory programs and processes, such as:  
6 conducting inspections, issuing enforcement actions,  
7 assessing licensee's performance and evaluating  
8 operating experience from nuclear plants across the  
9 country.

10 One important element of our inspection  
11 program is the Resident Inspector. Elva introduced  
12 Jon Johnson in the back. The NRC has Resident  
13 Inspectors at all operating nuclear plants. They live  
14 in the local community. Their job's to carry out our  
15 safety mission on a daily basis by ensuring that the  
16 plants have acceptable safety performance and are in  
17 compliance with their regulatory requirements. These  
18 inspectors are considered the eyes and ears of the  
19 NRC. Next slide.

20 The Seabrook current license expires in  
21 2030 -- that's their 40-year of operation. The  
22 license renewal application was received by our staff  
23 on June 1st and if renewed -- it's a 20-year renewal -  
24 - the license would expire in 2050. The period of  
25 extended operation requested is from 2030 to 2050.

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1 Next slide, please.

2 This slide -- one of the areas that we've  
3 got a lot of attention from the public since June is -  
4 - well, why 20-years? Why not wait for 30-years or  
5 later. So, we put in this slide to try to address  
6 that. This is taken directly out of the Statements of  
7 Consideration when the rule was issued coming up with  
8 the 20-years. So the NRC determined that 20-years of  
9 operational and regulatory experience provides an  
10 applicant with substantial amounts of information and  
11 would disclose any plant specific concerns with regard  
12 to age related degradation. Also, another way to look  
13 at it -- 20-years remaining on the operating license  
14 would be reasonable considering the estimated time for  
15 utilities to plan for replacement of retired plants.  
16 If you read those Statements of Consideration, it goes  
17 into a lot of detail that plants may want to come  
18 earlier than 20-years and in fact several plants have  
19 done that. To give you two examples -- Millstone Unit  
20 3 applied at 18. Well, to apply less than 20 that  
21 requires an exemption to the rule. So, they had to  
22 put an exemption request in for that application to  
23 come in at 18-years. Another plant up in the  
24 Northeast, Nine Mile 2 applied at around 17-years.  
25 Next slide, please.

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1           This is a simple flowchart of the license  
2 renewal process. This diagram represents the License  
3 Renewal Process. The top portion of the diagram shows  
4 the Safety process. The bottom portion shows the  
5 Environmental process. These two reviews are  
6 conducted in parallel to evaluate two separate aspects  
7 of the license renewal application.

8           During the Safety Review, the staff  
9 conducts audits to evaluate the adequacy of the  
10 technical information in the application. The NRC has  
11 qualified inspectors perform on-site inspections to  
12 verify the applicants Aging Management programs and  
13 activities are implemented or have been planned for  
14 implementation. Then the results of the Safety Review  
15 are documented in a Safety Evaluation Report and also  
16 in Inspection and Audit Reports. The Safety  
17 Evaluation Report is forwarded to the Advisory  
18 Committee on Reactor Safeguards, that's the ACRS --  
19 that's the second block on the top row there -- who  
20 will perform an independent review of the license  
21 renewal application and the staff's resultant product  
22 -- the Safety Evaluation Report. The ACRS is a group  
23 of scientists and nuclear experts who serve as a  
24 consulting body to the Commission. The ACRS reports  
25 their findings and recommendations directly to the

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1 Commission. They'll put a letter, which would be also  
2 attached to the Final SER, with their recommendations  
3 to the Commission.

4 The bottom -- the Environmental Review --  
5 Jeremy will talk in some detail on that. There's  
6 opportunity for hearing -- we'll get into the  
7 deadlines for that. One of the questions came up in  
8 the afternoon -- I'll give a little highlights of a  
9 little bit of the hearing process -- if an intervener  
10 decides to put in some contentions, they need to come  
11 in by a certain date. We'll get into that later. The  
12 Atomic Safety Licensing Board -- the ASLB -- will  
13 review all the contentions whether to be admitted or  
14 not. To give you an example -- I'm the Project  
15 Manager for Prairie Island. There was 11-contentions  
16 that were put in. The ASLB admitted seven of them.  
17 Then they go through the process of -- if they  
18 maintained being admitted to the end, there'll be a  
19 hearing and all the parties will get their  
20 opportunities at the hearing. The ALSB is three-  
21 judges who will review the contentions as they go  
22 through that process. If and when those processes is  
23 complete, the final NRC decision will be made based on  
24 those three areas -- the Environment Review, the  
25 Safety Review and whatever comes through the hearing

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1 process, if applicable. Next slide, please.

2 So, as far as the review schedule goes,  
3 our schedule is on our NRC.gov web site -- the  
4 Division of License Renewal. There is a specific page  
5 for Seabrook and we'll get to that a little later on  
6 in the slides. Without a hearing, it's a 22-month  
7 schedule. If a hearing is granted, that would add  
8 some time to go through the legal process. So,  
9 without a hearing it's scheduled to be completed in  
10 approximately April 2012 and that's if there is no  
11 hearing. If there is a hearing, it will be some later  
12 time. Typically, we say 30-months, but it could be  
13 longer. Could be a little shorter. Next slide,  
14 please.

15 This slide just shows the contents of a  
16 license renewal application. The staff reviews this  
17 information to verify that aging effects would be  
18 effectively managed and environmental impacts are  
19 characterized and disclosed. So, basically the  
20 layout: Chapter 1 will be some general information  
21 about the powerplant owner and operator; technical  
22 information about the plant and how the applicant  
23 proposes to manage aging -- Chapters 2, 3 and 4;  
24 changes to the plant operating limits related to Aging  
25 Management is applicable. Then there'll be an

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1 environmental report estimating the effects of  
2 extending the license by 20-years. Next slide.

3           Going into a little more detail on the 10  
4 CFR Part 54 Safety Review. The focus of our review is  
5 on the aging effects to structures important to plant  
6 safety. We talk about structures -- a lot of the  
7 passive equipment: cabling, the buildings, the pipes.

8           The active components: the valves, the pumps --  
9 they're tested in accordance with the plant's license  
10 through tech spec requirements. So, they may test  
11 things monthly/quarterly -- IST tests. So, those are  
12 not part of the license renewal Safety Review. We  
13 look at the passive equipment. The staff will review  
14 to determine that the aging effects will be  
15 effectively managed.

16           And how we do that -- we review the  
17 application and the supporting documents on site. We  
18 also do technical reviews in the office and then the  
19 on-site audits we actually look at the site documents  
20 for the Aging Management programs. We also look at  
21 the operating experience from the plant for the  
22 various systems. We go through the corrective action  
23 system and look for where they've had issues in the  
24 past and how they've dealt with them for the future to  
25 mitigate them happening again. The on-site

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1 inspections besides our audits -- the region will do  
2 an on-site inspection and do plant walk-downs and  
3 actually look at some of the Aging Management programs  
4 -- some of them that exist, some of them that are new  
5 -- and look at how they plan on implementing them.

6 Then all of that is fed into the Safety  
7 Evaluation Report. The Safety Evaluation Report will  
8 be issued at least a month or a month and a half  
9 before the original ACRS meeting where we'll go over  
10 any issues that are still on the table. It also gives  
11 the ACRS to independently ask the staff and the  
12 applicant any particular issues that they may have  
13 identified in their review, in addition to  
14 understanding what are the issues that we're still  
15 dealing with the applicant for resolution.

16 After that meeting, there'll be a final  
17 ACRS meeting, which all the issues that have been on  
18 the table -- there'll be discussions on how they were  
19 resolved. Then, as I said earlier, the independent  
20 review by the Advisory Committee will result after  
21 completion of their final meeting review. Next slide,  
22 please.

23 License Renewal Safety Principles --  
24 there's two guiding principles that form the basis of  
25 NRC's approach in performing its Safety Review. The

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1 first principle is that the current regulatory process  
2 is adequate to ensure that the licensing basis of all  
3 operating plants provides and maintains an acceptable  
4 level of safety.

5 The second principle is that the current  
6 plant specific licensing basis must be maintained  
7 during the renewal term in the same manner and to the  
8 same extent as during the original licensing term. To  
9 ensure that the plants current licensing basis is  
10 maintained during the extended period of operation,  
11 the effects of aging must be understood and addressed.

12 The staff conducts a detailed review of new and  
13 existing programs -- surveillance activities -- to  
14 determine with reasonable assurance that the effects  
15 of aging for certain structure systems and components  
16 will be adequately managed and monitored. Next slide.

17 Here are some areas where we have ongoing  
18 regulatory oversight. The principles that we just  
19 talked about -- basically the NRC monitors and  
20 provides regulatory oversight of activities in these  
21 areas on an ongoing basis under the current operating  
22 license. Therefore, we do not reevaluate them in  
23 License Renewal because they're subject to ongoing NRC  
24 inspections and oversight. This afternoon, a question  
25 came up about Emergency Planning. If there's a real

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1 issue in the Emergency Planning area that would be  
2 dealt with in real time today. There're specialists  
3 in the region, the Residents are the eyes and ears  
4 here. If an issue comes up, it will be dealt with  
5 appropriately as security or any current issue that  
6 would come up that the plant would have to deal with.

7 Next slide.

8 Okay, I kind of mentioned the hearing  
9 process earlier. The deadline is September 20th --  
10 that's a 60-day period for the public to bring up any  
11 issues based on review of the application. Again, the  
12 ACRS meetings -- the tentative dates -- are September  
13 2011 and February of 2012 for the final meeting. To  
14 support that, we'll have the SER out before those  
15 meetings. Our actual audits start in September and  
16 October. With that, I'll turn it over to Jeremy.

17 JEREMY SUSCO: Thanks, Rick. My name is  
18 Jeremy Susco. I'm the Environmental Project Manager  
19 working on the Seabrook License Renewal application.  
20 And I want to talk about the Environmental Review that  
21 goes along with Seabrook's license submittal.

22 The first bullet point up there -- it's in  
23 bold for a reason -- public input really drives what  
24 we look at in this Environmental Review. That's why  
25 we're here tonight -- to hear your input.

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1 We're going to take that input and our own  
2 investigation and we're going to create an  
3 Environmental Impact Statement. I'll go on in a  
4 couple slides of what that means. It's really an  
5 investigation and disclosure of the impacts of 20 more  
6 years of operation -- the potential of 20 more years  
7 of operation at Seabrook Station. The reason we do  
8 that is for the staff to determine a recommendation to  
9 energy planning decision-makers to determine if the  
10 adverse environmental impacts of license renewal are  
11 so great that 20 more years would be an unreasonable  
12 thing to do. Next slide, please.

13 So, the Environmental Impact Statement is  
14 the ultimate product of our Environmental Review.  
15 We're going to rigorously investigate the  
16 environmental impacts of license renewal, as well as  
17 reasonable alternatives for the area here. The  
18 Environmental Impact Statement -- it's really a tool  
19 for other energy planning decision-makers to decide on  
20 whether or not to continue the operation here at  
21 Seabrook. Next slide, please.

22 So, as I said, this slide looks far better  
23 on my desktop back at NRC headquarters, but some of  
24 the things that go into our analysis -- we're going to  
25 look at fish and wildlife, for example. We're going

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1 to look at historical and cultural resources, human  
2 health -- and we're not just going to do it by  
3 ourselves. We've actually already starting to engage  
4 with several other state, federal and local agencies.

5 We've already been talking to the Massachusetts  
6 Division of Fish and Wildlife, for example, the New  
7 Hampshire Department of Environmental Protection and  
8 the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau. Next  
9 slide, please.

10 Again, another slide that looked far  
11 better on my computer. So, this is the process that  
12 we use that goes into creating this Environmental  
13 Impact Statement. I'm going to step away from the mic  
14 and speak much louder here, so I can actually read  
15 what's on here -- read to you, excuse me. So, the  
16 first thing is the Notice of Intent and we published  
17 that back in -- that was in July. That's our Notice  
18 of Intent notifying the public that we are going to be  
19 creating an Environmental Impact Statement.

20 The next thing that's hard to read there  
21 it says -- Public scoping/meeting -- and that's what  
22 we're here tonight. We're going to take those  
23 comments, as well as the other investigation and  
24 research that we do and we're going to create a Draft  
25 Environmental Impact Statement. We're going to put

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1 that out again to the public. We're going to publicly  
2 issue the Draft Environmental Impact Statement --  
3 we'll let you know when that's ready. And we're going  
4 to come back. And we're probably going to meet in  
5 this exact same room. It will be next June is our  
6 anticipated date for that. We will again looking for  
7 your comments on our Draft Environmental Impact  
8 Statement. We're going to take those comments,  
9 address them, roll them into the Final Environmental  
10 Impact Statement, as appropriate. Then we'll issue  
11 the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

12           Ultimately, that Environmental Impact  
13 Statement will be one of the components that goes into  
14 the final NRC decision. The bullet down here -- the  
15 yellow blocks -- they're yellow on my desktop,  
16 there're these blue boxes up here. Next slide,  
17 please.

18           So, why are we here tonight -- Scoping  
19 Meeting. As I said before, the purpose is for us --  
20 for the NRC -- to hear your comments on what we should  
21 look at in our Environmental Review and perhaps even  
22 what we shouldn't. What that does is allows us to  
23 better focus on the really important impacts and  
24 alternatives for the Seabrook License Renewal  
25 application. So this is not really a Q & A session,

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1 if you will. It's really a chance for us to hear your  
2 comments. Next slide, please.

3 So, some of the examples of the feedback  
4 and the input that we're looking for is -- so what's  
5 unique about this community? What's unique about  
6 Seabrook? What are some of the local environmental  
7 issues that we really should be looking at and  
8 examining? What socio-economic issues -- when it  
9 comes to taxes and infrastructure and jobs -- are  
10 important? As well, what other reasonable  
11 alternatives are appropriate for this area? And we're  
12 going to use this information to help us draft the  
13 Environmental Impact Statement. Next slide, please.

14 So, you don't have to write any of this  
15 down. It's all in your hand-out. But there's  
16 essentially four ways to give us your comments. One's  
17 the mail -- you see the address up there. You can  
18 also fax. Regulations.gov is actually a federal  
19 government-wide web site for any agency that does, for  
20 example, a rulemaking proceeding or something like  
21 this creation of a Environmental Impact Statement  
22 where a lot of public comment is desired, then we use  
23 regulations.gov. When you go to that web site -- if  
24 you search under that docket ID, that would  
25 essentially bring you to the web site where you can

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1 submit your comments related to this Environmental  
2 Impact Statement. And, on the record today -- that's  
3 why we have the transcriber here.

4 All these comments are due by September  
5 21st to give us enough time to roll them all into the  
6 Environmental Impact Statement. We will respond to  
7 your comments. It's small down there, but if you want  
8 to see our response, we put all the responses together  
9 in a Scoping Summary Report. They also will be in an  
10 Appendix to the Environmental Impact Statement. But  
11 we do need either your mailing address or your e-mail  
12 address to get those -- if you want to see our  
13 response. An e-mail address is preferred and that's  
14 one of the reasons why we have on your sign-in sheet  
15 when you came in, there was a spot for an e-mail  
16 address. Next slide, please.

17 We've talked about all this before, but I  
18 just want to highlight it again -- the opportunities  
19 for public involvement. We have -- the first bullet  
20 here tonight -- the scoping meeting, as well as the  
21 other ways that you can submit comments. The  
22 opportunity for a hearing that, as I said, expires on  
23 the 20th. The Draft Environmental Impact statement --  
24 we will be back here, similar meeting format next June  
25 to hear your comments on the Draft Environmental

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1 Impact Statement. That exact same last slide on how  
2 to submit comments, you'll see that exact same slide  
3 again -- it'll be the same process. You are invited  
4 down to Washington, DC -- those are open public  
5 meetings that we have with the Advisory Committee on  
6 Reactor Safeguards. And any other meetings that we  
7 have as required as we go along in this process, you  
8 will be invited to as well and we'll put out notice  
9 for that. Next slide, please.

10 So, the Final Agency Decision. So, as  
11 Rick talked about, the Safety-half of that review that  
12 gets rolled into the Safety Evaluation Report. The  
13 Environmental Impact Statement that I'm working on --  
14 that will be another component that goes to the  
15 Commission; the inspection findings and conclusions  
16 from the inspections that we do in support of license  
17 renewal; as well the recommendations from the Advisory  
18 Committee on Reactor Safeguards -- an independent  
19 body. That'll all go to the Commission for their  
20 ultimate decision on whether or not to extend the  
21 license for 20 more years. Next slide, please.

22 There are two physical locations -- well,  
23 actually three. The third is in Washington, DC, so  
24 not really that convenient if you live here. That's  
25 in our headquarters. But, locally the Seabrook Public

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1 Library has -- there's a copy in the back. There's  
2 two giant binders there. The Seabrook and the  
3 Amesbury Library -- they both have copies of the  
4 application. They will also receive a copy of the  
5 Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Final  
6 Environmental Impact Statement. You can always go to  
7 the Seabrook License Renewal web site where you can  
8 download an electronic version of any of those  
9 documents anytime you like. Next slide, please.

10 For keeping up-to-date, the NRC -- we  
11 switched over from mail to a listserver. If you go  
12 onto this web site, there's a map of the United States  
13 and you can select Seabrook and put your e-mail  
14 address down and you press `Subscribe` and you've just  
15 subscribed to the Seabrook listserver. That will  
16 subscribe you to all of the public documents that we  
17 put out related to Seabrook -- which includes the  
18 License Renewal documents. We can all sign you up if  
19 you want. It's the only reason we have the e-mail  
20 address on the sign-in sheet. Or you can sign-up  
21 yourself. But, if you decide at any point that you  
22 don't want to be part of the listserver, just like  
23 most of the junk mail you get -- or junk e-mail you  
24 get -- there's always a `click here to unsubscribe`.  
25 Next slide, please. But ours isn't junk mail.

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1 Points of Contact -- there's Rick and mine  
2 -- our e-mail address and our phone number and you can  
3 contact us for any questions that you have on License  
4 Renewal. So, that actually concludes the presentation  
5 portion. I'll turn it back over to Elva. Thank you.

6 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Okay. I'm going to  
7 open it up for questions on the presentation or any  
8 clarifying questions about the process, if anyone has  
9 one. I'll hand you the mic and you can ask your  
10 question -- All right, if we don't -- oh, okay. I  
11 didn't see you.

12 Please state your name and who you  
13 represent, thank you.

14 MARY LAMBERT: Yes, Mary Lambert, Pilgrim  
15 Watch, here for C-10. Are you going to put on the  
16 Relicensing web site the rules process?

17 ATTORNEY MIKE DREHER: By rules process --

18 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Can you go to the mic,  
19 please, Mike?

20 ATTORNEY MIKE DREHER: Absolutely.

21 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Thank you.

22 ATTORNEY MIKE DREHER: Sorry, Elva.

23 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: All right.

24 ATTORNEY MIKE DREHER: Mike Dreher with  
25 OGC. Just to clarify your question -- is that a

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1 question about the Rules of Procedure for the  
2 Commission?

3 Those are available on the Commission's  
4 web site, as well as some other government web sites.

5 They're all found under 10 CFR -- Title 10 of the  
6 Code of Federal Regulations.

7 MARY LAMBERT: I meant with Relicensing --

8 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Mary, can you wait  
9 until I bring the mic to you? Thanks.

10 ATTORNEY MIKE DREHER: Oh.

11 MARY LAMBERT: I'm aware of that, but for  
12 the ease of people who are just beginning this  
13 process, if you put it where you have Relicensing --  
14 and you have various things -- a menu -- to go to.  
15 You should have it there. So people will know where  
16 to go immediately and won't have to figure this out a  
17 year later.

18 ATTORNEY MIKE DREHER: Okay.

19 MARY LAMBERT: If they're doing it pro se.

20 JEREMY SUSCO: That's a good comment.  
21 We'll take that feedback back. But, there is a  
22 specific License Renewal web site not just related to  
23 Seabrook, for anybody that's going through license  
24 renewal. It does describe a lot of that exact same  
25 process more generically. But, it's a good comment

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1 and we'll take that for feedback.

2 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Okay. State your  
3 name, please.

4 PAUL GUNTER: Thank you. My name's Paul  
5 Gunter. I'm with Beyond Nuclear and I was a resident  
6 of New Hampshire for about 23-years. You know, one  
7 thing your presentation -- in establishing the scope  
8 for the License Renewal process -- one thing that you  
9 left off that I'd like you to explain in a little bit  
10 more detail is why 20-years more generating nuclear  
11 waste in the absence of a management plan for nuclear  
12 waste -- why that isn't in the scope of this  
13 proceeding? So, if you could explain to this crowd --  
14 I mean, this crowd I think would be particularly  
15 interested because the Department of Energy was here  
16 in 1985 and 1986 looking to take seven New Hampshire  
17 towns by eminent domain so that they could put this  
18 nuclear waste in the granite -- in the granite state.

19 It became a very politically hot topic here.

20 But, in this whole scheme of things that  
21 you're now bringing up before us, one of the more  
22 conspicuous items that's absent from this  
23 Environmental Review particularly -- is what are you  
24 going to do with the nuclear waste and how are you  
25 handling that? And in addressing it, I'd like

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1 something in a little bit more detail because the  
2 Yucca Mountain solution has failed.

3 JEREMY SUSCO: Well, I can answer that in  
4 two parts. One we'll start with Seabrook. So, Yucca  
5 Mountain is a very important issue to the Nuclear  
6 Regulatory Commission. I know that in particular,  
7 Seabrook's important to everybody that's here. So,  
8 the Commission has done the analysis to determine that  
9 at least until 2080 waste can safely be stored at  
10 Seabrook. So that's at least until 2080. We've done  
11 that analysis that the environmental impacts will be  
12 small for storing waste here at Seabrook until 2080.

13 Like I said, the waste here at Seabrook's  
14 important to the Commission, but the way that the  
15 Commission's really looking at it is as a whole --  
16 what does the industry do whether or not Yucca  
17 Mountain gets licensed or not. So, that's really the  
18 question that's before the Commission. It's important  
19 what happens at Seabrook, but it's also important what  
20 happens to all 104 reactors that we regulate. License  
21 Renewal is not the right vehicle for that --  
22 essentially, that to happen. The Commission is  
23 looking at that -- whether what happens at Yucca  
24 Mountain or not. It's not going to get looked at as  
25 part of License Renewal. It will get looked at for

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1 all 104 reactors whether or not they only operate for  
2 40-years, they operate for 60-years or even less than  
3 that.

4 LEE ROBERTS: My name is Lee Roberts. I'm  
5 a resident of Portsmouth with my husband. I'm also  
6 with Seacoast Peace Response. I have great concerns  
7 about nuclear of any sort and I would like to ask a  
8 question and that is what is the ACRS group exactly  
9 that goes -- that reviews these scoping answers that  
10 you come up with? Is this a bipartisan group? Is  
11 this one that is connected to you guys or is it  
12 completely separate and impartial? That's one  
13 question. I had another one too, I hope I can  
14 remember it. Thank you.

15 RICHARD PLASSE: Yes. The Advisory  
16 Committee of Reactors Safeguards -- they're  
17 independent to the NRC. They are impartial. They're  
18 appointed. They typically consist of some senior  
19 people who may have worked in the industry. They're  
20 also scientists. Maybe they've worked at some of the  
21 labs. But they independently look at our product --  
22 the Safety Evaluation that we put together -- and  
23 they also will look at the application and they'll  
24 probe issues/questions, whatever, from their review  
25 that they have questions on they will probe and --

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1 LEE ROBERTS: I have a follow-up.

2 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Hold on. Let me --

3 RICHARD PLASSE: Okay.

4 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: -- hand you the mic so  
5 you can speak.

6 LEE ROBERTS: My follow-up is -- who  
7 chooses these people? Thank you.

8 RICHARD PLASSE: I believe -- I really  
9 don't know, to be honest with you. It may be the  
10 Commission, but they work for the Commission.

11 SCOTT BURNELL: I'm Scott Burnell with the  
12 Public Affairs office at the NRC. The ACRS takes  
13 nominations for its membership and they do have to  
14 have a very high level of technical qualifications.  
15 It is the Commission -- the five politically appointed  
16 members that run the agency -- who are responsible for  
17 determining which of these people are qualified to  
18 serve on the ACRS.

19 LEE ROBERTS: Which agency, sir, I'm  
20 sorry?

21 SCOTT BURNELL: The five --

22 LEE ROBERTS: You said the people in the  
23 agency. Which agency?

24 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Hold on. I'm going to  
25 give you the microphone.

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1           LEE ROBERTS:  Sorry -- I think you said  
2 something about that there are five people of the  
3 agency that choose these other people.  Is that  
4 correct?

5           SCOTT BURNELL:  Yes.  The five --

6           LEE ROBERTS:  What agency chooses them?

7           SCOTT BURNELL:  The five commissioners who  
8 are appointed to be in charge of the Nuclear  
9 Regulatory Commission.

10          LEE ROBERTS:  So those are commissioners  
11 in --

12          SCOTT BURNELL:  The NRC.

13          LEE ROBERTS:  -- New Hampshire?

14          SCOTT BURNELL:  No, in the NRC.

15          LEE ROBERTS:  Oh.  So -- well, it's all an  
16 inside deal then isn't it?

17          SCOTT BURNELL:  No.  These are outside  
18 experts.

19          LEE ROBERTS:  That sure sounds it.  I  
20 mean, you have to admit that does sound a bit  
21 incestuous?

22          PAUL BLANCH:  This is Paul Blanch.  I  
23 obviously worked with the NRC and with the Commission  
24 and with the ACRS and I can say what Scott said that  
25 these are technically very, very well-qualified people

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1 and I know many of them. Independence is not there.  
2 If you saw one of the flowcharts here -- Final  
3 Decision on License Renewal lies with the Commission.

4 Who appoints the ACRS? It's the Commission -- the  
5 same people. And they want to renew their tenure on  
6 the ACRS. Many of them stay there as long as 10 or  
7 more years. So, as far as an independent body to  
8 review license renewal applications or any other  
9 technical issue -- while they're very well-qualified,  
10 they are still not independent. They are all,  
11 essentially -- every one of them is appointed by the  
12 Commission. The same Commission that runs and  
13 everyone from the NRC works for. So, as far as  
14 independence -- it is not there.

15 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Go ahead, Scott.

16 SCOTT BURNELL: The members of the ACRS  
17 are chosen for their technical qualifications not for  
18 their ability to provide a particular point of view.  
19 One way to view the ACRS is sort of as a doctoral  
20 dissertation committee. They're going to take a very  
21 hard look at the staff's information. They're going  
22 to ask probing questions and those questions are based  
23 on the technical knowledge that members of the ACRS  
24 have. It is not an effort to rubberstamp the staff's  
25 work. If you ever have a chance to sit in on an ACRS

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1 meeting, you will see just how quickly the ACRS  
2 members dig into the staff's work to make sure that it  
3 is technically valid.

4 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Okay. We're going to  
5 move --

6 KURT EHRENBERG: I have a question.

7 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: -- does anyone have  
8 any questions?

9 KURT EHRENBERG: I should be loud enough  
10 that I don't need the microphone.

11 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: No, you have to have  
12 the mic because we're transcribing the meeting. Is  
13 your question about the presentation or -- I don't  
14 want to move to the --

15 KURT EHRENBERG: It's a follow-up to his  
16 presentation.

17 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: I want to move on and  
18 I want to make sure we're getting everything in the  
19 right order, so there's a second part of the meeting -  
20 -

21 KURT EHRENBERG: I have a question I'd  
22 like to ask.

23 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Okay. Please state  
24 your name clearly and speak directly into the mic.

25 KURT EHRENBERG: Kurt Ehrenberg -- Rye,

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1 New Hampshire. How many licenses or license renewals  
2 have been denied by the NRC up to this point? What's  
3 the number?

4 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Okay. What was --

5 SCOTT BURNELL: To this point, every  
6 applicant has provided enough information for the NRC  
7 to make a technically sound judgment that license  
8 renewal is called for.

9 KURT EHRENBURG: Not just license renewal,  
10 but original licenses that have been denied?

11 SCOTT BURNELL: I beg your pardon. We do  
12 need to have the microphone, so you can be in the  
13 transcript.

14 KURT EHRENBURG: My question also included  
15 the original licensing, not just renewals. How many  
16 have been denied?

17 SCOTT BURNELL: There have been several  
18 cases where applicants chose not to complete the  
19 licensing process.

20 KURT EHRENBURG: That was not the  
21 question.

22 SCOTT BURNELL: It answers your question,  
23 sir. There have been several opportunities for --

24 KURT EHRENBURG: How many? How many?

25 SCOTT BURNELL: -- applicants to continue

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1 --

2 KURT EHRENBERG: How many? Two, three?

3 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: One minute.

4 SCOTT BURNELL: Dozens.

5 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Excuse me.

6 SCOTT BURNELL: Dozens of plants did not  
7 complete the licensing process.

8 KURT EHRENBERG: But how many have been  
9 denied was the question.

10 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Excuse me. We're  
11 going to move on.

12 LEE ROBERTS: No, no. [indiscernible]

13 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Like I said --

14 DR. PETER SOMSSICH: We want an answer to  
15 that question.

16 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Like I said --

17 DR. PETER SOMSSICH: You know the answer.

18 LEE ROBERTS: No, we need answers. We're  
19 not going to move on.

20 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Excuse me.

21 KURT EHRENBERG: We want an answer to the  
22 question.

23 DR. PETER SOMSSICH: You want public input  
24 [indiscernible] --

25 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Excuse me, everyone.

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1 Let's stay under control.

2 DR. PETER SOMSSICH: We're under control.

3 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: The transcriber --  
4 hold on a minute. The transcriber cannot hear all of  
5 your responses and your comments and your questions  
6 unless we speak one at a time and clearly. He may not  
7 be the right person to answer your question, as I  
8 indicated at the beginning. So, if that question is  
9 still out there, we'll get an answer to that question.

10 It may not be right now. So, we're going to move on  
11 to the next phase of the meeting.

12 LEE ROBERTS: So, does this mean there's  
13 no comments anymore?

14 KURT EHRENBERG: So you're not going to  
15 answer that question?

16 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: No, I didn't say `no  
17 comments`.

18 KURT EHRENBERG: Yes, you did.

19 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: No --

20 KURT EHRENBERG: You're not answering.

21 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Sir, excuse me. Like  
22 I said, you have to speak into the mic in order for  
23 the transcriber to get it.

24 KURT EHRENBERG: Then bring the microphone  
25 here. I'll speak into it.

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1 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: I didn't say we're not  
2 going answer the question. As I said in the  
3 beginning, we're going to --

4 DR. PETER SOMSSICH: Give him the  
5 microphone.

6 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: I will give him the  
7 microphone, but as I said, he may not be the right  
8 person to answer the question. So the question could  
9 get answered later.

10 LEE ROBERTS: That isn't a very hard  
11 question.

12 KURT EHRENBERG: You can [indiscernible] -  
13 -

14 LEE ROBERTS: It's a simple number.

15 SCOTT BURNELL: In every instance where an  
16 applicant has completed the licensing process for an  
17 original license, they have provided us enough  
18 information for us to come to the technical decision  
19 that they are due a license. Sir, your answer is --  
20 none have been denied because all of the applicants  
21 have met the regulations.

22 DR. PETER SOMSSICH: Thank you.

23 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Okay, this will be the  
24 last question on the presentations and then we'll move  
25 on and get your comments. Do you want -- okay. Is it

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1 on the presentation? Well, okay. We're going to open  
2 it up for the second phase of the meeting where we're  
3 going to get your comments. I have a stack of yellow  
4 cards and I'm going to go through the cards and we're  
5 going to make sure we get the people's comments who  
6 weren't here earlier today and had the opportunity to  
7 speak, so we can give everyone an opportunity to get  
8 on the record. So, the first card I have is Maggie  
9 Hassan of New Hampshire.

10 STATE SENATOR MAGGIE HASSAN: Thank you.  
11 Do you want me to just --

12 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Speak directly in --

13 STATE SENATOR MAGGIE HASSAN: Yeah, just  
14 directly into it? Okay. Good evening. My name is  
15 Maggie Hassan. I am a New Hampshire State Senator and  
16 I'm honored and privileged to represent District 23,  
17 which includes Seabrook in the State Senate. I wanted  
18 to speak for a couple purposes. My constituents have  
19 varying opinions on nuclear power. They have varying  
20 opinions on whether they believe the plant should have  
21 been licensed in the first place. To the degree  
22 people are talking to me about it, they have varying  
23 opinions about relicensure.

24 I wanted to speak about a couple of  
25 things. First and foremost that when constituents

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1 have called me with questions about the operation and  
2 safety of the plant or when I've had those questions  
3 or when my colleagues in the Legislature have had them  
4 -- we have been impressed or I have been impressed  
5 with the openness of the Seabrook plant in inviting us  
6 to the plant, giving us information, answering our  
7 questions, touring us through the plant. They have  
8 been cordial, responsive, specific. So, I give them  
9 kudos for that. I think they have been a good  
10 participant, at least since the time I have been in  
11 the State Senate, which is the last six years.

12 The plant is obviously an enormously  
13 important employer and taxpayer and community  
14 participant to many of the communities in our area.  
15 So, from that perspective, I'm looking at the scope of  
16 the NRC's Environmental Review -- they are an  
17 incredibly important presence here and there are many,  
18 many of my constituents who are very happy that they  
19 are here. On the flip side of that -- this is an  
20 enormously fragile ecosystem. There's just 18-miles  
21 of the New Hampshire shoreline that we hold very, very  
22 dear. There is the Great Bay Estuary that is really  
23 at a tipping point in terms of its environmental  
24 quality. So, we would ask that the NRC and its  
25 environmental and safety experts listen with great

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1 care to the concerns that will be raised throughout  
2 this process about the impact on this extraordinary  
3 part of our state and our country.

4 I think more than anything else, people in  
5 my district want to know that the plant is well-run  
6 and that the people there hold as dear as my  
7 constituents do, this part of our state and our  
8 country. They also want to know that the NRC is doing  
9 its job. I can't stress enough as an elected official  
10 how concerned people are right now that government is  
11 capable of doing what the citizens trust it to do. I  
12 can't think of a more important example of a nuclear  
13 power plant sitting so close-by to so many levels of  
14 our ecosystem and human life.

15 So, with that I just thank you all for  
16 being here. I look forward in any way I can assist  
17 from the state government point of view in making sure  
18 that this process is as complete and informative for  
19 all of you as I can. I would be happy to do that and  
20 I know my other legislatures and the Governor's office  
21 feel the same way. To my constituents who are in the  
22 room -- I hope that you will bring forward not only to  
23 the NRC, but again if the Senate or the House or the  
24 Governor's office can be helpful in facilitating  
25 conversation, as that may need to happen, I look

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1 forward to doing that as well. More than anything, we  
2 just want to know that we are keeping New Hampshire  
3 beautiful and safe. Thank you.

4 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Thank you. I have a  
5 stack of cards here. So, the first three names I have  
6 are Chris Nord, Paul Bamberger and -- excuse me if I  
7 pronounce your name wrong -- Dr. Peter Somssich. I'm  
8 going to ask you to go to the podium and state your  
9 name clearly and if you need to spell it, spell it for  
10 the record and tell us what organizations you're with.

11 So, with that -- Chris Nord.

12 CHRIS NORD: Thank you. Is it possible to  
13 go back to the early slide in this slideshow that  
14 talked about why 20-years? Why we're looking at this  
15 20-years ahead? Can I see that?

16 Yeah -- well, as I was looking -- I've  
17 been trying to think of an analogy -- sorry. I'll  
18 start by giving you my name. My name is Chris Nord,  
19 N-O-R-D. I live in Newton, New Hampshire. So, I'm  
20 inside the 10-mile radius for Seabrook and I've  
21 basically lived in this region since 1981. So, I've  
22 lived entirely within the 10-mile radius since 1981.  
23 I asked for this back because I've been trying to  
24 think of an analogy -- hopefully a humorous one. I  
25 don't know how humorous it is, but I've had a lot of

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1 old cars in my life. I can tell you that the  
2 difference between a 10-year-old car and a 15-year-old  
3 car -- there is not a linear relationship. If you  
4 look at new, 10-years, 15 -- problems arise in that  
5 next five-years. Problems would arise in the next 10-  
6 years that are not in a linear relationship to the  
7 previous 20-years. So, for us to pretend that this is  
8 some how an accurate look at what the plant's  
9 performance will be in 40-years is disingenuous. That  
10 must be stated. Onto my comments.

11 Three areas -- high-level waste,  
12 evacuation planning, and tritium and embrittlement --  
13 those two together.

14 So, for high-level waste -- as was asked  
15 earlier -- where is the high-level waste to go? We  
16 have 20-times the radioactive activity of the  
17 Chernobyl accident's release contained here at  
18 Seabrook in far less than adequate a storage system --  
19 far less than adequate. It's going to be here for the  
20 foreseeable future, which might mean many decades  
21 because Yucca Mountain is not going to open. That was  
22 the plan -- the plan was no good.

23 Why isn't going off to some permanent  
24 disposal site on Indian land somewhere a good idea?  
25 Well, the state of Nevada doesn't want it. In fact,

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1 everyone feels like we would feel -- the state of New  
2 Hampshire it turned out didn't want the DOE to take  
3 over seven towns by eminent domain. Nobody's going to  
4 want that. So, all over the United States, plants  
5 just like ours -- the people in those regions live in  
6 sacrifice zones where the radioactive inventory, 20-  
7 times the size of Chernobyl's release, is left right  
8 on site. That's what we're left with. Why is our  
9 homegrown dumpsite not adequate? First of all, it's  
10 here in Seabrook, which is one of the fastest-growing  
11 summer populations in the -- well, fastest-growing  
12 populations in the United States. One of the most  
13 populous beach populations in the United States during  
14 the summertime. So, we have a lot of people moving  
15 in.

16           Secondly, an above ground closely housed  
17 unhardened dry-cask bunker constitutes one of the most  
18 vulnerable terrorist targets on U.S. soil. Which is a  
19 huge worry. Should be a huge worry for our elected  
20 officials, but we don't seem to be getting traction in  
21 the state of New Hampshire with that issue. Yet,  
22 Florida Power and Light's bunker was rushed to  
23 construction years after whole agencies of the federal  
24 government were established to protect the American  
25 public from fiascos such as this. We have a roadmap

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1 for better technologies than the new home system that  
2 was implemented quickly by Florida Power and Light  
3 just as Florida Power and Light is quickly trying to  
4 implement this relicensing process. The process  
5 should be slowed down so that the proper technologies  
6 could be used to adequately protect the public.

7 The disposition of Seabrook's reactors  
8 high-level waste should be included within the scope  
9 of any license extension process. Sufficient time  
10 should be devoted to finding the state-of-the-art  
11 storage technologies for all U.S. commercial and  
12 military high-level waste now because so-called  
13 temporary storage must suffice to keep us safe for  
14 perhaps many decades. I want to point out for the  
15 technicians in this room that believe that this is not  
16 within the scope of these upcoming hearings -- the  
17 Generic Environmental Impact Statement, Section 5,  
18 allows for review of high-level waste storage in terms  
19 of consequence. In this case, it could be the  
20 consequence of a severe accident, for instance, due to  
21 terrorist attack. Which is just how the issue was  
22 raised in California and the Ninth Circuit Court of  
23 Appeals upheld the contentions of those that brought  
24 that litigation to court. So, this is a totally  
25 permissible arena for high-level waste to be

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1 considered within the scope. That's one.

2 Evacuation Planning -- it's the second  
3 one. I'm going to just take a drink.

4 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: I'm going to ask you  
5 to wrap it up. I have a handful of cards. We want to  
6 get everyone's comments in.

7 CHRIS NORD: Yup

8 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: I don't want to cut  
9 you short, but --

10 CHRIS NORD: Well, you know, I bet  
11 everybody that's here would like you to stay so that  
12 their comments can be made. I'll do this really  
13 quickly.

14 Evacuation Planning was a snow job here  
15 20-years ago. The reason -- the reason that so many  
16 rules got changed -- the field got changed 20-years  
17 ago -- was because the evacuation plans 20-years ago  
18 were not sufficient. So, someone came up here earlier  
19 and said we're dealing with it in the moment -- in the  
20 here and now. Well, in the here and now, these  
21 evacuation plans are unworkable. They've been  
22 unworkable for 20-years. Take a look. The Federal  
23 Emergency Management Agency 20-years ago -- the Region  
24 One director, Ed Thomas, said it's no good. And  
25 because of that, we have to stop the license. The

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1 Reagan administration pulled him, installed a new  
2 Region One director and they rubber-stamped the  
3 evacuation plans. That's not an adequate evacuation  
4 plan. We have twice as many people living in the  
5 seacoast region than we did 20-years ago. So, how is  
6 that going to work? That has to be included within  
7 the scope of relicensing.

8 Tritium -- tritium and pipe degradation.  
9 Almost 20-years ago, again, in a different part of New  
10 England -- the Deerfield River Valley of western  
11 Massachusetts -- exposure to tritium was linked to  
12 Down syndrome -- statistical significance -- for Down  
13 syndrome and assorted other health maladies. The  
14 study was signed-off on by the State of Massachusetts.

15 The study is available. If you needed the study and  
16 don't have it, I can give you the study because I've  
17 got it at home. So, tritium is a known evil quantity  
18 and the linkage was made 20-years ago to the Yankee  
19 Atomic reactor in Rowe, Massachusetts. Yankee Atomic  
20 was closed in the early 90s due to concerns around  
21 pipe embrittlement. Is it possible that pipe  
22 embrittlement caused the release of all of that  
23 tritium?

24 You know, I am not a technician. We've  
25 got gentlemen like Paul Blanch here who hopefully will

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1 get a chance to speak tonight, but if we've got pipes  
2 that are inaccessible and can't be monitored, then  
3 that certainly falls within the scope of the upcoming  
4 license extension hearings. That stuff has to be  
5 looked at because we cannot have tritium flowing into  
6 the groundwater and coming right across the marsh into  
7 Hampton. I mean, Winnacunnet Road is right on the  
8 marsh. I have friends that live on Winnacunnet Road.

9 So, is it true that Florida Power and Light is  
10 digging test wells because they're trying to track  
11 tritium? I mean, these are hugely important concerns  
12 and should be included within the scope of these  
13 hearings. Thank you for your audience.

14 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Thank you for your  
15 comment. We're going to ask everyone to keep your  
16 comments to no more than 10-minutes because I have  
17 really a stack of cards and I want to let everybody  
18 have the opportunity to speak and I just want to  
19 remind you that we're talking about environmental  
20 scoping. Paul Bamberger is the next speaker. If you  
21 could just go to the podium and state your name  
22 clearly and where you're from. Thank you.

23 PAUL BAMBERGER: Is this all right? I'm  
24 not familiar with this -- I just have one comment  
25 stated three ways. Tonight I saw something happen

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1 twice already that's bothered me for years in this.

2           Recently I read a quote from an official  
3 from Seabrook who said -- We can handle the nuclear  
4 waste for the next 20-years and beyond. Well,  
5 beyond's faith -- there's no information. When people  
6 answer serious questions with words like `beyond` it  
7 really scares me. And he also did it tonight to me.  
8 He said -- Well, it's safe until the year 2080. But  
9 it's been decades now that you had a chance to prepare  
10 for 2081 and I heard you say nothing about 2081. It's  
11 another non-answer to a very serious question. And  
12 you get this all the time. You have to be very  
13 careful with the way they use the language.

14           And that other person -- all he had to say  
15 to you was the number. And it's easier to engage you  
16 in some foolishness rather than say -- None have been  
17 refused. It would've taken two seconds and it  
18 would've been over. But this circular non-answer has  
19 been going on ever since Seabrook has been going on.  
20 And not just in the Seabrook issue, but generally.  
21 But there's three tonight -- two tonight and one in  
22 the newspaper. Beyond `beyond` -- what does that tell  
23 me? Nothing. 1980 -- what does that tell me about my  
24 children in 1981? Nothing. It really scares me.  
25 Thank you.

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1 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Mr. Bamberger, could  
2 you tell us where you're from?

3 PAUL BAMBERGER: New Hampshire.

4 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Now, Dr. Peter --  
5 Somssich?

6 DR. PETER SOMSSICH: Yup, thank you.

7 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Please spell your name  
8 for the record and tell us what organization you're  
9 with.

10 DR. PETER SOMSSICH: Yes. It's Peter  
11 Somssich, S-O-M-S-S-I-C-H. I'm a resident of  
12 Portsmouth and since my memory's not so good, I've  
13 written up my comments that I've given to your clerk  
14 over there.

15 I'm attending the session to express my  
16 opposition to the 20-year extension of Seabrook  
17 Nuclear Power Plant's current operating license. Not  
18 only do I reside within the official evacuation zone  
19 of this power plant should an emergency be declared,  
20 but I'm also a trained atomic scientist with both  
21 training and professional work relevant to nuclear  
22 power safety. I have a Ph.D. from the University of  
23 Heidelberg, Germany in physics and have worked  
24 professionally as a research scientist on nuclear  
25 energy related issues. Currently, I am employed as an

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1 analytical scientist in a non-nuclear related field  
2 and do not have a personal vested or financial  
3 interest to protect with regard to Seabrook Nuclear  
4 Power Plant.

5 In addition to my initial training in  
6 various professional positions, I have continued to be  
7 a permanent student of energy related issues, nuclear  
8 power issues, alternative energy issues surrounding  
9 nuclear proliferation for the past 40-years. My  
10 objections to the 20-year extension of the operating  
11 license can be grouped into four categories. Number 1  
12 -- What's the hurry? 2 -- Financial liability. 3 --  
13 Safety and security concerns. 4 -- Materials for  
14 nuclear weapons proliferation. Also I'd like to  
15 propose an alternative suggestion to any operating  
16 license extension should one be considered.

17 What is the hurry? I am sure that I'm not  
18 the only member of the public who was surprised to see  
19 a request for an extension of a license that is still  
20 valid for another 20-years. To apply for an extension  
21 5-years before the expiration date would not surprise  
22 me, but 20-years -- that is strange. The only logical  
23 explanation I can think of is that this is an  
24 insurance policy against possible problems with the  
25 plant in the next 40-years and/or that the owners of

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1 the plant see what all outside experts already know,  
2 that in fact nuclear power is too expensive and will  
3 not be able to compete with other sources of power in  
4 the future, even as recently as the next 10-years.

5 Financial viability. What independent  
6 energy experts except those who are employed by  
7 nuclear power industry already agree is that nuclear  
8 power is currently not able to compete with other  
9 energy options on a free-market basis, were it not for  
10 the federal government, which is providing it with  
11 large low-risk loans and insurance protection against  
12 liability. This type of power is already the most  
13 expensive kind available and will not improve  
14 significantly in the near term future, if at all.  
15 That is why private investors have rejected even very  
16 generous options to build a new power plant over the  
17 last 30-years. This energy is not renewable and  
18 therefore not sustainable and all indications are that  
19 at least in the United States and most of the rest of  
20 the world, it will stay that way.

21 Safety and Security Concerns. The safety  
22 record of many U.S. nuclear power plants over the past  
23 30-years has been better than was expected by the  
24 critics. However, the strong scrutiny brought to bear  
25 by both environmental groups and government agencies

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1 must be credited with most of this outcome, since  
2 otherwise profits would have been the main focus. It  
3 is, however, also important to point out that  
4 Seabrook's initial license was conditioned by the  
5 requirement that a final destination point for its  
6 nuclear waste be determined prior to initial  
7 operation. This never happened because the federal  
8 government never provided such a location. If  
9 Seabrook had told the public at the time that the  
10 final destination of the waste was in fact on the  
11 property of Seabrook Station, perhaps that license  
12 would never have been issued. Regardless of the  
13 disposal issue, this power plant must be considered a  
14 possible terrorist target and the level of security  
15 needed for adequate protection must be very high.  
16 However, undisclosed visits by government teams  
17 testing such security at nuclear power plants have  
18 concluded that the current security measures are not  
19 enough. This means that there will be added  
20 additional expense for all nuclear power plants in the  
21 near future.

22 Materials for Nuclear Weapons  
23 Proliferation. Not only is a nuclear power plant a  
24 potential terrorist threat, but it must also be viewed  
25 as a target for groups attempting to procure nuclear

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1 fuel materials to enable the production of nuclear  
2 weapons. With increasing storage of nuclear waste on-  
3 site, as is the current case currently at most nuclear  
4 sites, without the full protection against theft that  
5 a centralized facility could provide, the attraction  
6 for both terrorists and nuclear weapons brokers will  
7 only increase.

8 Finally, an alternative suggestion. As  
9 many of you present today already know, most European  
10 countries have already turned their backs on nuclear  
11 power for many of the reasons already mentioned above.

12 However, in Germany, which is phasing out its nuclear  
13 energy industry, a number of environmental groups have  
14 supported the extension of nuclear power licenses, if  
15 they are safe enough to operate, in exchange for the  
16 payment into a renewable energy fund of some portion  
17 of the windfall profits that operators and owners will  
18 reap as the result of a license extension. Since most  
19 nuclear power plants are built for a specific number  
20 of years in operation and have been budgeted and paid  
21 for during these years, a license extension provides  
22 extra operating years and extra revenue. It would  
23 seem only a fair deal to ask for some of that windfall  
24 profit, say 50%, to be invested in a fund for truly  
25 renewable energy projects should an extension be

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1 granted.

2 I appreciate this opportunity to submit  
3 this statement. Thank you.

4 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Thank you. The next  
5 three speakers will be Debbie Grinnell, Cathy Wolff  
6 and William Harris.

7 Please state your name and your  
8 affiliation when you get to the mic. Thank you.

9 DEBBIE GRINNELL: I'm Debbie Grinnell and  
10 I'm with the C-10 Research and Education Foundation  
11 and serve both as a staff person doing research and  
12 also as a founding Board member. When Seabrook  
13 submitted their application 20-years in advance of  
14 their license expiration -- which would bring the  
15 plant to 2050 -- we were very aware that the parts and  
16 the underlining underpinning construction foundation  
17 of this plant has parts from the 1970s. We looked  
18 over some recent inspection reports to look at how  
19 NextEra was managing their component systems and  
20 parts. What was immediately brought to our attention  
21 after the last refueling and inspection report was  
22 that NextEra was cited for submerged electrical cables  
23 in two-vaults that were underwater -- underwater,  
24 which is saline, which is highly corrosive.

25 So, what we're looking at here is

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1 inaccessible electric cables that are in water that is  
2 known to cause early failure. So, we thought what's  
3 the most responsible thing to do here? We looked into  
4 some recent research. We looked into what the NRC was  
5 doing and the NRC had actually contracted/sponsored a  
6 study with the Brookhaven National Labs and asked them  
7 to assess the early cable failures before the 40-year  
8 license expiration and to analyze which cables, how  
9 many -- but they didn't actually do that because they  
10 were a research institute and what the generic letter  
11 requested was not to find/locate on the schematics  
12 every buried/submerged underground pipe and electrical  
13 cable -- it was to identify the ones that are already  
14 failed.

15 So, what we needed to know up-front was  
16 how many have failed, where are they, what  
17 manufacturers are most responsible. What were the  
18 years of the greatest failure? 1970s. We still don't  
19 know what manufacturer manufactured and what usage  
20 NextEra has. What we do know is that none of the  
21 cables that are submerged at Seabrook were qualified  
22 for submersion. They are not marine cables. They are  
23 not qualified, which means that the plant is now  
24 operating outside of its design basis and in violation  
25 of Federal Regs. The NRC has done a very minor

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1 citation. There is no fine. They were asked to pump  
2 out the water and come up with a long-term solution.  
3 What hasn't happened in this industry -- we haven't  
4 identified where all the cables are. How many there  
5 are? How many are submerged? And what condition  
6 they're in.

7           The reason we can't do that is because the  
8 only way this can be done is visually. The Brookhaven  
9 National report reported that the surveillance  
10 testing, the in-service program, the maintenance rule,  
11 the aging program -- does not identify the cables  
12 before failure. It is impossible to do. So, short of  
13 instituting -- which has not been done by the NRC -- a  
14 responsible program that is based on a regulation that  
15 would enforce the industry to actually: know where all  
16 the cables are, the condition of them. We cannot go  
17 forward with this.

18           We have, as a result of this knowledge,  
19 asked Paul Blanch, who is a energy consultant. He's  
20 an electrical engineer. He worked for Northeast  
21 Utilities and many other utilities. His expertise is  
22 in instrument and control engineering. I would like  
23 to defer to him at this point because we are not  
24 technically based and that's why we asked an energy  
25 consultant to give us advice on this situation. Paul

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1 -- can I ask you to speak for me?

2 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Debbie, we're not  
3 going to take people out of order. Paul spoke earlier  
4 today, so we want to get to the speakers who haven't  
5 been here.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'd like to hear him.

7 CATHY WOLFF: I'm next in line. Can I  
8 yield to him if I'm next in line? Is that  
9 appropriate?

10 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Well, we won't --

11 PAUL BLANCH: I'm a neutral party here.  
12 Anyway --

13 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: We want to give  
14 everybody a chance --

15 PAUL BLANCH: My name is Paul Blanch, B-L-  
16 A-N-C-H. Thank you, Debbie. And I just want to give  
17 another example of NRC enforcement, or as some people  
18 talk about, NRC enforcement. I was tempted to get up  
19 here and light up a cigarette and that would endanger  
20 the health and safety of the people in this meeting  
21 room and I'm sure the police officer in the back would  
22 come up here, drag me out, maybe impose a fine and  
23 maybe even put me in jail or something like that. I'm  
24 sure the local police would enforce the regulations.  
25 Now, let's contrast that to Seabrook. Seabrook is

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1 violating the regulations. They're emitting hazardous  
2 substances -- tritium and possibly other -- which are  
3 unmonitored that are a health hazard.

4 So, what does the NRC Office of  
5 Enforcement do? They clearly identify it's a  
6 violation of regulations. Same as with cable. And  
7 they issue them a severe non-cited Green violation,  
8 but they don't make them put out the cigarette. That  
9 thing is still leaking tritium. In the same respect,  
10 we have the cable issues, which Mrs. Grinnell just  
11 talked about, and we have cables that are clearly  
12 outside their capability to operate per 10 CFR 50  
13 Appendix B, Criterion I think is 15 and 16,  
14 Design/Control/Inspection. The NRC knowingly allows  
15 these plants to operate outside of its design basis.  
16 We know that the cables must be qualified in order to  
17 determine whether that plant could safely operate and  
18 its emergency equipment will properly operate.

19 I've just got so many examples -- the  
20 buried pipe inspection program -- we just found out  
21 and again working with the General Accountability  
22 Office that the buried pipe inspection program only  
23 covers steel pipes. Well, they've got every other  
24 kind of material pipes and then the real shocking  
25 thing that came up in the GAO investigation is the

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1 buried pipe inspection program only looks for external  
2 corrosion. So Seabrook says -- We'll look at external  
3 corrosion when the thing fails -- is basically what  
4 they say. It just goes on and on and on. We need a  
5 regulatory agency that will actually look at their  
6 regulations, enforce their regulations and if the  
7 plant is not compliant with those regulations change  
8 the regulations or shut down the plant until the plant  
9 can operate.

10           Again, with this license renewal  
11 application -- it's just a license to continue to  
12 operate outside of the regulations. The NRC accepts,  
13 as Mrs. Grinnell said, Seabrook's program and other  
14 programs like Vermont Yankee who have observed water  
15 in manholes. They accept -- We'll look at the  
16 manholes once every two-years to see whether there's  
17 any water in. If there's any water in there, we'll  
18 pump them out. Use a little engineering common sense.

19       When you have manholes connected by conduits that  
20 contain cables and if I have water in each end of the  
21 conduit or the manholes and I pump it out and it's  
22 good for another two-years -- how do we ever, ever  
23 know that those cables are dry? We don't.

24           Take a look at the Brookhaven report,  
25 which is sponsored by NRC research. They say -- You

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1 must take a look and determine if these cables are  
2 submerged. Nothing is being done presently or for the  
3 next 40-years other than Seabrook says -- We'll look  
4 at them every once in awhile and see if they're dry.  
5 If not, we'll pump them dry and we'll continue to  
6 generate those mega-dollars everyday.

7 I can go on and on on the shortcomings of  
8 this application. The fact that insufficient  
9 information is provided in there for anyone to  
10 determine whether this plant is safe -- whether it is  
11 in compliance with the regulations. I think that the  
12 NRC needs to give a hard look at how they take  
13 enforcement action and they cannot just turn a blind  
14 eye to clear regulations, whether it be environmental  
15 qualifications or whether it be 10 CFR 50, 55(a) for  
16 piping inspections and leaky terminations, structural  
17 integrity of pipes. There is no assurance. I was in  
18 the Navy, as Mr. Bo Pham was in the Navy. Those  
19 nuclear power plants -- we slept less than 100 feet  
20 away from them. Those were safe. They were regulated  
21 properly. They were operated properly. When I got  
22 out of the Navy and I saw how these power plants were  
23 built and not regulated -- I was totally shocked.  
24 This is a different world from the Navy program. It's  
25 my belief that unless this regulatory agency can

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1 really do its job -- enforce its regulation -- that  
2 these plants should not continue to operate as they  
3 are right now with unqualified cables and pipes in  
4 unknown conditions leaking God knows what. Thank you.

5 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Thank you for your  
6 comment. Okay -- Cathy Wolff. And please I'd ask you  
7 not to defer your time because there are people who  
8 haven't had the opportunity to speak, so they need to  
9 have that opportunity and some people have already  
10 spoken once today. Thank you. State your name and  
11 your affiliation.

12 CATHY WOLFF: My name is Cathy Wolff. I  
13 live in Kittery, Maine. I belong to different groups,  
14 but I'm a concerned citizen. This is not going to  
15 address the technical or the environmental. You're  
16 getting a lot of information on that. This will be  
17 fairly short.

18 It was almost 40-years ago that other NRC  
19 representatives sat in similar rooms in New Hampshire  
20 listening to citizens suggest that the salt marshes in  
21 Seabrook might not be environmentally and otherwise  
22 the best place to put a nuclear power plant. I'm sure  
23 you are all knowledgeable of this history. But --  
24 anyway. While those people carefully and sometimes  
25 emotionally outlined their concerns, some of the NRC

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1 reps talked, even laughed with each other or sat there  
2 looking bored. They clearly were not listening. And  
3 why should they?

4 The hearings -- and there were many  
5 hearings in those years -- were pro forma. Soon, a  
6 construction permit was issued with some changes in  
7 design brought about by the Herculean efforts of  
8 people who believed that if they could not stop the  
9 nuke, at least they could try to make it safer.  
10 Despite the permit, protests continued -- drawing  
11 international attention to an industry that had  
12 essentially gone unquestioned even by the NRC. Public  
13 opinion began to shift as people realized there were a  
14 lot safer, a lot cheaper and a lot more effective ways  
15 to generate electricity. The nuclear industry  
16 suffered. Wall Street withdrew support. Nuke plants  
17 were shelved. But we did not freeze in the dark -- a  
18 promise that had been made to us by the builders of  
19 Seabrook.

20 Then, in the last few years the industry,  
21 as you well know I'm sure, launched a new political  
22 offensive to help assure its comeback would not be  
23 derailed again by public opinion. It sought even  
24 larger tax subsidies with a lot of help from the last  
25 administration. A streamlined licensing process that

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1 gives an even shorter shrift to public input than  
2 existed previously. And they moved quickly to extend  
3 the lifetime of existing plants. I believe there have  
4 been 50, so far, that have applied for and received  
5 operating license extensions. Ironically, those  
6 extensions will only increase the chances of a serious  
7 accident. An accident that could be a PR nightmare  
8 for the nuclear industry -- not to mention what it  
9 might do to the people who live nearby.

10           There were reasons that your predecessors  
11 set a lifetime of 40-years before a plant should be  
12 decommissioned. It wasn't whim. Do any other power  
13 generating plants -- oil, coal -- have decommissioning  
14 dates set by law? I haven't been able to find out,  
15 but I don't think they do. It's nice to see that  
16 manners -- and I'm mentioning this mainly because  
17 that's the way it felt this afternoon, not necessarily  
18 at the beginning of this evening's session -- or  
19 perhaps maybe just improved PR device -- although  
20 after the beginning of this evening's session, I doubt  
21 that -- has crept into the NRC's public hearing  
22 process since the 1970s, but I would hope that's not  
23 all that's changed. I would hope that you -- you NCR  
24 [sic] representatives -- will go back to Washington  
25 and please don't just review the issues raised here --

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1 which you have to admit, at least this afternoon and  
2 beginning already this evening, are substantial and  
3 thought-provoking. You may not be able to stop  
4 nuclear companies from applying for absurdly premature  
5 license renewals -- although let's hope that a rule  
6 change will -- but you certainly don't have to smooth  
7 the way for their approval. You can, with diligent  
8 study, recommend -- Hey, wait 10-years, try it then.

9 Please consider as you deliberate that you  
10 have not heard -- at least not this afternoon and not  
11 so far this evening -- a single argument today  
12 directly related to why an operating license should be  
13 extended 20-years before it expires. Not a single  
14 argument. Even the handout from the company that I  
15 picked up out there that's seeking the extension does  
16 not make a lot of sense. So they can plan ahead, they  
17 argue. Well, does that mean that without an extension  
18 they plan to let things fall into dangerous disrepair?

19 In fact, your very own PowerPoint fails to provide  
20 even a substantial -- a word that got bantered around  
21 earlier today -- reason much less a complete one.

22 The fact that the folks at Seabrook  
23 provide jobs, give money to the United Way and are  
24 generally good guys and good community members does  
25 not address the issue. I am sure that 10-years from

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1 now they will still be good guys and loyal Chamber of  
2 Commerce members both in Exeter and Hampton.

3 The only final thing I have to say is in  
4 your PowerPoint, you have on page 21 or slide 21 --  
5 the Final Agency Decision -- the Commission considers  
6 Safety Evaluation, Environmental Impact, NRC  
7 inspections, recommendations from the ACRS -- how  
8 about also considering public input? Thank you.

9 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Thank you. Next we're  
10 going to have William Harris, then Skip Medford and  
11 Gil Brown . Please state your name and your  
12 affiliation when you get to the mic. Thanks.

13 WILLIAM HARRIS: Good evening. My name's  
14 William Harris. I live in Newburyport, Massachusetts  
15 where we have many people concerned about emergency  
16 evacuation. But my primary interest comes from  
17 managing research projects at the RAND Corporation in  
18 Santa Monica, California on nuclear energy, economics,  
19 reprocessing, nuclear proliferation for Robert Seamans  
20 and Bob Fri of ERDA, then the Department of Energy. I  
21 served on advisory panels to assess nuclear  
22 alternative fuel systems as to their proliferation  
23 resistance. I did research projects on alternative  
24 energy systems -- solar, et cetera. I've been an  
25 environmental attorney, so I've also litigated

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1 environmental issues.

2 I'd like to address mainly issues relating  
3 to the scope of the Environmental Review. First, what  
4 has changed significantly since the licensing hearing  
5 that ended with the license in 1990 for the Seabrook  
6 plant? Several significant changes have occurred. We  
7 have a significant population increase -- both in  
8 southern New Hampshire and in northern Massachusetts.

9 You'll get the 2010 census data during your review  
10 for this license. We have increased mobility of  
11 people. So, during the summer, we have

12 much more peaking of beach traffic. We have a great  
13 infusion of population at the beaches, which raises a  
14 challenge for evacuation planning. We have some  
15 setbacks in long-term high-level waste management, but  
16 I think the Yucca Mountain thing is not entirely over.

17 It may depend on elections this year and later.  
18 There's also an issue of alternative dry-cask storage  
19 as a technology that might be considered for  
20 mitigation in lieu of on-site swimming pool storage of  
21 waste from this plant. And another major change since  
22 1990 -- and this is the primary field I work with. I  
23 used to plan and draft arms-control treaties on leave  
24 working for the State Department -- The Arms Control  
25 and Disarmament Agency -- the United States through

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1 this Nunn-Lugar Program has bought and repossessed by  
2 various means both high-level waste and low-level  
3 waste and nuclear fuel rods from other countries,  
4 which are important for our non-proliferation efforts.

5 So, I believe it is a positive factor that  
6 needs to be considered that since the United States  
7 has now accumulated much more nuclear material -- from  
8 other nations and has decommissioned a substantial  
9 number of nuclear weapons -- that the recycling of  
10 this material in low-level enriched fuel assemblies is  
11 a much safer alternative for those fuels than to leave  
12 them abroad in a Kazakhstan or any other number of  
13 other places. So, these are major changes that need  
14 to be considered in the relicensing. Though I also  
15 find it troubling that the relicensing is done so far  
16 ahead. I believe there's some opportunities that  
17 ought to be included in the design of the  
18 Environmental Review.

19 My first concern has to do with emergency  
20 evacuation planning and recovery operations. Not only  
21 did FEMA have trouble with the original evacuation  
22 planning, but the governor of Massachusetts, then  
23 Governor Dukakis, could not approve in 1990 the  
24 evacuation plan. We already had traffic saturation  
25 troubles then.

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1 I've been working on mitigation for the  
2 Whittier Bridge Project, which is I-95 crossing the  
3 Merrimack River. We're going from 6 to 10-lanes --  
4 8-lanes and two emergency lanes. There've been  
5 significant studies mainly from Florida since  
6 hurricane Andrew -- many important reports from the  
7 National Research Council on contraflow evacuation  
8 opportunities and so ultimately we will have more  
9 flow-capacity -- we'll have a significant, about a two  
10 thirds increase, in flow south in the event of an  
11 emergency at Seabrook. But we're getting saturation  
12 on I-95. We have not yet had the adequate modeling of  
13 connectors between say Route 110 going east/west  
14 between I-95 and 495. So, we really don't have the  
15 flow-capability to handle evacuations in a major  
16 emergency, especially in the summer when we have beach  
17 traffic.

18 Now, a most significant change since 1990  
19 that I think needs to be considered in the  
20 Environmental Review and I think also in the Safety  
21 Review -- has to do unfortunately with the development  
22 of volitional actors -- terrorists -- who would like  
23 to take out high-value targets that can cause great  
24 harm.

25 We have two important de-classified

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1 findings that are pertinent to the Seabrook  
2 relicensing. First we have the 9/11 Commission, which  
3 in its official release indicated that those who  
4 planned the World Trade Center bombings had actually  
5 had Seabrook as a priority target just before that.  
6 That's all online in the 9/11 Commission report.

7 Then more recently Curt Weldon, the  
8 Congressman from Pennsylvania who served on the Armed  
9 Services Committee of the House, released information  
10 that a group of mainly Pakistani citizens in Canada  
11 with 19 arrests were considering an attack on Seabrook  
12 after 9/11. So, I think as we're planning for the  
13 operation of this plant past 2030 -- even in the next  
14 decade -- we need now to take a re-look as part of the  
15 environmental mitigation and risk assessment for this  
16 relicensing, the consequences of having actors who are  
17 malevolent rather than just the risk that come from  
18 nature and from failures of technology that are  
19 inadvertent.

20 I believe the C-10 Coalition -- I am not a  
21 member. I am not opposed to nuclear power -- but I  
22 believe they've done some important work to model  
23 weather patterns from Seabrook. It may have made  
24 sense for the 1990 assessment to look at prevailing  
25 winds. Prevailing winds mainly go west to east.

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1 Unfortunately, when you are dealing with malevolent  
2 actors, you will not get an attack when the prevailing  
3 winds go from west to east. You may get it when they  
4 go north/south because that would pick up a much  
5 larger population north of Boston that would be  
6 exposed in the event of a terrorist attack.

7           So, I suggest that there are opportunities  
8 if you take the weather modeling that was done by the  
9 C-10 organization and other studies and get the  
10 assistance from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency --  
11 they have the nation's best models. They have a  
12 declassifiable version that can do the plume analysis  
13 when the winds are blowing in any number of  
14 directions, but you should include as the greatest  
15 threat a north/south wind pattern and then you should  
16 probably include the prevailing wind patterns and you  
17 should include summer beach times -- our summer  
18 traffic on I-95 peaks between May and October. The  
19 main peaks are July/August to Labor Day. You have  
20 major peaks in congestion on weekends. If you do that  
21 -- I believe if you did that analysis and the U.S.  
22 Department of Transportation now has excellent models  
23 -- their Office of Emergency Evacuation -- they have  
24 excellent software models. NRC has a group of  
25 excellent software models on emergency evacuation.

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1           If you get the help of the Defense Threat  
2 Reduction Agency, which has a colonel in this region  
3 who would do the modeling for you, I believe you would  
4 be able to develop much better mitigation planning.  
5 So, you do not evacuate everybody in a major  
6 emergency. You only evacuate the people who are at  
7 high risks of radiation or other threats. That would  
8 be essential to do.

9           You should also include consideration of  
10 what's been developed by the U.S. Department of  
11 Transportation for contraflow traffic where they  
12 provide in their contracting that all contractors  
13 working on interstates are responsible to remove their  
14 construction equipment in an emergency because during  
15 hurricane evacuations in Florida and elsewhere, we've  
16 had problems with contraflow traffic when equipment is  
17 left on these interstates. So, I believe that this is  
18 at least one advantage of this early relicensing  
19 application, which is we have an inadequate set of  
20 emergency plans to evacuate people. We have good  
21 software in the federal government in different parts.  
22       And an excellent plume analysis done by the Defense  
23 Threat Reduction Agency that's available to NRC. I  
24 hope that as part of this relicensing, you consider  
25 mitigation measures that would be important for both

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1 evacuation and recovery operations in the event of a  
2 terrorist attack or just an accident at the plant.

3 I also hope you'll consider dry-cask  
4 storage options, so that you can get the spent-fuel  
5 assemblies that are now on site at Seabrook off that  
6 site. That could also reduce a target of attack and  
7 radiological harm.

8 So, one other aspect I think that you  
9 should consider in a relicensing application is  
10 alternative nuclear energy systems where there are  
11 scale economies to be on the same site because you  
12 already have a site with all the infrastructure and  
13 the security systems that are now likely to be much  
14 less vulnerable. Some of the Babcock and Wilcox -- I  
15 may not have the name right -- plants that are  
16 underwater at all times, so that even if an aircraft  
17 were to come at just the right angle -- and I've  
18 supervised modeling of aircraft attacking nuclear  
19 power plants and LNG plants and these plants were not  
20 designed for direct attack by aircraft that are  
21 purposely trying to take out the plant.

22 But these plants do have some redundant  
23 features -- under many conditions they would survive  
24 an aircraft attacking a nuclear plant -- but a safer  
25 option is to have plants that are always protected, so

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1 even if an aircraft came at just the right angle with  
2 just the right amount of energy that you would have a  
3 safer outcome. So, I believe that when you're  
4 considering relicensing for this long period of time,  
5 one ought to consider alternative nuclear plants at  
6 the same site as an option to consider in lieu of just  
7 automatically extending a license for a plant that  
8 simply was not designed for an era of terrorism.

9 So, I will at some point provide written  
10 comments. I've taken much time and I thank you.

11 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Mr. Harris, thank you.

12 Could you stay there for a minute. You mentioned  
13 ERDA and could you specify what that is for the  
14 record?

15 WILLIAM HARRIS: ERDA -- The Energy  
16 Research and Development Administration had a research  
17 council and I supervised many of their research  
18 projects at the RAND Corporation. That was then run  
19 by a Robert Seamans and the Deputy Director Robert  
20 Fri, F-R-I. So, they were between the Atomic Energy  
21 Commission and the Department of Energy. I also  
22 worked for the Department of Energy doing studies, as  
23 well. I think that period is 1976, when the AEC goes  
24 out of business, to about 1980 with the Department of  
25 Energy. So, E-R-D-A is in the middle.

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1 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Okay. Thank you very  
2 much. We'll have Skip Medford.

3 SCOTT MEDFORD: Thanks very much for the  
4 opportunity. You stated my name. I'm a biologist. I  
5 also live in New Hampshire, perhaps closer than other  
6 commenters this evening. I'll keep my comments very  
7 brief. In case nobody said it yet -- as long as the  
8 owner/operators can satisfy valid concerns about the  
9 plants continued viability, I support license renewal.

10 Second -- and primarily addressed to the  
11 NRC members here. Will you conduct or will you ensure  
12 the applicant conducts an equitable review of taxes  
13 paid and contributions made to various states, towns,  
14 residences impacted by the siting and continued  
15 operation of the plant? Perhaps on a per megawatt  
16 basis, per area impacted basis or other comparable  
17 metric within the industry or within the region?  
18 Thank you very much.

19 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Thank you. Gil Brown.  
20 Can you state your organization when you get to the  
21 mic.

22 PROFESSOR GILBERT BROWN: Sure.

23 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Thank you.

24 PROFESSOR GILBERT BROWN: Hi, good  
25 evening. I'm Gilbert Brown, a professor of nuclear

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1 engineering at the University of Massachusetts in  
2 Lowell. So, I'm not exactly a resident, although I do  
3 swim at the beach and I certainly enjoy the seacoast  
4 as much as anybody that does live around here. So,  
5 you might ask why am I here? What are my comments?  
6 Well, it's a very good question, actually. I'm  
7 listening to a lot of the technical comments or  
8 comments that deal with technical issues -- this  
9 probably isn't the forum to debate each one of the  
10 issues, but all these issues need some airing. I'm  
11 confident that you will air those. As a previous  
12 speaker said, if there are issues with the safe  
13 operation of the plant, then the NRC has the right and  
14 the responsibility to say -- Stop. I know you've done  
15 that to plants in New England and elsewhere and if the  
16 plants aren't safe to run, they shouldn't run.

17 So, one of my main points is to separate  
18 the issues about license renewal from the running of  
19 the plant. I'm almost certain in the presentation  
20 that you make that point. So a lot of the comments  
21 here I think deal with that piece of the NRC business  
22 of being a independent regulator overseen by Congress,  
23 commissioners appointed by the president and reviewed  
24 by the Senate, ACRS appointed by this process of  
25 independence challenging those assumptions --

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1 challenge the very basis upon which this nation is a  
2 stable democracy. I'm not here to challenge that. Do  
3 your job. And I'm comfortable with the answers. If  
4 the answer is -- no go. Then it's no go.

5 License renewal -- I think the issue of  
6 why now? Why not N minus five and whatever that is --  
7 15-years down -- at the last minute? Oh, I think  
8 you'd be really, really uncomfortable. I would be if  
9 it was a last-minute rush to get the license renewal.

10 License renewal is not a permission to operate the  
11 plant. That happens every day with -- two on-site  
12 inspectors? A myriad of inspection reports. People  
13 were asking what's different from 40-years ago? Oddly  
14 enough, I can remember 40-years ago. Better than  
15 maybe yesterday, sometimes. But, really and I'll be  
16 the first in this audience to mention TMI, which I  
17 know you know what it means and my students think it  
18 means To Much Information. But we established the  
19 Institute -- we, the country, the nation, the owners  
20 of the plant -- established the Institute for Nuclear  
21 Power Operations. This is a level independent from  
22 the requirements of the NRC. This is an excellence  
23 model. The plants that you knew 25-years ago, 30-  
24 years ago -- in Seabrook's case 20-years ago -- are  
25 not the plants that are operating today. The

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1 performance speaks to that. The attention to detail.

2 The maturation of -- if you'll pardon the expression  
3 -- safety culture. Three-way communication.  
4 Attention to detail. And in my business that I do for  
5 a living -- educate the workforce for the future.

6 The attention to detail, the knowledge  
7 base -- it's a very different environment than it was.

8 If you haven't been around up close and personal -- I  
9 know you have issues. There are issues every day. We  
10 fly on airplanes. There are issues every day. We  
11 cross the street. There are issues every day. I mean  
12 life is an issue with one certainty. So, it's  
13 different though today. It's better. The bar has  
14 been raised and the performance speaks to that. The  
15 quality, the detail, the attention to safety -- the  
16 oversight by the commissioners and the staff. It's a  
17 different world. I can attest to that.

18 One of the things I do is independently  
19 review the training and issue decisions as to -- Is  
20 this an accreditable training program? Are the people  
21 at the site -- and every site has to do this --  
22 training the workers to the standards not of the NRC,  
23 but of the INPO standards. They are so high that they  
24 carry the weight of regulation.

25 And I can attest to the fact that people

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1 take this seriously. And the plants are running safer  
2 and therefore better -- a figure of merit, which  
3 speaks to the economics. It's a red herring to say  
4 the nuclear plants aren't economic. Every analysis  
5 says baseload electricity provided by nuclear power  
6 plants are the most economic electricity in the  
7 country. For sure it's the greenest. No CO2. You  
8 can shake your head. There isn't a -- well --

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes, there is.

10 PROFESSOR GILBERT BROWN: I'm glad you  
11 finished my thought, thank you. We study this -- I'm  
12 studying this right now with a graduate student  
13 putting out a sort of a white paper. There is no --  
14 too coin a phrase -- free lunch. We all leave  
15 footprints. Every energy source leaves a footprint,  
16 be it a windmill, be it a solar panel or be it a  
17 nuclear plant. You know what - we're going to need  
18 all of them to meet the requirements -- I know the  
19 congresswoman, the State Senator -- I don't know if  
20 she's still here. Is that you? I can't -- I guess  
21 she left -- talked about in her opening comments about  
22 keeping New Hampshire safe. But it's also keeping New  
23 Hampshire with electricity because without  
24 electricity, nobody is safe.

25 That's what Seabrook does -- it provides

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1 24/7 electricity and it does it over 90% of the time.

2 In the 80s, if you were 80% of the time you were a  
3 good performer. The average was in the 60s. Even in  
4 school, that's not a good average. So, the industry  
5 average now is over 90%. I don't know what Seabrook's  
6 number is today. It could be 95% -- something like  
7 that. It's really run well. That's a figure of  
8 merit. It means attention to detail is being paid.  
9 So, I want to --

10 MARY LAMBERT: Is this the S-E-I-S?

11 PROFESSOR GILBERT BROWN: I beg your  
12 pardon?

13 MARY LAMBERT: Is this speaking to the  
14 exam question -- the S-E-I-S?

15 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Hold on, Mary. Let me  
16 bring you the mic.

17 PROFESSOR GILBERT BROWN: It's as much to  
18 that question, ma'am, as I believe I've heard from all  
19 the other speakers and no one else made comments to  
20 the ideas of terrorism, the ideas of plant  
21 performance, which is the everyday job. I have spoken  
22 to the issue that 20-years, I believe -- and here's my  
23 last point, frankly. The 20-year license renewal is,  
24 albeit, arbitrary -- for sure. It's a regulation.  
25 They say you can do in 20-years, so why not do it in

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1 20-years. That's not the point.

2           The point, I believe, is that this is a  
3 mature technology. In the business I'm in, we're  
4 talking about careers. We're not talking about  
5 consulting, coming to show up to work one day and  
6 doing another job. These are lifelong careers. We're  
7 training our students to work in a field -- to work at  
8 the power plant -- as a career. I believe that that's  
9 maybe one of the unstated positive aspects of going  
10 forward with a plan that has the plant licensable,  
11 operationable, for that period of time. We can create  
12 academic programs. We can work with the community  
13 college to train people to work in the plants and keep  
14 providing reliable energy for the good citizens of,  
15 not just New Hampshire, but New England. Thank you.

16           ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Thank you for your  
17 comments. I'm going to remind everyone as Jeremy  
18 said, there's four-ways to submit comments as  
19 indicated on the slide that's up right now. At this  
20 point, I don't have any cards for any new speakers  
21 anymore, so the cards I have left are for people who  
22 have spoken already today. So, I want to invite  
23 anyone new if they want to give a comment before I  
24 open the floor to people who have commented before.

25           Okay, the first person is Tom Noonis. I

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1 just want to ask that you keep your comments brief  
2 since we have your comments already in the record  
3 today.

4 TIM NOONIS: Thank you. For the record,  
5 it's Tim.

6 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Tim -- sorry.

7 TIM NOONIS: That's all right. The last  
8 is N-O-O-N-I-S.

9 My name is Tim Noonis and this evening I'm  
10 wearing two different hats. My first hat is that I am  
11 the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hampton  
12 Area Chamber of Commerce. Seabrook Station is a very  
13 strong supporter of the Hampton Area Chamber of  
14 Commerce and through it, all the members that we  
15 serve.

16 Seabrook Station is always willing to  
17 sponsor and participate in the many events and  
18 festivities that the Chamber promotes to encourage  
19 business and tourism in the areas that we serve. I  
20 have the privilege to serve on various boards and  
21 civic committees with the employees of Seabrook  
22 Station. I have found them to be a very bright and  
23 positive group and an asset to the communities that we  
24 live in.

25 Our Chamber membership runs the gamut from

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1 small mom-and-pop businesses to very large  
2 corporations. These businesses depend on reliable and  
3 reasonably priced electricity to operate their  
4 businesses successfully. The long-term viability of  
5 Seabrook Station is integral to the success of our  
6 members. Seabrook Station is a crucial part of this  
7 area's economy and you could not ask for a better  
8 corporate citizen.

9 On behalf of the members of the Hampton  
10 Area Chamber of Commerce, we would encourage you to  
11 extend Seabrook Station's operating license.

12 My second hat this evening is a 17-year  
13 resident and homeowner here in Hampton. A few years  
14 ago, I went to a conference where the keynote speaker  
15 was the cofounder of Greenpeace. In his address, he  
16 said the biggest mistake that Greenpeace made was  
17 equating nuclear power with nuclear weapons.

18 He continued on to say that nuclear power  
19 has proven to be a safe and reliable source for  
20 generating electricity and that the operation of these  
21 nuclear power plants does not contribute to climate  
22 change.

23 I hear the clamoring for good jobs, cheap  
24 power and a clean environment. But when it comes time  
25 to site one of these power plants or even a wind

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1 turbine, everyone screams -- Not in my backyard.  
2 Seabrook Station is in my backyard and I have found  
3 them to be a very good neighbor. I would encourage  
4 you to extend Seabrook Station's license.

5 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Thank you. Can I have  
6 Janet Guen and then Doug Bogen. Is Janet still here?  
7 Okay -- Doug Bogen.

8 DOUG BOGEN: I would like to pass. I'd  
9 make all the points that I think others have made as  
10 well tonight.

11 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Okay, thank you. Paul  
12 Gunter.

13 PAUL GUNTER: Thank you. My name is Paul  
14 Gunter, G-U-N-T-E-R. You got the spelling this  
15 afternoon as well. I'm not going to -- I want to  
16 reiterate a couple of points. First of all, I'm the  
17 Director of the Reactor Oversight Project for Beyond  
18 Nuclear, which is in Washington, DC area. I had been  
19 a resident of New Hampshire for about 23-years. But,  
20 I wanted to note a couple of things that we've heard  
21 tonight and ask you if you see a pattern?

22 First of all, it is beyond the scope of  
23 this proceeding in its Environmental Review to address  
24 the issue of there's no management for the nuclear  
25 waste that would be generated in that 20-year cycle --

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1 beginning in 2030/2050. So, we have an unmanaged  
2 issue and it is beyond the scope.

3 We are also not allowed to address the  
4 issue within the licensing process about security,  
5 even though we know and I think it's been referenced  
6 by an expert here today -- but clearly it was already  
7 a public document by one of the federal labs -- I  
8 believe it was Oak Ridge. No, I'm sorry, it was Argon  
9 National Lab -- that the reactor design for Seabrook  
10 was never designed nor constructed nor evaluated for  
11 fire and explosion from a direct impact from an  
12 aircraft. Matter of public record. That public  
13 record disappeared for a while after 9/11, but it is  
14 now back a part of the NRC public document room.

15 Now, again, we have what appears to be an  
16 unmanaged problem that's beyond the scope of being  
17 addressed within the context of extending this  
18 reactor's operation another 20-years. Also, you've  
19 heard comment and concern with regard to an evacuation  
20 plan that's proved to be a very prickly problem -- a  
21 lot of uncertainties. That too is now beyond the  
22 scope of this proceeding. And we can go on. There  
23 are several that present this unmanaged problem for  
24 the NRC and I think that it begins to suggest that we  
25 have an obsolete and antiquated review process that

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1 has to be challenged. I think that you're getting  
2 some of that challenge tonight.

3 As one of the petitioners to change the  
4 rule that facilitates Florida Power and Light  
5 submitting an application 20-years in advance of the  
6 expiration date -- I suggest to you that this is yet  
7 another one of these streamlining of a very  
8 problematic issue that does not serve to benefit  
9 public health and safety and security nor does it  
10 offer adequate protection to the environment  
11 necessarily. But it provides and facilitates a  
12 conveyor belt for this licensing process. As a  
13 consequence, that has to be challenged today. We  
14 have, as of yesterday, formally challenged the 10 CFR  
15 54 Part 17(c), which says you can do that. But, I  
16 just want the Agency, the public, the various experts  
17 on both sides to see that there appears to be a  
18 pattern here that facilitates this process, but not  
19 necessarily to the benefit that is mandated by  
20 Congress or presented to us publicly.

21 I'll just close my remarks by pointing out  
22 one other piece here. I'm just going to read into the  
23 record one of the aspects of this 10 CFR 54 Part 17(c)  
24 that presents a problem for those of us who would like  
25 a fair airing of a relicensing process -- filing for

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1 license renewal midterm of the current license finds  
2 the licensee at a place in this system/structure/and  
3 component service-life where the industry experiences  
4 few failures that are observed and generally those  
5 that are observed are episodic or anomalous in nature  
6 and thus cannot be readily plotted as a trend for  
7 prediction purposes. The time of an elevated rate of  
8 failures due to design/manufacturing/construction  
9 defects has passed. That's what we call early  
10 component failure in what is traditionally called a  
11 bathtub curve. I'm sure Dr. Brown is quite familiar  
12 with the bathtub curve.

13 In that early failure rate, it's largely  
14 irrelevant to aging management in the proposed  
15 extended period of operation. The anticipated end-of-  
16 design-life and aging issues have barely, if at all,  
17 begun to emerge. We're basically at the bottom of  
18 this bathtub curve where you have a high incidence  
19 early on as you work the bugs out -- whether it's a  
20 nuclear power plant or an electric toaster or an early  
21 model of a car -- there are these early failures. But  
22 now we're at the bottom of that bathtub curve that has  
23 been described to us as a highly efficient period of  
24 operation of any facility.

25 So, little or no specific information on

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1 how a given plant will age is available to be trended,  
2 provide lessons or otherwise illuminate the path  
3 forward. It is generally observed that for many  
4 system structures and components, such information  
5 flow rates increase rapidly in the fourth quarter and  
6 toward the end of the license. This  
7 system/structure/component reliability progression is  
8 well known and often illustrated in the so-called  
9 bathtub curve.

10 Additionally, corrosion risk is a function  
11 of time. For example, the Beaver Valley Nuclear Power  
12 containment was discovered to have been rusting from  
13 the outside of an inner liner that was inaccessible  
14 for inspection. So, the evidence of this through-wall  
15 corrosion on the containment component surfaced when a  
16 bubble appeared in the paint on the inside of the  
17 containment. So, it was a outside/in corrosion  
18 process that escaped inspection and maintenance until  
19 it was discovered by a bubble in the paint on the  
20 inside.

21 Now, similarly -- I was very involved in  
22 the Seabrook controversy. It was well known to us  
23 that the pores in that concrete were facilitated by  
24 such things as cutting of rebar that -- there were a  
25 whole host of issues that raised concerns about the

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1 integrity of both the construction and the  
2 documentation of quality control in that facility -- a  
3 whole host of systems and structures and components.  
4 And I submit to you that our concern that this review  
5 process now is coming at the bottom of this bathtub  
6 where things are relatively stable, but the Agency is  
7 proposing to give its approval for the latter life --  
8 escaping the operational experience of the latter life  
9 of this plant for the next 20-years, we believe is to  
10 be responsible, both in terms of how this application  
11 is being presented and how it's being reviewed.

12 We strongly urge you to again -- we are  
13 asking the Agency both formally and in its review  
14 process to reject this application. It's premature.  
15 It doesn't provide the staff with enough information  
16 to give a fair assessment of how this plant can be or  
17 if it can be well-managed in this period of  
18 2030/22050. Thank you.

19 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Thank you. Mary  
20 Lambert.

21 MARY LAMBERT: I'll be quick and -- well,  
22 here it is. He's a lot taller. I'll be quick. I  
23 spent most of my time on the Severe Accident  
24 Mitigation Analysis, which is within scope. And  
25 focused mainly on the fact that the computational tool

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1 -- the computer code -- that they are using, the  
2 MACCS2, is an antiquated code. It is not properly  
3 Q/A'd for licensing. It was done for research and it  
4 very much underestimates impact by having embedded in  
5 it the straight-line Gaussian plume model, which is  
6 inappropriate for this coastal site for largely  
7 underestimating clean-up because it was based upon  
8 WASH 1400, which in turn was based upon cleanup after  
9 a weapons event. But there is not a comparability --  
10 as WASH pointed out and also some of the NRC staff  
11 reviewer's of 1150 pointed out -- between a weapons  
12 event with large particles and large mass loadings to  
13 a reactor accident. So, I won't go into it.

14           There was also underestimating by a very  
15 large measure health costs and also underestimating  
16 Evacuation Time Estimates because it's apparent from  
17 at least reading the application they did not quote  
18 any ETEs for us to even question what the assumptions  
19 -- if they used KLD -- whether they considered peak  
20 traffic times, holidays, beach traffic, etc., etc. and  
21 also ignoring spent-fuel pool accidents, which seem to  
22 be in scope because of Section 5 of the GEIS.

23           But I would say, for something different,  
24 that my comments on the MACCS2 particularly in regard  
25 to clean-up and the gross underestimation of cost that

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1 result from it -- even the author of the code, David  
2 Shannon, has written to the fact that if you are  
3 interested in economic costs, don't use this code.  
4 And who should know better than the person who wrote  
5 it. That seems obvious. But, you should bring it in  
6 to your discussion of alternatives because in  
7 comparing alternative energies, you should be having a  
8 chart on economics. The only fair way to do it is not  
9 as suggested by a previous speaker that all you look  
10 at is the running costs because if that were the case,  
11 then a lot of people's houses would be real cheap if  
12 somebody else paid their mortgages, if someone else  
13 paid their insurance, et cetera, et cetera. That  
14 seems to be the case with the nuclear industry.

15 So, when you compare costs -- when you  
16 have to do your alternatives comparison -- I ask you  
17 to take the economics -- what the difference in  
18 subsidies for each are and then to tie in the MACCS2  
19 code when you're talking about liability and insurance  
20 because the MACCS2 -- it was MACCS, actually -- which  
21 is the same in every respect to the MACCS2 -- is the  
22 underpinning, also the Price Anderson Act. So, the  
23 amount of insurance that is provided through the Price  
24 Anderson Act that the industry is responsible for  
25 rests upon this inadequate code estimation of costs.

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1 So, that too should be factored in.

2 Now, I'm not trying to screw the industry.

3 What I'm trying to do is get an honest assessment of  
4 what the costs are, so in fact then we can have an  
5 honest appraisal and also then come up with a fair  
6 accounting of mitigations as they are offset by the  
7 cost. So, thank you for that thought -- or listening  
8 to that thought.

9 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Thank you, Mary.  
10 We're at the end of our time and I have no more  
11 commenters' cards. Mr. Bo Pham is going to make some  
12 concluding remarks.

13 BO PHAM: Thank you, Elva. My name is Bo  
14 Pham and I'm a Branch Chief at the NRC for License  
15 Renewal projects. So, we have not only the Seabrook  
16 project, but several other projects in our branch as  
17 well.

18 I thank you for your time today. I just  
19 want to kind of sum up by saying where do we go from  
20 here? So, we received your comments for tonight. The  
21 comment period actually goes all the way until  
22 September 21st. Once we receive all the comments,  
23 Jeremy and our team of Environmental Reviewers and  
24 technicians will get together and for the next six-  
25 months or so will vet through each comment. Consider

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1 the comments. And put together the Draft  
2 Environmental Impact Statement. We'll issue that and  
3 then come back to you and receive your comments on  
4 that as well. So, I certainly appreciate your time to  
5 come out and provide us a diverse set of comments and  
6 opinions. We will certainly consider all your  
7 comments. We may not always agree on them, but I can  
8 assure you we will consider every single comment. So,  
9 once again, thank you for your time.

10 PAUL BLANCH: Bo, just one thing. I want  
11 to put on the record some comments and questions.  
12 Some of them I did not get to, but I'd like to  
13 formally have those on the record if you would please.

14 ELVA BOWDEN BERRY: Thank you. With that,  
15 I want to thank you all for coming this evening.

16 (Whereupon, at 9:09 p.m., the public  
17 meeting was closed.)  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22

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**CERTIFICATE**

This is to certify that the attached proceedings  
before the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
in the matter of:           Seabrook Station,

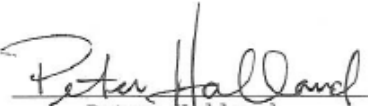
License Renewal

Name of Proceeding: Public Meeting,  
Evening Session

Docket Number:       (n/a)

Location:               Hampton, New Hampshire

were held as herein appears, and that this is the  
original transcript thereof for the file of the United  
States Nuclear Regulatory Commission taken by me and,  
thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under the  
direction of the court reporting company, and that the  
transcript is a true and accurate record of the  
foregoing proceedings.

  
Peter Holland  
Official Reporter  
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## Current Licensing Basis is defined as follows:

§ 54.3 Definitions.

(a) As used in this part.

*Current licensing basis (CLB) is the set of NRC requirements applicable to a specific plant and a licensee's written commitments for ensuring compliance with and operation within applicable NRC requirements and the plant-specific design basis (including all modifications and additions to such commitments over the life of the license) that are docketed and in effect. The CLB includes the NRC regulations contained in 10 CFR parts 2, 19, 20, 21, 26, 30, 40, 50, 51, 52, 54, 55, 70, 72, 73, 100 and appendices thereto; orders; license conditions; exemptions; and technical specifications. It also includes the plant-specific design-basis information defined in 10 CFR 50.2 as documented in the most recent final safety analysis report (FSAR) as required by 10 CFR 50.71 and the licensee's commitments remaining in effect that were made in docketed licensing correspondence such as licensee responses to NRC bulletins, generic letters, and enforcement actions, as well as licensee commitments documented in NRC safety evaluations or licensee event reports.*

## Questions/Requests

Is it possible that a member of the public can obtain a copy of the CLB to assure it is not being changed by the License renewal process?

How can we obtain a copy of the most recent FSAR, Technical Specifications and "docketed licensing correspondence"?

How can we obtain a copy of the regulations which address inspection for inaccessible pipes as referenced by 10 CFR 50.55?

PAUL M BLANCH  
135 Maple Rd  
West Hartford Ct 06107  
PMBLANCH@COMCAST.NET

### **Scoping Boundaries**

Page 2.1-6 of the LRA discusses drawings and diagrams used to identify the scope for the mechanical scoping effort (buried pipes). These drawings were not provided as part of the LRA. In contrast, the LRA for Indian Point included most of these mechanical piping drawings.

### **Questions/Requests**

Will the NRC provide these drawings for our experts review?

Our experts also need all drawings of all inaccessible cable runs to determine if the cables are properly addressed in the LRA.

## **Buried pipes and tanks inspection program**

The proposed Buried Piping and Tanks Inspection program is only applicable to “buried steel (including cast iron)” and is only applicable to the external areas of these pipes and tanks.

Seabrook claims it has “no buried steel tanks in scope for license renewal.”

## **Questions/Requests**

The NRC uses the term “inaccessible” for cables and “buried” for pipes. Why the distinction?

Why is the buried pipe inspection program limited only to steel and stainless steel (including cast iron)?

How does the NRC define “buried” vs underground, in enclosed trenches, encased in concrete, etc.?

Are there other tanks within the scope of 10 CFR 54.4 constructed from “non-steel” materials?

Are there other materials used for buried pipes?

Why does the NRC not require inspection of internal corrosion of buried pipes?

Which tanks are covered under this program?

How does the NRC assure the structural and physical integrity of these buried pipes?

## Inaccessible Cables

Page A-17<sup>1</sup> of the Seabrook LRA only requires an LRA for “Accessible” cables and connections.

The Seabrook LRA only identifies cables used for Station Blackout. There are many miles of cables within the scope of 10 CFR 54.4 yet do not appear to be addressed by any aging management program (AMP)

Seabrook excludes medium voltage cables from an AMP unless the cables are energized for more than 25% of the time. In effect, this exempts most vital medium voltage cables.

## Questions/Requests

How can the public be assured that all vital cables within the scope of 10 CFR 54.4 are qualified for long term operation when submerged or exposed to moisture.

How can the NRC justify not inspecting more than an estimated 90% of the vital cables that are most susceptible to submergence and failure?

How can Seabrook justify violating NRC requirements (10 CFR 50 Appendix B)?

How does the NRC rationalize not inspecting more than an estimated 95% of vital instrument cables?

---

<sup>1</sup> ELECTRICAL CABLES AND CONNECTIONS NOT SUBJECT TO 10 CFR 50.49 EQ REQUIREMENTS



## INACCESSIBLE MEDIUM VOLTAGE CABLES

Page A-18 discusses INACCESSIBLE MEDIUM VOLTAGE CABLES and states the manholes containing these cables will be inspected for water every two years.

### Questions/Requests

How can the NRC permit these cables to operate in violation of NRC regulations for up to two years?

Even if the "manholes" are drained, what assurance does the public have that other low points are free of water?

cdw/ro  
10/20/10  
10/20/10  
Humboldt VH

Good evening

My name is Tim Noonis and I am before you this evening wearing two different hats.

My first hat is, that I am the Chairman,... of the board of directors for the Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce.

Seabrook Station is a very strong supporter of the Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce and through it, all the members that the Chamber serves.

Seabrook Station is always willing to sponsor and participate in the many events and festivities that the Chamber promotes to encourage business and tourism in the areas we serve.

I have had the privilege to serve on various boards and civic committees with the employees of Seabrook Station. I have found them to be a very bright and positive group and an asset to the communities that we live in.

Our chamber membership runs the gamut from small mom & pop businesses to very large corporations.

These businesses depend on reliable and reasonably priced electricity to operate their businesses successfully.

The long term viability of Seabrook Station is integral to the success of our members.

Seabrook Station is a crucial part of this area's economy and you could not ask for a better corporate citizen than Seabrook Station.

On behalf of the members of the Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce, we would encourage you to extend Seabrook Station's operating license.

My second hat this <sup>EVENING</sup> ~~morning~~ is that of a 17 year resident and homeowner in Hampton.

A few years ago, I went to a conference where the keynote speaker was the co-founder of Green Peace.

In his address, he said the biggest mistake that Green Peace made was equating nuclear power with nuclear weapons.

He continued on to say that nuclear power has proven to be a safe and reliable source for generating electricity and that the operation of these nuclear power plants does not contribute to climate change.

I hear the clamoring for good jobs, cheap power and a clean environment.

But when it comes time to site a power plant or even a wind turbine...everyone screams...not in my back yard.

Seabrook Station is in my back yard...and I have found them to be a very good neighbor.

I would encourage you to extend Seabrook Station's license.

Thank you for your attention.

2/11/15  
4:11, 4:12, 4:13, 4:14

**Public Submission in Opposition to a 20 year Extension of the Operating License for  
Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant in Seabrook, New Hampshire  
EIS Scoping Session Docket ID NRC-2010-0206**

**- Dr. Peter Somssich, Portsmouth , New Hampshire**

**(Aug.19, 2010)**

I am attending this session to express my opposition to a 20-year extension of Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant's current operating license.

Not only do I reside within the official evacuation zone of this power plant, should an emergency be declared, but I am also a trained atomic scientist with both training and professional work relevant to nuclear power safety. I have a Ph.D. from the University of Heidelberg, Germany, in physics and have worked professionally as a research scientist on nuclear energy related issues. Currently I am employed as an analytical scientist in a non-nuclear related field and do not have any personal vested or financial interest to protect with regard to the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant. In addition to my initial training and various professional positions, I have continued to be a permanent student of energy related issues, nuclear power issues, alternative energy issues and the issues surrounding nuclear proliferation for the past 40 years.

My objections to the 20 year extension of the operating license can be grouped into 4 main categories:

- 1) What's the hurry?
- 2) Financial Viability,
- 3) Safety and Security Concerns and
- 4) Materials for Nuclear Weapons Proliferation

Also, I would like to propose an Alternative Suggestion (see below) to any operating license extension, should one be considered.

**What is the hurry?**

I am sure that I am not the only member of the public who is surprised to see a request for an extension of a license that is still valid for another 20 years. To apply for an extension 5 years before the expiration date would not surprise me, but 20 years that is strange. The only logical explanation I can think of is that this is insurance against possible problems with the plant in the next 40 years, and / or that the owners of the plant see what all outside experts already know, that in fact nuclear power is too expensive and will not be able to compete with other sources of power by 2020.

**Financial Viability**

Most independent energy experts (those not employed by the nuclear power industry) already agree that nuclear power is currently not able to compete with other energy options on a free market basis, if the federal government were not providing it with large low risk loans and insurance protection against liability. This type of power is already the most expensive kind available, and will not improve significantly in the near term future, if at all. That is why private investors have rejected even very generous options to build new plants over the last 30 years. This energy is non-renewable and therefore not sustainable, and all indications are that at least in the US (and most of the rest of the world) it will stay that way.



**Safety and Security Concerns**

The safety record of many US nuclear plants over the past 30 years has been better than was expected by critics. However, the strong scrutiny brought to bear by both environmental groups and government agencies must be credited with most of this outcome, since otherwise profits would have been the main focus. It is, however, also important to point out that Seabrook's initial license was conditioned by the requirement that a final destination point for its nuclear waste be determined prior to initial operations. This never happened, because the federal government never provided such a location. If Seabrook had told the public that the final destination of its waste was in fact on the property of Seabrook Station, perhaps that license would never have been issued. Regardless of the disposal issue, this power plant must be considered a possible terrorist target and the level of security needed for adequate protection must be very high. However, undisclosed visits by government teams testing such security at nuclear power plants have concluded that current security measures are not enough. This will add additional cost to all nuclear power plants in the near future.

**Materials for Nuclear Weapons Proliferation**

Not only is a nuclear power plant a potential terrorist target, but it must also be viewed as a target for groups attempting to procure nuclear fuel material to enable the production of nuclear weapons.

With increasing storage of nuclear waste on-site, as is the case currently at most nuclear sites, without the full protection against theft that a centralized facility could provide, the attraction for both terrorists and nuclear weapons brokers will only increase.

**An Alternative Suggestion**

As many of you present today already know most European countries have already turned their back to nuclear energy for many of the reasons already mentioned above. However, in Germany, which is phasing out nuclear energy a number of environmental groups have supported the extension of nuclear power licenses, if they are safe to operate, in exchange for the payment into a renewable energy fund of some portion of the windfall profits that operators and owners will reap as the result of a license extension. Since most nuclear power plants are built for a specified number of years of operation, and have been budgeted and paid for during those years, a license extension provides extra operating years and revenues. It would seem a fair deal to ask for some of this windfall profit (say 50%) to be invested in a fund for renewable energy projects should any extension be granted.

I appreciate this opportunity to submit my public comment.

Dr. Peter Somssich  
34 Swett Ave.  
Portsmouth, NH 03801  
tel. 603-436-5221

Hampton NH  
CASE NO.  
OFF. EXH. NO. 7PM  
10/10/REC'D  
DATE  
8/19/10