

Official Transcript of Proceedings
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: South Texas Project
Units 1 and 2 License Renewal
Public Meeting - Evening Session

Docket Number: (n/a)

Location: Bay City, Texas

Date: Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Work Order No.: NRC-740

Pages 1-46

ORIGINAL

NEAL R. GROSS AND CO., INC.
Court Reporters and Transcribers
1323 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 234-4433

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
+ + + + +
ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING
FOR THE SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT
UNITS 1 AND 2 LICENSE RENEWAL
PROCESS

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Auditorium
201 7th Street
Bay City, Texas
7:00 p.m.

- NRC STAFF:
ALISON RIVERA
SUSAN SALTER
MICHELLE MOSER
TAM TRAN
BO PHAM

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MS. RIVERA: Good evening, and welcome to
3 this evening's session of the South Texas Project
4 Units 1 and 2 License Renewal scoping meeting. As I
5 said, the purpose is to discuss the scoping comments
6 for the environmental report. There are handouts in
7 the back, as well as copies of the presentation that
8 the NRC staff will be giving.

9 If you haven't already turned in a yellow
10 card and you do wish to provide comments during the
11 comment period, please fill one out at the back on the
12 table and bring it up to either myself or Susan
13 Salter. My name is Alison Rivera, and I'm the
14 facilitator for this evening.

15 As I mentioned, we'll have a presentation
16 by the NRC staff, followed by questions on the process
17 during which I'll come out with a microphone to the
18 aisle and you can ask your questions on the process,
19 and then we'll turn to the comment period where you'll
20 come up to the podium.

21 Please, when you're making comments, be
22 courteous and respectful and be mindful of your time.
23 I'd ask that you be concise. A transcript is being
24 taken by Leslie Berridge, and we'd ask that you keep
25 your comments to about three to five minutes. And I

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 will call you three at a time.

2 Please refrain from sidebars when other
3 people are up here commenting, and turn all cell
4 phones to vibrate so that they're not interrupted. If
5 you have to take a call, please just go out to the
6 lobby.

7 Housekeeping: Bathrooms are to either
8 side through the exit, left or right.

9 And with that, I think I've covered
10 everything and we can turn the presentation over to
11 the NRC.

12 MS. MOSER: Good evening, everyone. My
13 name is Michelle Moser, and I'm an aquatic biologist
14 with the NRC, and I'm part of the technical
15 environmental team working on the South Texas Project
16 for the license renewal application.

17 The two project managers working on this
18 are Tam Tran, who is with us right here, and John
19 Daily, and I'd like to thank all of you for coming out
20 here today.

21 Tonight we're going to be providing an
22 overview of the license renewal process which includes
23 both a safety review and an environmental review. But
24 the most important part of tonight is really to hear
25 the comments that you have to provide to us, and it's

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 your opportunity to be a part of the environmental
2 review.

3 Before I discuss more about the license
4 renewal process, I'd like to briefly talk about NRC in
5 terms of what we do and our mission based on two
6 important governing statutes.

7 The NRC is a federal agency that regulates
8 the civilian use of nuclear materials. The Atomic
9 Energy Act authorizes the NRC to grant 40-year
10 operating licenses for nuclear power reactors and also
11 license renewals for an additional 20 years.

12 The National Environmental Policy Act, or
13 NEPA, establishes a national policy for considering
14 the impact of federal decision-making on the human
15 environment. The NRC Commission determined that
16 nuclear reactor licensing renewal constitutes a major
17 federal action for which an environmental impact
18 statement, or EIS, is warranted.

19 NRC's mission is threefold: to ensure
20 adequate protection of public health and safety, to
21 promote the common defense and security, and to
22 protect the environment.

23 Now to turn a little bit more specifically
24 to the South Texas Project. Units 1 and 2 were
25 licensed to operate in 1988 and 1989, respectively.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 The current operating licenses expire in 2027 and
2 2028. STP Nuclear Operating Company filed an
3 application for license renewal of the South Texas
4 Project with a letter dated October 25, 2010.

5 A license renewal application is required
6 to contain a certain set of information. For example,
7 there must be general information about the plant
8 owner or operator, there's technical information which
9 pertains to aging management which is the focus of the
10 staff's safety review, and another component is the
11 environmental report which is the applicant's
12 assessment of the environmental impacts of continued
13 operations. We use this as the starting point for the
14 NRC staff's independent environmental review.

15 As I mentioned before, license renewal
16 involves two parallel reviews: the safety review and
17 the environmental review.

18 The safety review focuses on the aging
19 effects of passive and long-lived components and
20 structures that the NRC deems important to plant
21 safety. The staff's main objective in this review is
22 to determine whether the effects of aging will be
23 adequately managed by the applicant. The review also
24 considers generic and site-specific operating
25 experience related to the effects of aging. The

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 results of the safety review are documented in the
2 safety evaluation report, and sometimes we may refer
3 t that as the SER.

4 For the environmental review, the staff
5 considers, evaluates and discloses the environmental
6 impacts of continued plant operation for an additional
7 20 years. The staff also evaluates the environmental
8 impacts of alternatives to license renewal. The
9 objective of the review is to determine if the
10 environmental impacts of license renewal are so great
11 that license renewal would not be a reasonable option,
12 or more plainly, is license renewal acceptable from an
13 environmental standpoint. The staff prepares an
14 environmental impact statement to document its review,
15 and you may hear us refer to that as the EIS.

16 Before I go into more depth about the
17 safety and environmental reviews, I want to mention a
18 few areas that are very important and part of the NRC
19 oversight process, and this includes emergency
20 planning, security and current safety performance.

21 NRC addresses these areas of performance
22 every day as part of the ongoing regulatory oversight
23 provided for all currently operating power reactors.
24 Therefore, we do not reevaluate them in the license
25 renewal. This is not to say that these aren't

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 important; we just don't duplicate the regulatory
2 process in these areas.

3 This diagram illustrates the parallel
4 safety and environmental review processes which you
5 can see both lead to the NRC decision on the
6 application. Now, in addition to these reviews, there
7 are also two other important considerations that the
8 Commission uses to help inform their decision. One of
9 these considerations is the independent review
10 performed by the Advisory Committee for Reactor
11 Safety, which at NRC we love acronyms so we refer to
12 this a lot as ACRS. The ACRS reviews the license
13 renewal application and the NRC staff's safety
14 evaluation report. The ACRS reports their finding and
15 recommendations directly to the Commission.

16 Hearings may also be conducted.
17 Interested stakeholders may submit concerns or
18 contentions and request a hearing. An adjudicatory
19 panel from the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will
20 be established to review contentions for
21 admissibility. If a hearing is approved, the
22 Commission would consider the outcome of the hearing
23 process in its decision of whether or not to issue a
24 renewed operating license.

25 Now I'm going to go into a little bit more

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 detail about the safety review.

2 The regulations governing license renewal
3 for the safety review has two guiding principles. The
4 first principle is that the current regulatory process
5 is adequate to ensure that the licensing basis of all
6 operating plants and provides an acceptable level of
7 safety.

8 The second principle is that the current
9 plant-specific licensing basis must be maintained
10 during the license renewal in the same manner and to
11 the same extent as during the original license term.
12 In other words, the same rules that apply under the
13 current license will continue to apply in the renewal
14 term, or the additional 20 years of operations.

15 In addition, a renewed license will
16 include conditions that must be met to ensure aging of
17 structures and components important to safety are
18 adequately managed so that the plant's current
19 licensing basis is maintained during the period of
20 extended operations.

21 For the safety review, the staff performs
22 multiple-level reviews. First, the staff reviews the
23 renewal application and supporting documentation.
24 Then the safety staff performs site audits to verify
25 the technical basis of the license renewal application

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 and to confirm that the applicant's aging management
2 programs and activities conform to how they are
3 described in the application. The staff documents the
4 basis and conclusion of its reports in the safety
5 evaluation report which is publicly available.

6 In addition, a team of specialized
7 inspectors from NRC Region IV travel to the reactor
8 site to verify that aging management programs are
9 being implemented, modified or planned consistent with
10 the license renewal application.

11 Finally, as I previously mentioned, the
12 ACRS performs an independent review of the license
13 renewal application and the staff's safety evaluation
14 report.

15 For the environmental review, the staff
16 performs their environmental review in accordance with
17 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, or NEPA.
18 NEPA requires that all federal agencies follow a
19 systematic approach in evaluating the potential
20 impacts associated with major federal actions and
21 alternatives to those actions. By law, the NEPA
22 process includes public participation and public
23 disclosure.

24 The NRC's environmental regulations
25 contained in 10 CFR Part 51 are largely based on other

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 implementing regulations for NEPA.

2 In the staff's EIS we evaluate impacts to
3 a wide range of resources such as wildlife and fish,
4 water and air, historical and cultural resources,
5 socioeconomics, and human health. Starting with the
6 scoping process, we consult with various federal,
7 state and local officials, as well as leaders of
8 Native American Nations, that have expertise in these
9 areas.

10 As illustrated on the slide, some of the
11 agencies that we work with include U.S. Fish and
12 Wildlife Service, EPA, NOAA, state historical
13 preservation offices, as well as many local and state
14 agencies.

15 The environmental review begins with the
16 scoping process which is where we are today. The
17 purpose of the scoping process is to identify
18 significant issues that should be considered in the
19 environmental review. We are now gathering
20 information that we will use to prepare an EIS for the
21 South Texas license renewal. As part of that process,
22 we are here to collect your comments on the scope of
23 the environmental review -- that is, the environmental
24 impacts that are local to this area and that are
25 important for the staff to consider.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 The staff has developed a generic
2 environmental impact statement that addresses a number
3 of issues common to all nuclear power plants. The
4 staff is supplementing that generic EIS with a site-
5 specific EIS for the South Texas Project. The staff
6 will also re-examine the conclusions reached in the
7 generic EIS to determine if there's any new and
8 significant information that would change the
9 conclusions reached in the generic EIS.

10 The scoping period started on January 31
11 and we will be continuing to take comments until April
12 1.

13 In general, we are looking for information
14 about the environmental impacts from continued
15 operation of the South Texas Project during the
16 extended period of operation. You can assist us in
17 that process by telling us, for example, what aspects
18 of your local community we should focus on, what local
19 environmental, social and economic issues the NRC
20 should examine, and what reasonable alternatives are
21 most appropriate for this region.

22 This next slide illustrates the NRC's
23 various considerations for deciding if a renewed
24 operating license will be issued. It's a rigorous
25 review involving the EIS, safety evaluation report,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 regional inspections, and so on. But what's important
2 to point out here is that the public comments are an
3 important part of the license renewal process. We
4 consider all comments that we receive today and
5 throughout the scoping period, and it helps inform and
6 shape the supplemental environmental impact statement.

7 In addition to providing comments at
8 today's meeting, there are other ways that you can
9 submit comments on the environmental review. You can
10 provide written comments by mail to the NRC Chief of
11 Rules and Directives Branch at the address provided on
12 this slide, and there are copies of this slide back
13 there. Or you can send your comments electronic by
14 going to regulations.gov.

15 You can also make your comments in person
16 if you happen to be in Rockville, Maryland. We ask
17 that you get in touch with Tam Tran beforehand so that
18 he can set up the appropriate arrangements.

19 And again, the comments should be
20 submitted by April 1.

21 This slide shows some other important
22 milestones for the environmental review process. The
23 opportunity to submit contentions for a hearing closes
24 on March 14, and we plan to issue the draft
25 environmental impact statement around March 2012. And

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 once that's issued, there will be a comment period
2 where again there will be an opportunity for the
3 public to read through the draft EIS, and it's an
4 opportunity for the public to comment on the draft EIS
5 and see if there's any additional impacts that you'd
6 like to see in it.

7 The primary contacts within the NRC for
8 the license renewal of the South Texas Project are Tam
9 Tran and John Daily.

10 The Bay City Public Library has agreed to
11 make the license renewal application available for
12 public review, and when it's published for comment,
13 the draft supplemental EIS will also be available at
14 the library.

15 In addition, these documents will be on the NRC's
16 website at the website that's listed on this slide,
17 and the safety review schedule is also posted on the
18 same website.

19 As you came in, you were asked to fill out
20 a registration card at our reception desk. If you've
21 included your address on that card, we will mail you
22 a copy of the draft and final EIS for your
23 information. And if you didn't have an opportunity to
24 fill out that card, please feel free before you leave
25 to fill out a blue card and add your address to it.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 This concludes my presentation and I will
2 now turn it over to our meeting facilitator.

3 MS. RIVERA: Thank you, Michelle.

4 At this point we'll open the floor to
5 questions on the process, and I'll come out with a
6 microphone if there are any. Just raise your hands.

7 Do you have a question? Please state your
8 name and affiliation, if any, before your question.

9 MR. CORDER: Good afternoon. My name is
10 John Corder, 313 County Road 912 in Brazoria County.
11 I'm proud to say that I worked on STP 1 and 2 for five
12 years.

13 My concern is something that affected me
14 personally that I identified some concerns that I had
15 as time went on, and through the process of the United
16 States Labor Commission I was able to settle my
17 complaints inasmuch as I was not told ever whatever
18 happened to the results of my complaints.

19 I'm here tonight to offer to the STP, not
20 only 1 and 2 but 3 and 4, to please make public -- and
21 I've worked with the administration of both 1 and 2
22 and 3 and 4 -- to make public inasmuch as they could
23 put it into the Bay City Library.

24 Here's the facts, if you're any of these
25 people here -- excuse me a minute to get it correct --

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 if you're an employee, a contractor, a vendor,
2 personnel or a visitor reporting safety-related or
3 quality concerns, what I'm saying is that whatever
4 those concerns are should be made public, put in a
5 public place.

6 The pressure on individuals to report
7 something is great when they fear if they're working
8 that they'll be terminated, or maybe they go ahead and
9 get terminated or choose another job, what happens to
10 the concern that they have identified.

11 We have in this policy of STP that they'll
12 take care of it and NRC will, and I'm sure their
13 intent is very good. What we the people need to know
14 is that whatever that concern was should be
15 identified. That is only part of it. What is the
16 resolution to that concern, and thirdly, whatever
17 happened to the culmination that that concern was
18 adequately identified. Even if the person wanted to
19 be anonymous, it's still important publicly regarding
20 what emphasis it has to the NRC or to the project,
21 it's important to the public.

22 We're here tonight to understand that the
23 NRC and the STP are interested in continuing their
24 license. I agree with that. I agree also that in
25 that process their policy should be changed in words

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 that would say that we, STP, will identify to the, for
2 example, Bay City Library, will put in the concerns
3 that are presented to them so that the public will
4 have access to know what they were, what the
5 resolution was, and if it in fact was completed.

6 Thank you very much.

7 MS. SALTER: Thank you, Mr. Corder. And
8 I believe we have some information on, it sounds like,
9 maybe possibly an allegation. We'll follow up with
10 that and get back with you on that.

11 Does anyone have any questions on the
12 process before we move into the comment period for the
13 review, for the license renewal review, environmental
14 evaluation?

15 (No response.)

16 MS. RIVERA: Okay. So with that, we are
17 going to enter into the comment period. Again, if you
18 would like to make a comment and you have not filled
19 out a yellow card, it's not too late. You can get one
20 in the back and bring it to me and we'll add you to
21 the list.

22 I'm going to turn it back to Alison.

23 MS. RIVERA: Thank you.

24 First up, we're going to have Matagorda
25 County Judge Nate McDonald, and on deck we'll have

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Mitch Thames, Tim Powell and Ken Head.

2 JUDGE McDONALD: Good evening. My name is
3 Nate McDonald. I'm the county judge from Matagorda
4 County, and I want to thank the NRC for hosting this
5 event tonight to give all of you a voice in the
6 process. That's the way America was promulgated in
7 the beginning, and that's the way it should be and
8 always shall be, we hope, and we thank you all for
9 making that available to us tonight.

10 Ladies and gentlemen, by its very
11 definition, an electric generating station is designed
12 to churn out power seven days a week, 24 hours a day,
13 and hopefully 365 days a year, unless, of course, you
14 have those unforeseen events that come along from time
15 to time.

16 Just last month we had one of those
17 unforeseen events right here in this county and in
18 many, many parts of the State of Texas. Many, many of
19 the electric generating stations in the state did a
20 fine job; many, many of them fell offline. I can tell
21 you, though, from firsthand knowledge that one of
22 those stations that didn't go offline and that did do
23 a very, very good job was right here in Matagorda
24 County. We had two units of nuclear that operated
25 completely right through every outage that was in this

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 cold snap that we had, and not only that, but did it
2 in a safe and reliable manner with no reportable
3 injuries, the whole thing. You know, that in itself
4 is plenty to keep this station running for another 20
5 years.

6 If we start down the path of all the other
7 ancillary things that this plant has for Matagorda
8 County, it's going to take a heck of a lot more than
9 the three to five minutes that I have, so I'm not
10 going to start down that path. But what I will tell
11 you and what I do know from firsthand observation is
12 that this plant is committed to the safety and the
13 well-being of the citizens of Matagorda County, to
14 their employees, and that's what they practice first
15 and foremost is safety, and they do that oftentimes at
16 the expense of profits.

17 And I can tell you that's a very, very
18 refreshing take on a business model because you don't
19 see that much in corporate America these days, ladies
20 and gentlemen. But we see that and we have that right
21 here in Matagorda County, and all the while having
22 promulgated and carried out that culture of excellence
23 that they practice. They've developed a very good
24 business model that does allow them to produce and
25 does allow them to lead the nation, and even the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 world, in safe and reliable electric generation.

2 So that, in a nutshell, for me is what's
3 the very most important thing about consideration for
4 this renewal that we're talking about tonight.

5 I hope that the NRC will smile favorably
6 upon this plant's request and I'd hope that you would
7 grant it. And if there's ever anything that I or my
8 office or any of the commissioners that serve on the
9 court with me can answer for you, I'd hope that you
10 would call us and ask those questions of us and give
11 us the chance to answer those for you.

12 We do appreciate you all being here this
13 evening, we do appreciate STP's confidence in us, and
14 we especially appreciate STP's willingness to grow out
15 their legacy for the county by another 20 years in
16 filing this application.

17 So thank you all very, very much again,
18 NRC, for allowing us to comment tonight. Thank you.

19 MS. RIVERA: Thank you, Judge McDonald.

20 Next we have Mitch Thames, followed by Tim
21 Powell, Ken Head and Mike Bolin.

22 MR. THAMES: And again, thank you. I also
23 want to echo the Judge's comments. NRC, thank you so
24 much for coming down to Matagorda County, and as an
25 official welcome, we certainly do appreciate you.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 I want to touch on two aspects of the
2 review. One is going to be the environmental aspect.
3 It's very important when you talk about Matagorda
4 County -- and I'll do just a little bit of a
5 commercial -- we have a very, very sensitive area in
6 that we have the freshwater from our Colorado River,
7 two bays, estuaries, as well as the Gulf of Mexico.
8 We are the North American Christmas bird count winner
9 about eleven out of the last twelve years. It was
10 foggy one morning and we missed some of those birds.

11 But as you see that as we've got such a
12 great ecological area here the whole time Units 1 and
13 2 have been operating. So we're very, very proud of
14 the fact that the South Texas Nuclear Operating
15 Company, with Units 1 and 2, continues to operate in
16 a strong fashion while our environment is protected.

17 The second is from more of a behind-the-
18 scenes type of safety aspect. The Judge has seen fit
19 to have me as one of the PIOs, public information
20 officers, for the county during a lot of our STP
21 drills, many of which you grade us on every aspect of
22 it. We're very proud of the fact that we set the
23 standard, I think, in the nation, and that's some of
24 the feedback we've gotten from the NRC.

25 I have been allowed to have information

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 opened up, as the county's PIO. There's never been a
2 piece of information that's been withheld as we go
3 through drills, as situations were faced. We're also
4 educated from a county standpoint, knowing exactly
5 what's going on at the plant in case something should
6 ever happen. It is important for us to be able to
7 stand up and speak to the media, but more importantly,
8 as you know, we're speaking to the citizens of
9 Matagorda County and keeping them safe.

10 So on both aspects it's a five-star rating.

11 We certainly do appreciate you being here,
12 and we thank you so much.

13 MS. RIVERA: Thank you, Mr. Thames.

14 Next we'll have Tim Powell, followed by
15 Ken Head and Mike Bolin. And as you start your
16 comments, if you could introduce yourself and give
17 your affiliation, if any, please.

18 MR. POWELL: Thank you very much. I'm Tim
19 Powell. I'm the vice president of Technical Support
20 and Oversight for the South Texas Project, and the
21 license renewal comes under my area.

22 Do appreciate the Nuclear Regulatory
23 Commission coming down and supporting this public
24 forum. It is extremely important, the public input in
25 this process, because it helps us become a better

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 station with the more input that we get.

2 I really would like to thank the residents
3 of the local communities and the leaders that have
4 come out to provide input. We couldn't do it without
5 you and we appreciate your support and your comments.

6 I would also just like to state that over
7 the last seven years we have had the top two-unit
8 producing power plant in the United States, and over
9 the last five years the top two-unit producer in the
10 world. We accomplished that by focusing on safety
11 first. Nuclear safety is our number one priority and
12 something that we hold very dear, and we continuously
13 focus on it.

14 Our employees are active in the community.
15 I think we are an excellent corporate citizen, and we
16 look forward to doing that all the way to 2047 and
17 2048. We look forward to serving Matagorda County
18 through the production of safe, clean, carbon-free
19 electricity over those extra 20 years. Thank you.

20 MS. RIVERA: Thank you, Mr. Powell.

21 Next we have Ken Head, followed by Mike
22 Bolin.

23 MR. KEN HEAD: Thank you. My name is Ken
24 Head. I'm a small business owner here in Matagorda
25 County.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 And first of all, I'd like to thank the
2 NRC for coming down today. We really appreciate your
3 concern over our environment, as well as our community
4 leaders here in Matagorda County.

5 I'd like to express it's necessary for the
6 continued growth of our county for you to issue the
7 20-year continuation of STP. STP employees are some
8 of my top customers and they're the ones that keep our
9 community afloat, as well as our small businesses, our
10 hotels, our food eateries, everywhere else. I would
11 imagine you're staying at some of those fine utilities
12 this evening.

13 As a long-time resident of Bay City, I've
14 seen the good, the bad and the ugly of STP, and good
15 thing I've never seen any bad or ugly, everything I've
16 seen has been pretty good. And I appreciate the
17 leadership out there that I see sitting around this
18 room that has made that happen.

19 What should you focus on? Obviously, our
20 environmental concerns are a huge part of this. I'm
21 the Convention and Visitors Bureau and one of our main
22 focuses is bringing tourists down to Matagorda County
23 to see what we have to offer. Good thing one of our
24 sights to see is STP, as well as all around STP we
25 have tons of fishing, birding, we have farmlands and

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 everything else, and from what I've seen, there have
2 been no concerns with those at all, as I grew up
3 fishing right below STP on the Colorado River. And I
4 would like to thank STP for providing that to me,
5 providing the safe waters and the safe grounds for me
6 to do that on.

7 As well, it is my opinion that if the
8 renewal should be given to STP, I think the highly
9 qualified organization out there will continue working
10 on 1 and 2 as they continue to build 3 and 4, and I
11 think you ought to take that into accountability that
12 with the 3 and 4 coming on that they can continue to
13 operate 1 and 2 successfully.

14 Thank you so much.

15 MS. RIVERA: Thank you, Mr. Head.

16 Next we'll have Mr. Bolin, and if anyone
17 else would like to register to speak, just fill out a
18 yellow card.

19 MR. BOLIN: Thank you. My name is Mike
20 Bolin, and I'm a partner with John White in a small
21 general contracting firm local to Bay City.

22 There's not much else to say after Ken
23 Head covered the waterfront, and I agree with
24 everything that he said. And I'd also like to, for
25 the record, say that I am absolutely for the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 continuation of such a good neighbor and a good
2 employer, just a good citizen. Our hopes are that it
3 will continue and that we're for it, and we just wish
4 we had more employers like you in this county.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. RIVERA: I have a yellow card now for
7 Mr. Corder. Did you have additional comments that you
8 wanted to come up and make?

9 As he's approaching, I'll say that on deck
10 is Casey Kile, Robert Singleton, Karen Hadden, and
11 Bobby Head.

12 MR. CORDER: My name is John Corder, 313
13 County Road 912, Brazoria County. It's a pleasure to
14 be here tonight.

15 As I said earlier, I had the pleasure of
16 working on 1 and 2 for about five years. I've also
17 had the experience of overseeing quality control for
18 the company I've worked for for about 30 years in
19 quality control, and I've been personally on five
20 nuclear plants. This has been one of them.

21 To more elaborate on what I just said, my
22 concern is having worked with the STP present
23 administration and the Units 3 and 4, I'm really not
24 satisfied that they had the openness that I expected
25 when it come to personnel for the individual workers

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 or those that are here in these categories that I
2 mentioned.

3 I would admonish all of us to always keep
4 tabs on the installation itself, feel free that you
5 can ask questions and if there's any questions that
6 ever come from a worker. It is very difficult for a
7 lot of people to identify a problem. They feel
8 threatened by it, and frankly, that is a real concern,
9 been there.

10 So I'm hoping that in the renewal -- and
11 I wish that the plants get renewed, I'm not going to
12 say about nuclear not being safe, et cetera -- I am
13 only saying that I am hoping that we have more of an
14 openness with the community or for those that have any
15 questions about the safety or any concern, whether it
16 be for personnel protection, plant safety or for the
17 administration of how they do their policies.

18 I was working with 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 on
19 those policies they have which said about the
20 openness, and that's what I said is that I hope that
21 we can have, like the person said before, it will be
22 in the library, but really I want the concerns to be
23 there so that we can look at them and get them
24 resolved.

25 And I wish STP good luck.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 MS. RIVERA: Thank you, Mr. Corder.

2 Next we'll have Casey Kile, followed by
3 Robert Singleton, Karen Hadden and Bobby Head.

4 MR. KILE: My name is Casey Kile. I'm the
5 president of Bay City Babe Ruth here in Bay City.

6 And I'd just like to say that, on behalf
7 of Babe Ruth, we're very grateful for everything STP
8 does for us as an organization. They're a major
9 sponsor in all of our events. Over the last ten years
10 we've hosted four regional tournaments and eleven or
11 twelve state tournaments, and without STP's support,
12 we would never have been able to participate in those
13 tournaments or even host those tournaments.

14 On the economic standpoint Mr. Head said,
15 earlier last year we hosted a regional tournament. We
16 had five states come to visit Bay City, over 400
17 visitors in town, over 100,000 new dollars just last
18 year, and without STP supporting that, we wouldn't
19 have been able to host that tournament. So we'd like
20 to thank them.

21 Not only do they help us monetarily with
22 our tournaments, but their employees also volunteer
23 with us, and we'd like to thank them for their
24 employees and letting them volunteer.

25 Over the last ten years, like I said,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 we've hosted about 15 tournaments and probably half a
2 million new dollars in Matagorda County over the last
3 ten years.

4 So if you wouldn't mind, Bay City Babe
5 Ruth and all the youth are in great favor of renewing
6 STP for their license. Thank you very much.

7 MS. RIVERA: Thank you, Mr. Kile.

8 Next we'll have Robert Singleton, followed
9 by Karen Hadden, and finally, Bobby Head. And if
10 anyone else is interested in speaking, just please fill
11 out a yellow card and bring it up to Susan or I.

12 MR. SINGLETON: Hi. My name is Robert
13 Singleton. I'm from Austin and I'm representing
14 public citizen at this event.

15 You may ask why I'd want to come down from
16 Austin to talk to you. Well, Austin is a 16 percent
17 partner in Unit 1 and Unit 2, and if you look back
18 over the history of the project, we've got a lot less
19 reason to celebrate this plant than maybe some people
20 who live here do. I'm not going to talk a lot about
21 jobs but I'm going to wrap up with that tonight.

22 But Austin's experience with 1 and 2 was
23 a nightmare. We had it thrust upon us by politicians
24 who were determined to continue to take public votes
25 until we bought a share of the plant. We tried to get

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 out of the plant at one point, tried to sell our 16
2 percent share, and can't.

3 The problem was at its worst in the '90s
4 when 42 cents out of every dollar that we paid on a
5 utility bill was going for debt service at NRG. For
6 our 16 percent share, we were paying almost half of
7 our utility bill for debt service on the project.

8 I want to talk mainly about safety
9 tonight. And I know that when you're living here, the
10 plant is just something that's always been there, but
11 my thinking about safety at nuclear power plants is
12 sort of: Yeah, they've got redundant safety systems
13 because there are redundant dangers. The analogy I
14 like to think of is if I'm walking through a
15 construction site wearing a hard hat and a brick falls
16 six stories and bounces off my helmet, my first
17 thought is not thank God the helmet worked, my thought
18 is who dropped the brick.

19 If you want to know what's going on with
20 nuclear power plants and you support this plant, I'm
21 going to challenge you to do one thing, and that is
22 tomorrow morning go to the NRC website, www.nrg.gov,
23 and click on event reports and click on current
24 events. If you do this for a couple of days a week,
25 you're going to be convinced that nuclear power plants

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 routinely have near misses that could have
2 catastrophic results.

3 Nuclear power is the only form of energy
4 generation that has the potential for killing
5 thousands of people in one single event. I mean, if
6 you're investing in wind, what's the worst that can
7 happen? You have a catastrophic accident, you don't
8 generate power and maybe some sheep were
9 inconvenienced. Nuclear power has the capacity to
10 kill people, it's a dangerous technology. All you
11 have to do is look at Chernobyl and Three Mile Island.

12 How many of you have ever heard of SL1?
13 It was an experimental reactor in Idaho that in the
14 early '60s had a fatal accident. There was one
15 gentleman that was actually pinned to the ceiling of
16 the containment building by a rod when there was a
17 steam explosion in the plant. It impaled him to the
18 ceiling stuck on a control rod.

19 Nuclear power can and has caused human
20 fatalities. Read about Chernobyl. I know that NRG is
21 going to say well, new reactors are safer, but they're
22 saying this in a way that causes me to ask this
23 question. When they're talking to you about 3 and 4,
24 they say these plants are newer and safer, or safer
25 and more advanced than the old plants. Well, they're

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 also arguing for extending the life of the old plants
2 which had a limit on their life in the first place for
3 a reason: we didn't know how long you could run a
4 nuclear power plant; we still don't.

5 Turkey Point in Florida, they had to
6 replace the steam generators in the plant, and to
7 replace a steam generator you have to cut a hole in
8 the containment building, you have to take the
9 generator out and put the new one in. Well, what they
10 found was that the cement inside the containment
11 building had degraded over the last 20 years, there
12 were immense cracks that ran through the inside of the
13 structure.

14 And that is what happens when you extend
15 the life of a nuclear plant. These things were
16 designed to have a limited life for a reason. They're
17 not going to safe forever.

18 Nuclear power was also always intended to
19 be a bridge technology. We're always going to find
20 something better, and what we could do right now
21 instead of re-license these is make an investment in
22 renewables which could have, in terms of jobs, just as
23 much of an impact as extending the life of this plant
24 or building new units.

25 The other thing about switching forms of

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 energy is that you can create jobs locally that are
2 going to be exclusively locally. Nuclear power, a lot
3 of the jobs that are generated are going to be foreign
4 manufacturing jobs. The components for these plants
5 are built off site, they don't really generate that
6 much for your local economy.

7 There are new and exciting technologies
8 that we could be counting on. For example, there's an
9 Australian company called EnviroMission that's just
10 about to open a project in Arizona. What it is is
11 it's a tower, just a tower, covered around the base
12 with thick plastic. What it does is it captures the
13 heat of the sun, the heated air rises up a chimney and
14 turns a turbine. It's basically the only moving part,
15 so the turbine and then the generators from it.

16 The cool thing about it is that it
17 continues to generate electricity even at night
18 because the head of the ground continues to make this
19 temperature differential and the air continues up the
20 chimney and the turbines continue to turn.

21 This is the kind of thing that can be
22 built and provide localized power. In West Texas, for
23 example, we could build these things and not have to
24 ship the power across the state. We could actually
25 use it to provide energy where it's built.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 There are alternatives, and I really think
2 that there's not enough proof that a plant can be run
3 longer than the time period in which the engineers
4 that designed it said it was designed to be built.
5 They're talking now about running some nuclear plants
6 for 60 years. My question is is this because they're
7 so much safer than they were thought to be originally,
8 or is this because the people that run nuclear power
9 plants say if we close it down we don't make any
10 money; if we continue to run it, sure they'll be less
11 safe than they were, but as long as they don't
12 actually melt down, we're going to continue to make
13 money. I think you'll find out that's what it is.

14 And also don't let NRG give you this
15 talking out of both sides of their face where they say
16 the 3 and 4 are going to be better and newer, at the
17 same they're talking about extending the life of what
18 then could be argued are the older and the less safe
19 plants. Can't have it both ways, and there are
20 definitely alternatives.

21 Thanks.

22 MS. RIVERA: Thank you, Mr. Singleton.

23 Next we'll have Karen Hadden, followed by
24 our final registered speaker, Bobby Head.

25 If anybody else is interested in

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 registering, just fill out a yellow card and bring it
2 to the front. Thank you.

3 MS. HADDEN: Good evening. My name is
4 Karen Hadden, and I'm here as executive director of
5 the SEED Coalition, Sustainable Energy and Economic
6 Development Coalition.

7 And first I'd like to say thank you
8 because we've been down here a number of times and
9 we've expressed concerns about the new reactors
10 proposed, but we've always been treated well in Bay
11 City, and I have a huge respect for the people who
12 work here and live here, and I do think you have a
13 beautiful community and I do hope that tourism
14 continues and grows.

15 I also have concerns about the re-
16 licensing of reactors 1 and 2. I think there's a
17 number of issues that need to be looked at carefully
18 during this process and bearing worker safety in mind.
19 One of them is tritium, and basically there has been
20 tritium showing up in wells on the site. This needs
21 to be looked into thoroughly, as well as tritium in
22 the Colorado River, and documented, measured,
23 carefully analyzed to see if it's safe to continue
24 down this path at this point in time.

25 Another issue is control rods. There were

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 problems when the new reactor heads were put on, the
2 control rods got stuck. This is actually happening at
3 many different reactors right now. And there's been
4 some flaws in construction of some of the equipment
5 involved. So I think during this process that there
6 should be a thorough analysis of the control rods,
7 their drive mechanism, and so on and so forth, and see
8 if there's any problems technologically with the parts
9 that are here and being used.

10 I share the concerns mentioned by Robert
11 Singleton about embrittlement as the plants age.
12 These reactors were not designed to run forever; they
13 were designed to be closing down about this time, and
14 the first five years and the last five years of a
15 nuclear reactor's life cycle are the ones where they
16 have the most risk, and I think we should bear that in
17 mind during this process and do analysis on that
18 front.

19 Furthermore, in 1982 there was a study
20 done for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission called the
21 Crack Two Study. It found that if there were an
22 accident -- and they were looking at Units 1 and 2 --
23 that there would be 18,000 early deaths. They would
24 also be followed by thousands of cancers. That study
25 has not been updated. The population in some of this

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 region has grown, and it needs to be looked at again
2 to find out what is the reality of the situation
3 today, and that needs to be compared to other ways of
4 generating electricity.

5 There is a problem with the leaking main
6 cooling reservoir which was described and documented
7 in the license application for Units 3 and 4. There
8 needs to be tracking of where the water is going, is
9 it reaching the Gulf, where is it going, what is it
10 doing. That should be part of the re-licensing study
11 and analysis.

12 Water use is an increasing issue. Up
13 until this point, the highest use that I know of
14 through researchers looking at this is 49 percent of
15 the Colorado River has been used for cooling purposes,
16 and I know a couple of summers ago there was a lot of
17 pumping going on to refill the reservoir when it got
18 kind of low.

19 It's a problem for those of us in Austin.
20 The Colorado River water has to serve a lot of
21 purposes. Rice farmers need it; we're going to need
22 it for many, many purposes, recreation, fishing on our
23 end. And Lake Travis levels were at an all-time low
24 several years ago. Every single dam on the whole lake
25 was closed; you couldn't put a boat in.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 And we would like to see something shift
2 to where this much water was no longer required.
3 Certainly you're still going to have to still cool
4 spent fuel rods and so on and so forth, but it is a
5 question when you look at continuing the reactors'
6 life.

7 A big issue is need for power. Right now
8 in the legal case involving Units 3 and 4, the Atomic
9 Safety and Licensing Board has agreed to hear a
10 contention that is one of omission. There was a
11 failure to analyze what alternatives were there in
12 terms of looking at energy efficiency. Building codes
13 in particular are going to be saving -- they've been
14 adopted -- going to be saving some 2,200 megawatts of
15 power in Texas. We need to look at whether the power
16 is needed, and then we need to look at how else it
17 could be generated.

18 And certainly jobs are crucially important
19 in every community. We realize that that's important
20 here. I think it's time to look at what are the
21 options in terms of transition, what other kinds of
22 ways to generate electricity could occur here -- I
23 think there are many -- and to start looking at
24 training and what other options exist.

25 The reactor head that's stored onsite, I

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 think as part of this process it should be looked into
2 about how carefully shielded that is, is it adequate.
3 Maybe it is, maybe it isn't. But I think that should
4 be looked at.

5 Security issues continue. Just last week
6 we heard about a Texas Tech student who among his
7 plans was a plan to attack nuclear plants, and I think
8 that needs to be looked at once again as well.

9 So these and many issues should be
10 addressed. It's an important decision.

11 I think at this point in time it's also
12 important to note that in the world of emergency
13 planning that the ability to get potassium iodide
14 tablets out to the public seems to have been
15 overlooked. I don't see a lot of information about
16 it. I think it is one approach you could take if
17 there was a serious accident, and that should be
18 looked at. In other places in the country potassium
19 iodide tablets were actually distributed to the
20 community at one point in time so that if there was an
21 accident, you could take it and protect the thyroid
22 from absorption of radioactive iodine.

23 I don't see that happening here, nor do I
24 see information publicized about that option. You can
25 buy them online, but I don't see anybody even telling

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 people about that.

2 So I think that we will also be submitting
3 written comments. There's other concerns that we
4 have. We'll be looking more in-depth. A lot of
5 issues need to be fully explored, and we look forward
6 to communicating with you further on that front.
7 Thank you.

8 MS. RIVERA: Thank you, Ms. Hadden.

9 Next we'll have Bobby Head.

10 MR. BOBBY HEAD: I'm last but I'm going to
11 try to be a little bit quick. I think you know I can
12 be a little bit long-winded, most of you guys.

13 First off, I'd like to say I'm Bobby Head,
14 a third-generation Matagorda County resident. Love it
15 here. There's no place like Matagorda County.

16 To back up a few years and tell you things
17 that I've witnessed, back 30 years ago when we were
18 talking about the plant, there was a group of people
19 that decided they were going to protest it. They were
20 from Austin, Boston, Houston, San Francisco, and they
21 rented buses and they came down here, and they put it
22 in the newspaper that they had a thousand balloons
23 that they were going to release into the atmosphere,
24 and that's what would happen if they had a meltdown,
25 this nuclear waste would go like this.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Well, it just so happened that some people
2 from Bay City went out there. As I understand, there
3 was one lady who took her three children out there to
4 see the balloons. And it went into the newspaper that
5 they released the balloons, just happened to be one of
6 those days that the wind was blowing north and they
7 all blew out into the Gulf.

8 Well, do you realize that today, what we
9 know today, if we were to release a thousand balloons
10 it would be much more detrimental to our environment
11 than what STP has been for 30 years. We couldn't do
12 that. We would make national news if you said we're
13 going to release a thousand balloons, especially in a
14 place where the number one in the nation bird count is

15 I'm in a unique position. I'm going to
16 change subjects a little bit. I'm in a unique
17 position, I've worked at STP, I've worked outages out
18 there. I'm one of the few guys, I guess, that's only
19 worked four outages -- I haven't worked the last
20 couple -- but I have been from the very top of the
21 dome to -- what's the room at the very bottom
22 underneath the rods -- number 1. I've been there.

23 And I will tell you one thing, of all the
24 things I've done in my life, worked in the oil
25 industry, worked on drilling rigs, worked at Dow

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Chemical Company, I have never ever even come close to
2 the safety that I felt at STP. I'm telling you they
3 spend more time working on safety than anything else.
4 I've never felt one bit -- and not too many people go
5 to room number 1.

6 And it's kind of funny you go way up in
7 the top and it's really, really hot, and you go way
8 down in the bottom and it's really, really cold, but
9 they call that the hottest place in the plant, room
10 number 1.

11 But I'm going to tell you, safety, there's
12 nothing like safety at STP. I've never been involved
13 in anything like that.

14 To say that STP is a good neighbor, no
15 way. They're an awesome neighbor. They have been an
16 awesome neighbor from day one. When they first came
17 here we thought, well, those were the STP guys, and
18 for years, those guys out at STP, those guys out at
19 STP. Well, they're not. They're out coaches, they're
20 our sponsors, they're our mothers, our fathers, our
21 brothers, our sisters and our grandchildren that are
22 out there. They are us, they are out people.

23 We love you guys. We appreciate you being
24 here. We want not only Units 3 and 4, we would like
25 the extension of the units there.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Randy Weber was here last week. He's our
2 state representative. He got over in the next room
3 and he said, Texas is growing by 113,000 people a
4 month. Wow. We're outgrowing all the states combined.
5 We're getting more people into Texas. He says if we
6 keep growing the way we are, that by 2015 we're going
7 to have to have five new nuclear plants, or 16 coal
8 plants, or 28 gas plants, or 3,000 windmills if the
9 windmills agree to turn 24-7-365. You know that's not
10 going to happen.

11 Would I like to see all of our power
12 generated totally clean. Yes, I would. It's not
13 realistic, not with what we have as today's knowledge.

14 What else do I want to say? Just to wind
15 up, I appreciate you guys coming down. If you have
16 any questions of me, a guy that worked mechanical
17 maintenance out there, let me know because we're the
18 guys that actually go out there and turn the nuts and
19 bolts and do the work, we dress in the full uniforms
20 to go to the places we have to go. If you have any
21 questions, feel free to ask, and we appreciate you
22 guys coming down.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. RIVERA: Thank you, Mr. Head.

25 Having received no other yellow cards, I'm

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 going to turn it over to Bo Pham, the branch chief.

2 MS. SALTER: Oh, wait. We have another
3 yellow card over here.

4 MS. RIVERA: Sorry.

5 MR. KOVAR: Hello. My name is Tom Kovar,
6 and I'm a citizen of Bay City, a business owner, I
7 have a little air conditioning business.

8 And I worked at the nuclear plant for five
9 years in the construction phase in the early '80s, and
10 to start with we were kind of skeptical when they were
11 building the STP because there were several setbacks,
12 mainly in the construction companies, not in the STP
13 itself.

14 But after it was finally built, we were
15 pleasantly surprised for the last 20 years in how it
16 operated and how safe it was, and a large part of that
17 is because of the NRC and how it governs and has
18 safeguards over the nuclear industry.

19 You have to have electricity and you have
20 to have a lot of it. I wish I could afford Austin's
21 16 percent. But you have to have a lot of electricity
22 nowadays because of the way the population is, and if
23 you look at the last 40-50 years of power generation,
24 of gas-fired plants or coal-fired plants and how
25 hazardous they are to the environment and people, then

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 I think you can't help but realize how safe nuclear
2 power is. The government has been using it to power
3 their vehicles in the military for a long time.

4 And there's no way that you can have a
5 perfect system when it's run by people and natural
6 disasters. Our greatest nuclear plant in the solar
7 system, the sun, has been operating for billions of
8 years and it has solar flare-ups, and we've been
9 fortunate that none of them have been too great to
10 impact us too greatly.

11 And in a smaller sense, our smaller
12 nuclear reactor here has the NRC as the buffer. As
13 our distance from the sun is the buffer that keeps us
14 safe, well, the NRC is the buffer against any calamity
15 happening at the nuclear plant.

16 So I think that it's the best power
17 generation -- not the best power generation because I
18 know you mentioned wind and solar and the tower that
19 you mentioned, and sure there's a lot better ways,
20 but on the scale that we need it and the timing that
21 we need it, what are you going to do? Are you going
22 to turn off all the lights and say let's wait till all
23 this other stuff gets developed? You can't do that.

24 And so I'm pleasantly happy that the
25 nuclear plant has done as well and has been as well

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 maintained and safeguarded as it has, and I think it
2 will continue to be.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. RIVERA: Thank you, Mr. Kovar.

5 Now I'd like to call up Bo Pham for some
6 closing remarks.

7 MR. PHAM: Good evening, everyone. My
8 name is Bo Pham, and I'm a branch chief at the NRC
9 headquarters for the team that's performing the
10 license renewal review for the application for STP
11 here.

12 On behalf of the staff, I just want to
13 thank everyone for coming out and providing comments
14 tonight. There were some good comments. Even though
15 this is an environmental scoping meeting, I just want
16 to make sure that everyone understands that the safety
17 issues that were brought up, I will make sure that
18 those get to the appropriate safety reviewers to be
19 considered as well.

20 To just summarize, where we go from here
21 is that our team is going to gather the comments that
22 we heard today as well as the comments that we receive
23 up until April 1. We will look at the comments,
24 evaluate them and consider them and how to incorporate
25 them into our first draft of the environmental impact

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 statement. There were several differing views on what
2 the impacts are, and I can be sure to tell you that we
3 may not agree on everything but we will definitely
4 consider every position that was put forth.

5 From there, we issue our first draft of
6 the environmental impact statement, and we'll be back
7 here in the community to listen to again regarding any
8 comments you may have on that first draft.

9 So with that, I appreciate your time again
10 tonight, and I'd like to close out the meeting.

11 The staff will also be here for a limited
12 amount of time afterwards if you want to talk to us
13 about some of the questions.

14 Thank you.

15 (Whereupon, at 8:07 p.m., the meeting was
16 concluded.)

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceedings
before the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
in the matter of: South Texas Project

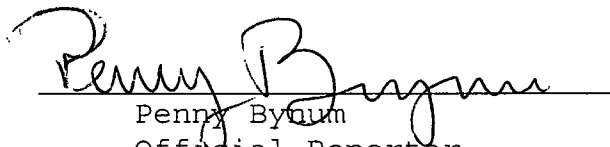
Name of Proceeding: Public Meeting:

Evening Session

Docket Number: (n/a)

Location: Bay City, Texas

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.


Penny Byrum
Official Reporter
Neal R. Gross & Co., Inc.

NEAL R. GROSS
COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com