

# Official Transcript of Proceedings

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: Crystal River Unit 3 Environmental Review  
Evening Session

Docket Number: 50-302

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Pages 1-70

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PRELIMINARY SITE-SPECIFIC RESULTS OF THE

LICENSE RENEWAL

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT 3

+ + + + +

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

The Plantation Golf Resort & Spa

9301 West Fort Island Trail

Sabal Room

Crystal River, Florida

The above-entitled hearing was conducted at

7:00 p.m.

BEFORE: GEORGE SMITH, Facilitator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

7:00 P.M.

1  
2  
3 MR. SMITH: Okay. Good afternoon. My  
4 name is George Smith. I'm from NRC Region 1 and I'll be  
5 the facilitator for the meeting today for the Crystal  
6 River Draft SEIS, which is the Supplemental  
7 Environmental Impact Statement for the Licensee Renewal  
8 of Crystal River Unit 3, Nuclear Generating Plant.

9 The purpose of this meeting today is to  
10 present the results of the NRC's Environmental Review for  
11 Crystal River's License Renewal Application as published  
12 in the Draft SEIS that is publically available in the  
13 Agencywide Documents Access and Management System, which  
14 is ADAMS. This Session Number for that document is  
15 ML11139A153, and that was issued in May 26th 2011.

16 Before we start we always like to go over  
17 the rules of the meeting. And I have three rules that  
18 I put up on the board. The first rule is always respect.  
19 And what we mean by respect is to respect all the meeting  
20 participants. If you have someone speaking we ask that  
21 you, you know, do not have sidebar conversations, and  
22 also to not talk over the speakers. Because we would  
23 like for everyone to have an opportunity to get their  
24 views out and to provide their comments for this meeting.

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1           Also, as far as your comments, I have about  
2 four comment cards here. So, we do not plan on limiting  
3 the amount of time for your comments. However, at the  
4 first meeting I started off with four cards and I ended  
5 up with ten, eleven. So we ask that you be mindful that  
6 others would like to have their comments heard. So, we  
7 would ask that you provide your information and limit the  
8 time frame that you're providing your comments.

9           And also, over to the right, we have a  
10 parking lot. So if we have information that we need to  
11 take back that was not answered, if you have a question  
12 we'll put it on the parking lot. But, I only ask to make  
13 sure whatever I capture on the parking lot, that I'm  
14 capturing what you would like me to capture, that  
15 information. So, if there's a break or after the meeting  
16 if you need to clarify, just let me know.

17           Just a couple of things. There are  
18 restrooms. The men's restroom is out this door, but we  
19 ask that you use the side and the back door to go to the  
20 restroom. From the earlier meeting, the back door is  
21 much quieter, so if you can use that back door it will  
22 help a lot.

23           Also, if you have phones, we ask that you  
24 put your phones on the silent mode so you don't interrupt

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1 the meeting.

2 Also, right now, I'd like to ask if we have  
3 anyone on the phone line at this time?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. SMITH: I'll ask a couple more times  
6 throughout the meeting just to make sure if we have anyone  
7 on the phone lines so we can get their questions in also.

8 I'd like to introduce -- we have two -- or  
9 three other NRC employees here at the meeting. Mike  
10 Wentzel will do the presentation after I finish the  
11 introductions, and Dan Doyle is also in the back. He's  
12 the man at the table where you signed in. And both Dan  
13 and Michael are from DLR, they're DLR Project Managers,  
14 and they're in Rockville, Maryland.

15 Roger Hannah is Region II's Public Affairs  
16 -- Senior Public Affairs Officer, and he's out of  
17 Atlanta. And of course, again, I'm George Smith and in  
18 Region I, and I'm out of King of Prussia, Pennsylvania,  
19 near Philadelphia.

20 Mike is going to present the results of the  
21 Environmental Review, and after Mike presents the  
22 results of that review, if you have any clarifying  
23 questions that you would like to ask Mike or Dan, they  
24 will be glad to answer those questions. And then we'll

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1 move onto the public comment part of this meeting.

2 During the public comment portion, again,  
3 I'll use the cards to call you up, and you'll come here  
4 to the podium and provide your comments.

5 The NRC staff is mostly in the receiving  
6 mode at this time, so basically they'll listen to your  
7 questions. And if there are any kind of direct  
8 questions, again, they will provide answers to those  
9 direct questions and your comments will be considered and  
10 addressed during the final SEIS.

11 And what we would like to emphasize also  
12 that, you know, if you would like your questions answered  
13 or if you need more clarifying questions, you know, Dan  
14 and Mike will be around to answer questions after the  
15 meeting. So, don't feel that if you didn't get your  
16 answer that it won't be answered. So, I just want to  
17 emphasize that.

18 So now I'll ask Mike to come forward and  
19 he'll provide the briefing.

20 MR. WENTZEL: All right. Thanks, George.

21 Like Mike said, my name is Mike Wentzel, I  
22 am an Environmental Project Manager with the Division of  
23 License Renewal.

24 Today I am going to be presenting the

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1 Preliminary Results of the NRC's review of the site  
2 specific issues related to the proposed license renewal  
3 of Crystal River Unit 3. I hope that the information  
4 that we provide will help you understand the process  
5 we're going through, what we've done so far, and the role  
6 that you can play in helping us ensure that the final  
7 SEIS, when it's issued, is accurate and complete.

8 I'll start off with a brief project  
9 background and then move onto presenting the preliminary  
10 findings of our environmental review, which assesses the  
11 impacts associated with renewing the operating license  
12 for another 20 years.

13 Then I'll provide some information about  
14 the schedule for the remainder of the review and how you  
15 can submit comments, if you wish. After my presentation  
16 there will be time for you to present your comments. And  
17 for those of you who would prefer to send in your  
18 comments, rather than provide them this evening, I will  
19 explain some options in doing that.

20 The NRC was established to regulate  
21 civilian uses of nuclear power, including applications  
22 that produce electricity. The NRC conducts license  
23 renewal reviews for plants whose owners wish to operate  
24 them beyond their initial license period.

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1           The NRC license renewal review addresses  
2 safety issues related to managing the effects of aging  
3 and environmental issues related to an additional 20  
4 years of operation, as well as any potential major  
5 refurbishment activities that the plant owner or  
6 operator may undertake during or in preparation for an  
7 additional 20 years of operation.

8           In all aspects of the NRC's regulation our  
9 mission is three-fold: To ensure adequate protection of  
10 public health and safety; to promote the common defense  
11 and security; and to protect the environment.

12           Now, before getting into the preliminary  
13 findings of the environmental review I would like to take  
14 a few moments to acknowledge two topics that have  
15 increased public interest lately: The first topic will  
16 be the containment delamination at Crystal River Unit 3  
17 and the nuclear accident in Japan.

18           The containment delamination: While the  
19 plant was shut down in 2009 to replace the steam  
20 generators, the licensee discovered cracks or  
21 delamination in the containment wall. This structure  
22 serves as an important barrier to prevent radioactive  
23 materials from escaping to the environment in the event  
24 of an accident. The plant has been shut down for repair

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1 since this discovery, and there have been no impacts on  
2 public health and safety as a result. Additional  
3 delamination was discovered in March of 2011 and the  
4 licensee yesterday announced their intention to repair  
5 the containment.

6 Now the question is, how does this impact  
7 license renewal?

8 The containment delamination is a current  
9 operating issue and it will need to be addressed prior  
10 to allowing the plant to return to power operations.  
11 The license renewal staff has issued requests for  
12 additional information, asking the applicant to tell us  
13 how they plan to manage the effects of aging on the  
14 containment structure. The staff will not be issuing  
15 its decision on license renewal until the applicant has  
16 adequately addressed the staff's concerns. But when  
17 that does happen the decision on license renewal can be  
18 reached, and that decision potentially could come prior  
19 to the repairs actually being completed.

20 Now, at tonight's meeting we will accept  
21 comments on the containment delamination. However, it  
22 is important to note that the real purpose of this meeting  
23 is to get your feedback on the draft SEIS and any  
24 environmental impacts that are associated with an

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1 additional 20 years of operation.

2 The next topic's the nuclear accident in  
3 Japan. This past March an earthquake and subsequent  
4 tsunami led to a nuclear accident at the Fukushima  
5 Daiichi site in Japan. The NRC is conducting an analysis  
6 of the lessons that can be learned in this event in order  
7 to see if there's any changes that can be made here in  
8 the U.S. to make the plant safer.

9 NRC's staff will present the 90-day update  
10 to the Commission on July 19th. You can find more  
11 information by going to our website, [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov) and  
12 clicking on the link, "Japan Nuclear Accident  
13 NRC-Actions." The direct link to this website is on this  
14 slide and it's also in the meeting handouts that are  
15 available in the back of the room.

16 It's important to note that to date there  
17 have not been any immediate changes to the license  
18 renewal process as a result of the NRC's review. Seismic  
19 risk is an issue that is considered in the design basis  
20 for all plants and the license renewal review includes  
21 an analysis of severe accident mitigation alternatives  
22 which are potential changes that the licensee could  
23 implement to reduce the effects if a severe accident were  
24 to occur.

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1           The results of the staff's review of the  
2 severe accident mitigation alternatives that were  
3 considered for Crystal River Unit 3 are located in  
4 Appendix F of the draft SEIS.

5           I am now going to move on to the potential  
6 site-specific impacts of license renewal for Crystal  
7 River Unit 3. These findings are contained in the Draft  
8 Supplemental Impact Statement, draft SEIS that the NRC  
9 issued on May 26th.

10           There are copies on the table in the back  
11 of the room there, and there's also CD's that have  
12 electronic copies of the draft SEIS in addition to other  
13 useful background information related to the review.

14           Issues for which the environmental impacts  
15 are the same across all or most nuclear power plants are  
16 evaluated in the generic environmental impact statement,  
17 also known as the GEIS.

18           The NRC staff reviewed these issues to  
19 determine whether the conclusions reached in the generic  
20 environmental impact statement are valid for Crystal  
21 River Unit 3. The NRC staff also reviews the  
22 environmental impacts of potential alternatives to  
23 license renewal and other ways for possible replacement  
24 options for Crystal River Unit 3's electrical generation

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1 capacity. And the purpose of that is to determine  
2 whether or not the impacts from license renewal would be  
3 reasonable or not.

4 Okay. This slide lists the environmental  
5 issues the NRC reviewed for the continued operation of  
6 Crystal River Unit 3 during the proposed license renewal  
7 period. Overall the direct and indirect impacts from  
8 license renewal for most issues was found to be small,  
9 which means that the impacts would neither -- excuse me  
10 -- would either be detectable or would not noticeably  
11 alter the environment.

12 The impact to aquatic resources ranges from  
13 small to moderate due to the effect of the plant's  
14 once-through cooling system on the fish and shellfish  
15 population in the Crystal Bay aquatic community. A  
16 finding of moderate indicates a noticeable but not  
17 destabilizing effect on that resource.

18 When reviewing the potential impacts of  
19 license renewal on the environment, the NRC also looks  
20 at the effects on the environment from other past,  
21 present, and reasonably foreseeable human actions. For  
22 example, the NRC considered the operation of the coal  
23 plants at the Crystal River Energy Complex, the possible  
24 construction and operation of new nuclear reactors in

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1 Levy County, and a possible power uprate at the Crystal  
2 River Unit 3, among other things.

3 The NRC's preliminarily conclusion is that  
4 there are moderate cumulative impacts on water resources  
5 due to nonpoint sources of pollution and the potential  
6 of increased ocean water temperature over the next 20  
7 years.

8 For aquatic resources, impacts are moderate  
9 due to multiple stressors affecting the aquatic  
10 resources in the Crystal Bay, such as continued operation  
11 of Crystal River Energy Complex, continued withdrawal of  
12 water for various human uses, commercial and  
13 recreational fishing and boating, residential,  
14 commercial and industrial development, invasive  
15 species, disease and climate change.

16 For terrestrial resources, impacts are  
17 moderate due to the extent of expected wetland losses,  
18 habitat fragmentation from ongoing and planned  
19 development projects, continued widespread manipulation  
20 of habitats for commercial forest management, and the  
21 anticipated losses of habitat for important species.

22 For socioeconomic resources, impacts are  
23 moderate due to the possible extended power uprate in the  
24 proposed new nuclear power plant in Levy County.

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1 For air quality, the impacts are moderate  
2 due to the cumulative impacts of ambient air quality from  
3 the continued operation of the plant and other sources  
4 of criteria air pollutants in the region of interest.

5 In other areas that the NRC considered, the  
6 preliminary conclusions are that the cumulative impacts  
7 are small.

8 A major step in determining whether license  
9 renewal is reasonable is comparing the likely impacts --  
10 excuse me -- of comparing the impacts of alternatives  
11 including -- including other methods of power  
12 generation, and also not renewing Crystal River Unit 3's  
13 operating license.

14 In the draft SEIS, the NRC considered  
15 natural gas combined cycle generation, supercritical  
16 coal-fired generation, and as part of the combination  
17 alternative, natural gas with conservation and  
18 efficiency.

19 Finally, the NRC considered what would  
20 happen if no action is taken and Crystal River Unit 3  
21 shuts down at the end of its current license without a  
22 specific replacement alternative.

23 The NRC found that the impacts from energy  
24 alternatives would vary widely based on the

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1 characteristics of the alternatives. In most cases  
2 construction of new facilities created significant  
3 impacts. This is discussed in detail in the draft  
4 document.

5 Based on a review of the potential  
6 environmental impacts from license renewal and  
7 alternative to license renewal, the NRC staff's  
8 preliminary recommendation in the draft SEIS is that the  
9 adverse environmental impacts of license renewal for  
10 Crystal River Unit 3 are not great enough to deny the  
11 option of license renewal for energy planning decision  
12 makers.

13 To state it more simply, the NRC is saying  
14 that license renewal would be an acceptable option from  
15 an environmental standpoint.

16 It is important to note that the  
17 environmental review is not yet completed. Your  
18 comments today and all written comments received by the  
19 end of the comment period on July 25th will be considered  
20 by the NRC as we develop the final SEIS. Due to the  
21 containment damage the NRC has not set a date for the  
22 issuance of the final SEIS. When that date is set the  
23 NRC will issue a public letter and update the schedule  
24 on the website.

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1           The final SEIS will contain the NRC's final  
2 recommendation on the acceptability of license renewal  
3 based on the work we've already performed and the input  
4 we receive in the form of comments during the comment  
5 period. Your comments can help change the staff's  
6 findings in the final SEIS.

7           The primary contact for the environmental  
8 review is Ms. Elaine Keegan, and Rob Kuntz is the primary  
9 contact for the NRC's safety review.

10           Hard copies of the draft SEIS, although in  
11 limited quantities, are available back on the table as  
12 are CD's. In addition, two local libraries, the Central  
13 Ridge Library and the Coastal Region Library, have agreed  
14 to make copies of the draft SEIS, along with other  
15 information about the Crystal River Unit 3 license  
16 renewal review, available for public review. And,  
17 additionally, electronic copies of the draft SEIS and  
18 associated documents are available on the NRC's public  
19 website.

20           The NRC will address written comments on the  
21 draft SEIS in the same way we address spoken comments here  
22 today. To submit written comments you can send them to  
23 the NRC by mail to the address listed here, and this  
24 address is also contained in the handout that is

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1 available in the back. You may also submit them  
2 electronically via the Federal Rulemaking website,  
3 www.regulations.gov.

4 If you have written comments this evening  
5 you can give them to any NRC staff member. Again, to  
6 ensure that your comments received consideration, they  
7 have to be received by Monday, July 25th, 2011.

8 So at this point if there's any specific  
9 questions related to process I can take those now.

10 MS. SIELING: My name is Barbara Sieling,  
11 and I'm kind of curious. When you discuss the  
12 alternative energy why are you only discussing ones that  
13 are very harmful to the environment, whether it's after  
14 use or before getting, like the mountaintop clearing for  
15 the coal and the fracking for the natural gas? Why  
16 aren't you considering other types of alternative  
17 energy?

18 MR. WENTZEL: Well, I can't specifically  
19 answer that question. I was not directly involved in  
20 that environmental review.

21 I think the scope of the questions we're  
22 going to take right now are more process related. If you  
23 would like to submit a comment or, you know, provide the  
24 comment here tonight, that's something that can be

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1 addressed in the final SEIS. But, to be quite honest,  
2 I don't have that answer for you.

3 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

4 MR. WENTZEL: Okay. That concludes my  
5 remarks and I will hand the meeting back over to George.

6 MR. SMITH: I think we have someone to call  
7 in on the phone?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. SMITH: Do we have someone to call in  
10 on the phone? Can you please pronounce your name or  
11 organization?

12 MR. SAPORITO: Yes. Can you hear me?

13 MR. SMITH: Yes, we can hear you. Can you  
14 hear us?

15 MR. SAPORITO: Yes. I can hear the NRC  
16 people with the microphone, but I cannot hear the people  
17 in the audience when they ask questions. So, if you can  
18 fix that I'd greatly appreciate it.

19 My name is Thomas Saporito, I'm from Jupiter  
20 Florida. I'm with Saprovani and Associates.

21 MR. SMITH: And that was Thomas -- what's  
22 your last name, sir?

23 MR. SAPORITO: Saporito, S as in Sam,  
24 a-p-o-r-i-t-o.

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1 MR. SMITH: All right. Thank you, sir.  
2 Right now we're going to go into the public comment  
3 portion of the meeting, and if you have a question -- do  
4 you plan to offer a question, sir?

5 MR. SAPORITO: Yes. I have a few questions  
6 for the NRC specifically.

7 MR. SMITH: Okay, one second. We'll get a  
8 couple questions in and we'll come back to you, if you  
9 can hold on one minute. We would only ask that you put  
10 your phone on mute because if not we're going to be able  
11 to hear any kind of comments you make or if you're moving  
12 around. Thank you very much.

13 The first person for comments will be  
14 Barbara Sieling. And as Barbara is coming up, I'll let  
15 you know who is coming after Barbara. It will be Ken  
16 Frink and then Josh Wooten.

17 MS. SIELING: Hi there. My name is Barbara  
18 Sieling. I don't know if all of y'all are new or old from  
19 this afternoon. And I don't mean that "old" in age.

20 I guess I'll direct my question now about  
21 what I just asked, is, why is the only alternative energy  
22 that was mentioned in the report that the gentleman spoke  
23 about early is, why are they only discussing the ones that  
24 have to do with either fracking or mountaintop clearing

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1 for coal and gas instead of some of the safer, cheaper  
2 alternative energies?

3 But what I came up here to say, and if  
4 everyone will pay attention as they listen to the  
5 continuing speakers after me is, I don't understand why  
6 it's about the environment and the only positive things  
7 anybody can say about it is, it's all about the money.  
8 The only positive thing any speaker said about the  
9 nuclear power plant was, good for real estate, good for  
10 jobs, good for people making money. But not one of them  
11 could come out and say anything about, "Hey, it's a good  
12 option because it's safe and it's affordable," because  
13 it's neither.

14 Everybody wanted to say -- you know, the  
15 only positive things anybody who would say is all about  
16 the money. And as we know, profit has no conscious.

17 A friend of mine was saying that they  
18 understood -- they talk about the safety of these power  
19 plants. How many people in Japan had took the safety  
20 ride, or whatever it is, to see how safe the power plant  
21 was, and are now either dead, are dealing with radiation,  
22 lost everything they own because they'll never be able  
23 to go back to it? I'm sure they all thought it was safe  
24 too.

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1           And I don't know if it's their government  
2 of if they have private enterprise or capitalism that is  
3 running their nuclear power plants. But either way,  
4 apparently they weren't told the truth either. Just  
5 like we don't seem to be told the truth here either.

6           So, all I can say is, if you're going to tell  
7 us how great it is, then how about telling us how great  
8 it is, not about the money. Thank you.

9           MR. SMITH: Thank you, Ms. Sieling.

10          Ken Frink.

11          MR. FRINK: Good evening. My name is Ken  
12 Frink, I'm a near lifelong resident of Citrus County. I  
13 also come before you as a Director on the Citrus County  
14 Chamber of Commerce Board, and I also stand before you  
15 as the Department Director for the Department of Public  
16 Works for Citrus County. And I'm here in front of you  
17 as a representative of the Citrus County Board of County  
18 Commissioners. They're in session right now. They  
19 wish they could make it but they couldn't.

20          But we stand here in strong support of this  
21 application. We're in strong support of the power  
22 plants Units 1 through 5, specifically Unit Number 3.

23          The lady in front of me mentioned that, you  
24 know, it's all about the environment, and I would agree

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1 with that. It is all about the environment. If this  
2 plant is deactivated that power is still going to have  
3 to be generated someplace else. Why not do it where it's  
4 already been doing now? Why should we move it someplace  
5 else and create impacts someplace else when the  
6 infrastructure's in place?

7 There's billions of dollars worth of  
8 infrastructure in place right now. That all we are doing  
9 is asking to renew this license for another 20 years, and  
10 hopefully another 20 years beyond that. We welcome  
11 Progress Energy as a neighbor to Citrus County and we  
12 stand in strong support of this application. Thank you.

13 MS. SIELING: May I make a correction? I  
14 didn't say it was about the environment. I said it was  
15 all about the money.

16 MR. SMITH: Okay. Thank you, ma'am. I  
17 think we got it.

18 Thank you, Mr. Frink.

19 And by the way, if you want to make comments  
20 a little later, if we have time you can come back up and  
21 make more comments.

22 Josh Wooten.

23 MR. WOOTEN: Thank you for this  
24 opportunity, sir. I'm Josh Wooten, President and CEO of

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1 the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce. And we have done  
2 a Resolution -- our Board has done a Resolution. I want  
3 to read it into the record and then make a few comments,  
4 if you will indulge me, sir.

5           Whereas, the nuclear plant license for the  
6 Crystal River nuclear plant site is set to expire in 2016.

7           And, whereas, Progress Energy is a vital  
8 component to a successful economy in Citrus County, the  
9 jobs created due to the nuclear plant location in Crystal  
10 River are invaluable to our citizens.

11           And, whereas, Progress Energy as a company  
12 plays an integral role within our community taking an  
13 active role with community organizations and community  
14 events.

15           And, whereas, Progress Energy is a diligent  
16 steward of the property that they own, ensuring safety  
17 for our citizens has always been an utmost priority.

18           And, whereas, the repairs to put the nuclear  
19 site located in Crystal River, Florida, back online would  
20 not be completed until the year 2014.

21           And now, therefore, be it resolved by the  
22 Board of Directors of the Citrus County Chamber of  
23 Commerce on this 28th day of June 2011 as follows: The  
24 Board formally asks the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to

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1 extend the nuclear plant license for the nuclear power  
2 site located in Crystal River, Florida, for the term of  
3 20 years from its set expiration date in 2016 so that the  
4 Progress Energy may make the needed repairs to bring the  
5 site back online and continue operation within Citrus  
6 County.

7 And I would like to submit that to you in  
8 writing and then make a few additional comments.

9 Part of my unscripted remarks will maybe --  
10 the young lady that spoke earlier -- being involved in  
11 the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development  
12 Council, I can assure you that there is great interest  
13 in other sources of energy. Progress Energy knows that.  
14 They work closely with us. And in fact we're working  
15 with biomass companies right now, wind companies, solar  
16 companies.

17 And part of the reason why they're looking  
18 in Citrus County is because we're one of the biggest  
19 suppliers of energy in the southeast. It's a natural  
20 place for them to look.

21 One of the problems with that is, there's  
22 no mandates per se that power companies have to use these  
23 type of supplemental energy, and the cost is not down low  
24 enough to where the consumer would tolerate it. We're

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1 trying to get that fixed.

2 The Chamber of Commerce supports green  
3 energy. We support biomass, we support wind, we support  
4 solar, but America and Florida needs a diversified energy  
5 portfolio, and one of those components is most certainly  
6 nuclear. It's an inexpensive way. There has not been  
7 any major safety issues out at the nuclear power plant,  
8 and as a result of us being one of the largest producers  
9 of energy in the southeast United States, we have other  
10 opportunities to get into green energy in other areas.  
11 And you're going to see some of those come into fruition  
12 quite soon.

13 This site has worked well for all these  
14 years with a minimal effect on the environment and a solid  
15 safety record. So the question is, as Mr. Frink stated,  
16 why would we want to fix something that ain't broke?

17 I think that the diligent thing to do is to  
18 get this site repaired, back online, extend it 20 years.  
19 And, yes, it is about the money. It's about keeping  
20 people in our community employed, it's about delivering  
21 electric rates to our citizens and our businesses over  
22 17 counties where they can afford them, and it's about  
23 being in a position for the nature coast to work with  
24 Progress Energy, to look at all other sources of energy

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1 that are coming down the pike, green energy, nuclear  
2 energy, natural gas and everything else.

3 So, the Chamber of Commerce would urge you,  
4 sir, and your staff, to take back to Atlanta or  
5 Washington, wherever y'all are going back to, that we  
6 would love for you to extend this license. Thank you.

7 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Wooten.

8 I'm going to give this to Mike. Mike and  
9 Dan are the technical experts for this meeting, and I'm  
10 performing as the facilitator. And also, Mike and Dan  
11 are in Rockville, Maryland, at NRC headquarters.

12 I think we're going to go to the phone right  
13 now.

14 Sir, are you still there?

15 MR. SAPORITO: Yes, I am.

16 MR. SMITH: Sir, before you start, we only  
17 ask that you lower the volume of your phone because we're  
18 getting feedback and we're not being able to understand  
19 you. The stenographer cannot understand -- cannot  
20 clearly hear you over the phone.

21 Can you hear us?

22 MR. SAPORITO: I'll try to lower it. I'll  
23 have to -- how would you lower the volume of your phone?

24 MR. SMITH: You may have to pick it -- as

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1 opposed to being on speaker phone you may have to pick  
2 the phone up and just speak into it.

3 MR. SAPORITO: How's that? Is that  
4 better?

5 MR. SMITH: That is much better. Thank  
6 you, sir. If you have a comment, if you can give us a  
7 comment now, we would appreciate it. Thank you.

8 MR. SAPORITO: Yes, for the record --  
9 excuse me. But is there going to be a transcript of this  
10 record?

11 MR. SMITH: Yes. Yes, sir, there will be.

12 MR. SAPORITO: Hello? Is there going to be  
13 a transcript of this record, sir?

14 MR. SMITH: Yes, sir.

15 MR. SAPORITO: Okay, great.

16 For the record, my name is Thomas Saporito.  
17 I am the Senior Consulting Associate of SaproDani  
18 Associates, and we're located in Jupiter, Florida, and  
19 well within the reach of a nuclear accident of the Crystal  
20 River nuclear power plant.

21 First of all, I would like to correct the  
22 record. The young lady was talking about the statements  
23 being made -- the criteria being centered around money.  
24 And then one of the pro-nuclear individuals changed that

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1 around to being all about the environment, and that's not  
2 really what she said.

3 To the extent that the Chamber of Commerce  
4 interjected positive comments, I strongly suggest the  
5 NRC should completely disregard those comments. We're  
6 not here to debate the pros and cons of nuclear power,  
7 but instead the NRC must consider whether the Crystal  
8 River nuclear power plant is safe to operate, number one,  
9 and is it safe with respect to public health and safety  
10 to grant the licensee an extension to run this nuclear  
11 reactor for 20 more years. That's the central issue here  
12 that the NRC -- and that's the only issues that the NRC  
13 should be interested in.

14 And with that in mind, I'd like to point the  
15 NRC to a news article dated June 28th, 2011. It's the  
16 Times, staff writer -- I even hand wrote this regarding  
17 -- it's entitled, "Progress Energy customers will have  
18 to pay for some Crystal River nuclear plant repair  
19 cost."

20 There's a discussion there, which I won't  
21 go into, about who's going to pay for what here. But  
22 nonetheless, at the very end of this column, this news  
23 article, it's recorded here that the Nuclear Regulatory  
24 Commission is also reviewing Progress Energy's request

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1 to renew the plant's operating license which expires in  
2 2016.

3 And then that's followed by a sentence that  
4 says: Johnson said -- and he's talking about Johnson,  
5 Bill Johnson, Progress Energy's Chairman and Chief  
6 Executive Officer. That's the licensee's CEO.

7 He says: Johnson said Tuesday that he is  
8 confident the license will be renewed before -- I  
9 emphasize that word "before" -- before the repairs are  
10 completed in 2014.

11 Now, I don't know about anybody else sitting  
12 in that room, but the NRC -- this should be a red flag  
13 to the NRC, and it should be of great concern to the public  
14 citizens who live in and about that nuclear reactor.  
15 Because there appears to be some collusion here between  
16 the licensee and the regulator, being the Nuclear  
17 Regulatory Commission, because the Chief Executive  
18 Officer and the Chairman for the licensee, is represented  
19 in a public manner that he's confident the license will  
20 be renewed for 20 more years before any repairs are done  
21 to the damaged containment building, which is supposed  
22 to protect the public health and safety.

23 To that extent, I demand that the NRC  
24 present at this meeting today provide the NRC Office of

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1 the Inspector General a complete copy of the record  
2 transcripts this date so that that agency can make an  
3 informed decision as to whether the NRC should be  
4 invested in these circumstances.

5 Moving on. The NRC today talked about in  
6 general degrees, their review of the environmental  
7 impact that would result from granting a 20 year license  
8 extension to allow this nuclear reactor to operate for  
9 20 more years. And from what I gather from this  
10 statement, the NRC's pretty much made up their minds  
11 they're going to go ahead and grant this license.

12 I would encourage and urge the NRC to  
13 reconsider and not grant a 20 year license extension for  
14 the continued operations of the Crystal River nuclear  
15 power plant for several reasons. This nuclear power  
16 plant releases a tremendous, a tremendous amount of heat  
17 back into the environment. That heat was not in the  
18 environment before the nuclear reactor was powered up.  
19 Okay. That heat is generated because of the nuclear  
20 reactor.

21 The NRC, in their environmental assessment,  
22 as a prudent regulator, should make credible  
23 measurements of the thermal output of that nuclear power  
24 plant that's introduced into the environment when it's

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1 operating at 100 percent power, and compare that thermal  
2 measurement to what the thermal measurement would be for  
3 a natural gas plant, or, let's say, a solar farm, or maybe  
4 wind generation.

5 I stand to believe that the thermal release  
6 back into the environment will be far less than it's being  
7 generated from that nuclear power plant.

8 The NRC review also failed to take into  
9 consideration wind energy. They failed to take into  
10 consideration the output from solar panels. If the  
11 utility is willing to invest \$1.3 billion to patch up a  
12 40-year old piece of equipment, why not take that \$1.3  
13 billion and finance solar panels for every home and every  
14 business that are customers of this licensee? Why not  
15 take that \$1.3 billion and install on demand water  
16 heaters in every customer and every business for this  
17 licensee?

18 But the NRC didn't consider those  
19 initiatives. Those are alternative energy initiatives  
20 that the NRC failed to consider up to this point. Those  
21 two initiatives alone would decrease the man-load on  
22 Progress Energy's electric grid in Florida by 50 percent.  
23 They would reduce the customer's electric bill  
24 individually by 50 percent or more.

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1           So the NRC has some legwork to do here.  
2           They need to consider these alternative energy and  
3           conservation methods. The NRC failed to consider what,  
4           if any, energy conservation initiatives were extended by  
5           the licensee for its customer base. The NRC made no  
6           mention of that today.

7           The NRC -- apparently, the NRC's  
8           environmental review is nothing more than a  
9           cookie-cutter environmental review. This is the same  
10          rhetoric I've heard time and time again when I  
11          participate in these public meetings where the NRC has  
12          done a so-called environmental impact review pertaining  
13          to a licensee's intent to either extend the license or  
14          to amend the license.

15          This same cookie-cutter attitude of the NRC  
16          is jeopardizing public health and safety. It's been  
17          well documented over the course of the last week by the  
18          Associated Press, who reviewed tens of thousands of NRC  
19          records, which shows the complacency of the NRC and that  
20          they relax safety standards over the years to allow these  
21          nuclear reactors to operate well beyond their 40 year  
22          safety design basis.

23          The final safety analysis report that was  
24          generated for Crystal River nuclear plant, about 40 years

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1 ago, contemplated that this plant will be decommissioned  
2 after 40 years of operation. It didn't say anything  
3 about extending the license for 20 years. Hell, there  
4 was one individual I heard tonight, he's talking about  
5 20 years and then 20 years beyond that. He's looking at  
6 40 more years. What's the limit here, you know?

7           The reactor vessel is stressed when it's  
8 -- this is a pressurized water reactor, 2000 or 2200  
9 pounds of pressure per square inch when that reactor's  
10 operating at 100 percent power. That's a tremendous  
11 amount of pressure on a metal vessel that holds the  
12 nuclear fuel. And that nuclear fuel, when it becomes  
13 fission -- when the reactor's operating there's a fission  
14 process that takes places where atoms are splitting and  
15 neutrons are released. And that high level radiation,  
16 it bombards the metal vessel that's holding the nuclear  
17 fuel and embrittles it every year, because that's  
18 operating for the most part 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.  
19 And after 40 years that reactor has sustained an  
20 appreciable amount of embrittlement.

21           Yet the NRC -- and I've been monitoring the  
22 NRC for the better part of 22 years -- the NRC continues  
23 to relax their safety margins, where you don't require  
24 the licensee to do destructive testing on the ductility

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1 of the metal of the reactor vessel.

2 And it's been relaxed year after year after year to keep  
3 allowing these plants to operate.

4 Like the young lady said, it's all about the  
5 dollar, not about safety.

6 Well, my god, if one of these reactor  
7 vessels crack, I don't care how many fire trucks you put  
8 out there or how many pumps you put out there, or how much  
9 water's available, that nuclear reactor is going to  
10 meltdown because the water's going to escape right out  
11 of the crack from the nuclear reactor vessel. In fact,  
12 the vessel could shatter depending on how brittle it is.

13 MR. SMITH: Okay, sir. This is George --

14 MR. SAPORITO: -- because the NRC keeps  
15 rubber-stamping these licenses --

16 MR. SMITH: Sir?

17 MR. SAPORITO: -- 65 to date out of 104  
18 nuclear power plants. And it's just mind boggling to me  
19 that Crystal River has a pressurized water reactor.  
20 Another plant could have a boiling water reactor, like  
21 for Vermont Yankee, and other plants that have a GE Mark  
22 I reactor, and combustion engineering, a Westinghouse  
23 reactor, and the list goes on and on. Yet, out of all  
24 these different types of reactors, which date back into

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1 the '60s, the NRC has never denied a license extension.

2 MR. SMITH: Okay. Sir, this is George  
3 Smith again, the facilitator for the meeting.

4 MR. SAPORITO: Pardon me?

5 MR. SMITH: Sir, I don't know if you can  
6 hear me. We have about seven or eight other personnel  
7 that would like to get some comments in. And we'll be  
8 happy to come back to you after those individuals have  
9 had an opportunity also to present their comments.  
10 Sorry to cut you a little short. I apologize for that.  
11 But if you would allow us to let others speak, we'd  
12 appreciate that.

13 Could you hear me?

14 MR. SAPORITO: Yes.

15 MR. SMITH: Okay, sir. If we can, if we can  
16 get the other personnel, give them an opportunity to  
17 provide comments and then we'll come back to you. Okay?

18 Again, we ask that you put your phone on  
19 mute. If not we can hear you speaking or moving around.  
20 Thanks a lot, sir.

21 The next three personnel: First will be  
22 Mike Bays, after Mike will be Dale Malm, and then Mark  
23 Klutho.

24 MR. BAYS: My name's Mike Bays, I'm a local

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1 businessperson here in the County. I have businesses  
2 ranging from insurance to medical practice to tree farms  
3 to even cattle raising. And my first degree was in  
4 biology, and I first saw this plant in 1975 while hunting  
5 on some property that was adjacent to it.

6 And in all these years I've been here I have  
7 to say that I can't -- I was going to try to give a number  
8 but I really can't do that. I can't tell you how many  
9 people I know that have worked at that plant, have with  
10 pride, at all levels, whether it be from the coal to the  
11 nuke, they talk about the safety, the level of  
12 expectations, how they work there.

13 We all talk about alternatives, and in some  
14 days they may come. But we still do things, like we drive  
15 cars and we still need lights and we still have things  
16 we need. And I believe that when you look at the history  
17 or this plant, and you look at the requirements and the  
18 restrictions that it works under, I think y'all do your  
19 job. In fact, I think it's almost -- it's amazing  
20 anybody can even perform sometimes because it's, how far  
21 do you go and what do you do.

22 As a person with a first degree in biology  
23 I will say this: From an environmental standpoint I've  
24 lived here long enough now, fished and hunted, dove in

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1 that area -- in the wintertime we try to fish as close  
2 as we can because fish and other animals try to get up  
3 in that area because the water is warm and they kind of  
4 like it there. So, that part, I don't know if it's a  
5 positive or negative, but from a fishing standpoint it's  
6 pretty good.

7 From a standpoint of long-term results and  
8 what's going to happen and what's not going to happen,  
9 I also believe that when I look at this county, without  
10 that plant a lot of the people that are here wouldn't be  
11 here. You go back to this place in 1974 and '5, when I  
12 first came here, and without that plant the jobs would  
13 have still been basically some service work and crab and  
14 fishing and some other areas of that kind of environment.

15 The opportunity for job growth here has  
16 always been questionable, it was stagnant, and the plant  
17 has been a good, not only environmental partner, but it's  
18 actually been a good partner, period. It's been the one  
19 that basically has kept us alive at times, it pays a huge  
20 amount of the tax base for this county.

21 And if that's about money and dollars, it's  
22 really not. It's about people and how people live in the  
23 environment that they live in, which is the entire  
24 county.

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1           They also spoke about some alternatives,  
2           such as if we went in -- we made everybody take their hot  
3           water heaters out and we're going to put the zero based  
4           in. That would be great. I put one in lately. It was  
5           about \$1100, and I can imagine in Beverly Hills, where  
6           my office is, going up there and trying to tell people  
7           we're going to take those hot water heaters out and we're  
8           going to make them put in an \$1100 because we're going  
9           to save some electricity.

10           A lot of the things that are said are great  
11           and wonderful, and as an environmentalist, because I've  
12           been one and I still consider myself one, I think that  
13           it's like anything, we go so far that we leave people out.  
14           And I think -- I welcome the plant, I'm excited about the  
15           fact that environmentally we know what we have here and  
16           I don't see them as the problem. I see other things that  
17           we are doing and other things we need to do.

18           I also think that from an economic position  
19           without them there would be an awful lot of issues that  
20           we'd be facing that right now they give us hope and they  
21           us a future. Thanks.

22           MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Bays.

23           Next, we'll have Dale Malm, Mark Klutho will  
24           come after Dale and Ms. Emily Casey.

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1 MR. MALM: Hi, my name is Dale Malm and I'm  
2 a resident, business owner, and also I work for the  
3 Economic Development Council for Citrus County.

4 In my role with the EDC of course we go to  
5 look for companies to come into this county that in fact  
6 are going to make a very positive impact towards what we  
7 have here. Not only from a financial standpoint but also  
8 from an economic standpoint, from a fit standpoint,  
9 quality of life. And of course what we have here in  
10 Crystal River is really something unusual with all the  
11 wildlife and the natural settings that we have. We  
12 obviously don't want to interrupt that. And so those  
13 companies that we looked at -- of course we looked very  
14 closely at the integrity of the company and does it fit.

15 "Clean" is always a word we talk about,  
16 "green" is a word we talk about. And so when we look for  
17 those companies we look for that fit that's here.  
18 Integrity is something else that we look for and that is  
19 who is the company, what is their history, what have they  
20 done?

21 And when you look at the plant that we have  
22 out there and Progress Energy, they fit here. They have  
23 done the things that we in fact want our environment to  
24 be. We in fact look to them to assist in our community,

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1 and they do.

2           While we look at the plant itself, we also  
3 look at the company. And the company, you know, we look  
4 at what they've done for our community, and we look at  
5 what in fact we rely on them for. Besides just jobs and  
6 money, they are there helping in a lot of different areas  
7 that we in fact look to them for, and it's very untypical  
8 for them not to be there when we want them to be there.

9           A lot of times I ask myself the question,  
10 you know, what's the right thing to do. And time and time  
11 and time again Progress Energy is there doing the right  
12 thing. They have a great safety record. They in fact  
13 employ a lot of people. They in fact help with the  
14 environment. We count on them. We count on them as our  
15 neighbor.

16           And I guess from my standpoint, if I was to  
17 vote to in fact have another Progress Energy company come  
18 in here, absolutely we'd vote yes. The plant is one  
19 thing. The integrity of the company and the decisions  
20 that they make is probably as much a part of your decision  
21 making as anything else. Have they done the right thing?  
22 Have they made the right decisions from a safety  
23 standpoint to keep our residents safe?

24           Granted they have a problem with a crack

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1 right now. But on the other hand, all the other  
2 decisions that they make they make them correctly, and  
3 they make them for what's here and our people. And from  
4 my standpoint that -- marrying the actual company itself  
5 with a plant like that is the right thing to do. And  
6 those people do make the right decisions. Their safety  
7 record is great, like I said, and they are the right  
8 company.

9 So, I highly encourage you to renew this  
10 license. Thank you.

11 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Malm.

12 Mark Klutho. And then Emily Casey will be  
13 coming and then Jim Kimbrough.

14 MR. KLUTHO: Mark Klutho, Largo. Hot  
15 water heater? If the water's hot you don't need to heat  
16 it.

17 This environmental impact statement  
18 scoping process. It says here -- there was one comment  
19 in this category in opposition to nuclear power. And the  
20 comment is generally not supportive, the comment is  
21 general in nature. It provides no new and significant  
22 information, and, therefore, will not be evaluated  
23 further.

24 Well, today in your book, as I stated, you

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1 can't differentiate between conservation and energy  
2 efficiency. Now, this is a defect on a grand stage. And  
3 it really says a lot about the NRC. And this article here  
4 says a lot more. Talking about how time after time  
5 officials at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission have  
6 decided that original regulations were too strict,  
7 arguing that safety margins could be eased without peril,  
8 according to records and interviews. The result, rising  
9 fears that accommodations by the NRC are significantly  
10 undermining safety, and inching reactors closer to an  
11 accident that could harm the public and jeopardize the  
12 future of nuclear power in the United States; failed  
13 cables, busted seals, broken nozzles, clogged screens,  
14 cracked concrete, dented containers, corroded metals,  
15 rusty underground pipes.

16 All of these and thousands of other problems  
17 tied to aging were uncovered in all the year-long  
18 investigation. All of them could escalate dangers in  
19 the event of an accident.

20 Now, all of you people that are wearing  
21 blinders, your ignorance isn't going to save you. And  
22 this statement in here from the NRC, you are going to  
23 ignore what I had to say back in March. I mean, you know,  
24 Mr. Doyle doesn't even know that the 10 gauge wire is

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1 bigger than the 12 gauge wire. I mean, these people,  
2 they don't have any business in this business. This is  
3 an absolute farce. An absolute farce.

4 And everybody talks about, "Well,  
5 alternatives, yeah, but they aren't here yet." Well, it  
6 isn't about alternatives. When I was here in March I was  
7 talking about our last four electric bills and not one  
8 of those four electric bills at our house were over \$30.

9 See, it isn't about burning any kind of  
10 energy one way or another, it's about efficiency, and  
11 that's not the same thing as conservation. And the fools  
12 at the NRC, as I've stated before, the fox guarding the  
13 hen house, they want to say that what I have here,  
14 science, is something that is not significant  
15 information and therefore will not be evaluated further.

16 And what it means is, the people will pay  
17 bigger utility bills, and society will be less vital.  
18 And if you check with the odds-makers they're one in two,  
19 if you want to make a bet on whether or not there will  
20 be a nuclear calamity. Not very good. Not very good.  
21 That's the bottom line.

22 And the information that I have presented  
23 at over a half a dozen hearings, isn't dream based. Here  
24 in the Rocky Mountain Newsletter Amory Lovins says, "New

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1 Nuclear Reactors, Same Old Story."

2 And you're talking about patchwork. Yeah,  
3 maybe there's going to be a new core in that building,  
4 but we still have lots of old components in there. And  
5 this article here, after this year-long investigation by  
6 the Associated Press, tritium leaking at plants all  
7 across the country and all kinds of other problems.

8 I just don't understand how you people think  
9 this is such a good idea. I mean it is so ridiculous.  
10 And like Amory Lovins says in Energy For Tomorrow,  
11 negawatts on average cost you eight times less than  
12 making a watt. See, it's not about biomass, coal, oil,  
13 gas, or nuclear. It's about doing the things that means  
14 you don't have to buy electricity. It's keeping the  
15 money in your pocket. You're being stupid when you burn  
16 it.

17 And what do I hear from the boys at the NRC?  
18 Oh, this is science we don't want to hear. Well, every  
19 time I see them the more I learn how ignorant they are.  
20 And, of course, where I'll be going with this is before  
21 the Pinellas County Commissions, the Hillsborough County  
22 Commission. See, they have these up here where the vast  
23 majority of the rate payers are not. They wouldn't have  
24 one of these plants down there in Pinellas County or

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1 Hillsborough County. No, that wouldn't happen,  
2 wouldn't happen.

3 But this is just stupidity. There is no  
4 other word to describe it.

5 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Klutho.

6 MR. KLUTHO: There is no "R" in it, Klutho.

7 MR. SMITH: Klutho. Thank you, sir.

8 Okay, Emily Casey. And Jim Kimbrough will  
9 be next and then Barbara Sieling.

10 MS. CASEY: My name is Emily Casey.  
11 Listening to this hearing tonight puts me and quite a few  
12 of my friends, so to speak, between a rock and a hard  
13 place. It is the uprating of CR-3. My family has moved  
14 here and exists here because of CR-3. So I totally  
15 understand the economics of it. But I'm also very  
16 concerned, and very concerned because of what has  
17 happened in just the few recent months, and very  
18 concerned about what has happened in the past to CR-3.

19 So I am going to try to just restate some  
20 of the information that was in the study that you all had,  
21 and then ask some questions and check the challenge to  
22 our county.

23 The uprating of CR-3 as was stated will  
24 increase the thermal discharge in that particular area.

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1 Yes, good for fish sometimes, not so good for seagrasses  
2 and the other life that's in the estuary at other times.

3 Uprating of CR-3 will increase the  
4 circulating water flow, which of course will increase the  
5 thermal load that's out there up to about, what, 150  
6 million gallons per minute? Okay.

7 It's possible to have what you called ISFSI.  
8 I finally found that I think on page 589 what it meant:  
9 Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations. Okay.  
10 So I really wasn't quite sure just exactly what that was,  
11 other than to me that it meant that it was going to be  
12 outside of the -- the storage of the spent fuel was going  
13 to be outside of the pool that's there.

14 So then I found out a little bit of  
15 information about it, that these particular spent fuel  
16 storage installations would need to be hardened on a site  
17 storage facility, they could not be considered permanent  
18 solutions, and they could not be constructed deep  
19 underground.

20 So then my question was, well, they must be  
21 on top of the ground. And then my question is, how safe  
22 is that to our security? I mean especially people who  
23 live in Levy and Citrus County or beyond, and then how  
24 safe is that for national security if these are

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1 constructed at other sites? That's a big question.

2 As I stated, I do understand the economics  
3 of this area. So my challenge is to Progress Energy. It  
4 would truly help us then if we would move toward an  
5 innovative economy, one that would really truly move into  
6 the 21st Century, not use the antiquated technologies of  
7 nuclear power.

8 But the many things that were stated here  
9 that were stated in your study that were not looked at;  
10 renewables, solar, wind, tidal, geothermal. Whatever  
11 would fit in that particular area. You know, demand side  
12 management. Putting it on rooftops.

13 I mean just last week you had -- Germany was  
14 over here. A company from Germany was over here in  
15 Pinellas County looking to set up a solar farm. That's  
16 great, but I really find it rather sad that we, as a  
17 country, have to depend on another country to come in and  
18 tell us what to do. That's just a shame.

19 Okay. To me it's the quality of the life.  
20 Yes, we have to have jobs to exist. But it's the quality  
21 of the life in this area for not just us but for  
22 generations to come. What kind of legacy are we going  
23 to leave?

24 There are some things that I wanted to kind

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1 of repeat and make sure it's on the record. I have a  
2 question about the public safety. Is it safe for people  
3 to consume Mercury?

4 And I understand this is not just about the  
5 -- NRC's about the nuclear power. But out there at the  
6 Crystal River complex we do have four coal plants. Yes,  
7 it is the coal that's mostly emitting the -- well,  
8 emitting the sulfites that finally become mercury in our  
9 waters, which are now impaired according to SWFWMD, and  
10 according to the Suwannee River Water Management  
11 District. That's includes the Waccasassa, the  
12 Withlacoochie, Crystal River areas.

13 So, is that safe for public health and  
14 safety? Well, no. But is it safe for we as a public to  
15 consume the radioactive effluent that is released? Now,  
16 I'm not talking about emitted. I want to make sure I get  
17 my terminology correct. I understand you do not emit,  
18 but you release on a routine basis, radioactive effluent  
19 into the air and to the water, and it's done accordingly,  
20 supposedly, to ALARA standards.

21 Well, this sounds nice. But now I read that  
22 you -- the NRC is asking for those ALARA standards to be  
23 reduced. So, how safe is this?

24 It was found that behind CR-3, where the

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1 monitoring wells MWC-27 and MWC-1-F2, that between 2005  
2 and 2009 the sodium levels in the water exceeded the  
3 drinking water standards. And in 2007, which was  
4 probably about the last time it was measured because it  
5 has been offline for quite a while, the tritium levels  
6 were extremely high. But I guess those won't be  
7 considered high if these standards are reduced.

8 The plant itself was really designed for  
9 about approximately a 40-year life span. It's my  
10 understanding that it's because -- well, one, you had to  
11 cut into the containment wall to get to the generator.  
12 But it was also built there with large bolts -- the big  
13 bolts and large spaces, not small bolts and small spaces  
14 in between.

15 So my question is, that it's really hard to  
16 probably repair this and then ask for an uprated power  
17 level of 15 percent? I'm not sure just how safe that's  
18 going to be because I always learned that an entity is  
19 only as strong as its weakest link, and this, perhaps,  
20 is a very weak link. I think it is.

21 Yes, a lot of people wouldn't be here, and  
22 I am concerned about the economy of Citrus County, Levy  
23 County. So we really need to be innovative. I just  
24 attended a meeting last night in Alachua County where

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1 Plum Creek is looking at an entity called Innovate  
2 Alachua. They're wanting to become proactive and put  
3 their thinking caps on and come up with ways Alachua  
4 County can create sustainable jobs.

5 I think we used to have something like that  
6 called Citrus 20/20. I'm not sure what happened to that,  
7 but I think that's where we need to go again. And we  
8 really do need to look at the many alternatives that  
9 exist. They do not have to be expensive. And I'm not  
10 saying Progress Energy or whatever power entity cannot  
11 make money. I understand those are laws. Those laws  
12 were made by people, they can be changed by people if we  
13 have the will to do so.

14 So I am asking you, please, for the future  
15 generations, thinking about what is happening in the  
16 climate change -- and I'm not just saying this, I am going  
17 to not verbatimly repeat it, but this was taken out of  
18 the 599 page study. It states in there that climate will  
19 change; rainfall will be lowered, temperature will be  
20 higher, frequency of the rainfall events will lessen, the  
21 duration of the time and intensity of droughts will  
22 increase, and probably may not harm that particular area,  
23 right there where CR-3 and the other four units are  
24 located, but it could lead to drying up of the lakes, the

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1 surrounding wetlands and water and our springs. And  
2 that's not just me saying it, that's out of your -- the  
3 report.

4 So I ask you, is energy created by nuclear  
5 power more important than water? I don't think so,  
6 because without water, which we have the pleasure of  
7 enjoying now, without the water, though, there will be  
8 no life. So I urge you all to think seriously about this,  
9 and while you have the opportunity -- not the NRC but  
10 Citrus County -- while we have the opportunity to create  
11 something different we really should. Thank you.

12 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Ms. Casey.

13 Jim Kimbrough, and Barbara Sieling will  
14 come after Jim, and then Michael Canney.

15 MR. KIMBROUGH: Thank you. My name is Jim  
16 Kimbrough. I'm a business person here in the market.  
17 I'm a fifth generation resident of this Nature Coast area  
18 of Florida. I had the privilege of being president when  
19 a spade was put in the ground for the power plant some  
20 40-plus years ago, and have grown up watching all the  
21 wonderful things that have happened in this area of  
22 Florida as a result of the presence of Florida Power, now  
23 Progress Energy.

24 I would like for the record for my name to

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1 be affixed to and in support of, without repeating all  
2 the things that Mr. Wooten and Mr. Frink and Mr. Bays  
3 said. I would like for my name to please be affixed to  
4 those remarks in support of them, and respectfully  
5 request the NRC to approve the application as presented  
6 by the applicant. Thank you.

7 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Kimbrough.

8 Barbara Sieling.

9 And, sir, if you're still on the line, after  
10 Michael Canney -- Barbara Sieling is coming up right now.  
11 Michael Canney will be coming and then if you want to  
12 finish your comment we would appreciate it.

13 MS. SIELING: I'm back. I guess for some  
14 reason I was misunderstood, so I just wanted to clarify  
15 a little bit.

16 Yes, I am a tree hugger. That's why my  
17 shirts says, "Only when the last tree has died and the  
18 last river has been poisoned and the last fish has been  
19 caught, will we realized that we cannot eat money."

20 My statement was not encouraging the fact  
21 that it was about money. My statement was, doesn't seem  
22 that anybody can come up with anything positive about  
23 nuclear energy that doesn't have to do with money, about  
24 jobs, about this, about that.

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1           There are jobs made by alternative energy.  
2           People seem to think that if that goes away there will  
3           never be another job in Citrus County and Crystal River  
4           and wherever. I find that extremely hard to believe  
5           because I'm sure all the subsidies -- and I have to assume  
6           because all the other big corporations seem to get  
7           corporate welfare -- that Progress Energy probably does  
8           too. And maybe if some of that was redirected towards  
9           alternative energy instead of at the nuclear waste that  
10          is so harmful to the environment, and I'm sure you people  
11          who talk about, "Well, it's safe now." Of course it's  
12          not even operating. "We want to continue it." It's not  
13          operating, it's not functional.

14                 And, do you want to be the one who's  
15          responsible because you said it was safe and three years,  
16          four years from now we have what happened in Japan? Who  
17          wants to take a -- is your insurance going to cover me?  
18          I'm within the 50 mile zone. I live in Bronson now. I'm  
19          from St. Petersburg.

20                 Who wants to put their hand up and say, I  
21          will pay for your losses if I'm wrong? Any offers?

22                 It's not about the money. That's all the  
23          only positive things that anybody seems to be able to say  
24          is, it creates jobs as does other types of industry, and

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1 nobody wants to talk about it.

2           And besides, somebody -- I believe it was  
3 the man from the Chamber of Commerce who probably  
4 shouldn't be talking for Florida Power, because there's  
5 a whole list in here that was brought up at the earlier  
6 meeting. And it's actually in their book on 8-30 about  
7 alternatives considered but dismissed, and it was  
8 basically all of them. So I'm not going to bore you with  
9 the list, but turn to that page if you question me.

10           I mean, so Florida Power has no intentions  
11 whatsoever -- I'm sorry, I'm from the old school.  
12 Progress Energy has absolutely no intentions whatsoever  
13 of trying to come up with an alternative. I think it's  
14 time for the people of the area and the people of the world  
15 -- you know, they asked me on the thing, you know, what  
16 my -- on that sheet, what does the question ask?  
17 "Affiliation." Earthling.

18           Where are we going to go once we destroy the  
19 earth? It's all about the money and that's what I was  
20 saying. I haven't heard a single person come up with a  
21 positive that wasn't about the money. And I hope when  
22 you lose your homes and you lose your medical and you  
23 start having radiation poisoning and things of that sort,  
24 you enjoy eating your money. Thank you.

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1 MR. SMITH: Thank you, again, Ms. Sieling.  
2 Michael Canney.

3 Sir, are you still on the line?

4 MR. SAPORITO: Who did you ask for?

5 MR. SMITH: Yeah. We have one more person  
6 and we'll let you finish your thoughts. Thank you so  
7 much for your patience.

8 MR. CANNEY: Good evening, my name is  
9 Michael Canney. I live in Alachua, not within the 50  
10 mile radius of Crystal River but within the 50 mile radius  
11 of the new plant that's going to be built in Levy County.  
12 And I'm here speaking on my own behalf and also on behalf  
13 of the Green Party in Florida.

14 We are a party in the intervention in the  
15 Levy County plant. We are opposed to building any new  
16 nuclear plants in Florida. We are opposed to  
17 relicensing the aging plants that are here, and there are  
18 a lot of good reasons for that. I guess the "F" word is  
19 one that nobody wants to talk about, Fukushima.

20 You know, that can happen here. But the  
21 thing is, there's a lot of really smart people that work  
22 for Progress Energy and that work in the nuclear  
23 industry. A lot of really smart people work for NASA and  
24 worked on the Space Shuttle and they said the Space

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1 Shuttle is perfect. "We have -- everything is backed up  
2 two or three times, there's no way anything can go wrong."  
3 We saw one of them burn up over Texas. And now we saw  
4 -- I mean there are nuclear plants in this country that  
5 are identical to the ones in Japan that have been  
6 relicensed by the NRC to operate for another 20 years  
7 beyond their original design. There is not one that has  
8 been denied. Not one relicense -- license extension has  
9 been denied.

10 So, we do have a problem here, because we  
11 have a regulatory agency that is regulating an industry  
12 that is probably the most dangerous industry that we've  
13 ever had, except for maybe the war industries that can  
14 actually drop bombs. But all of these nuclear plants are  
15 bombs, you know, if they go wrong.

16 And we have over a hundred of them in this  
17 country now, but I'm concerned about Florida right now.  
18 We're looking at a situation where we have a plant that  
19 is damaged that is going to take until 2014 just to  
20 repair. And we're talking about going ahead with a  
21 license extension without even a serious evaluation as  
22 to what the risks are for operating this plant, period.  
23 Never mind for another 20 years. And I just find that  
24 irresponsible.

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1 I mean I think what we have here, instead  
2 of a regulatory agency, is an agency that has become a  
3 cheerleader and a rubber stamp for the nuclear industry.  
4 And I hate to say that. I think there's a lot of good  
5 people probably working in the NRC as well, who really  
6 care about the public interest and about public health  
7 and safety. But they're not the ones that are setting  
8 policy.

9 Just like there's a lot of really great  
10 people in the military over in Afghanistan, and if they  
11 could vote they probably would have voted not to make a  
12 stupid decision to be there in the first place, but they  
13 didn't have that chance. They have to do their job the  
14 best they can.

15 So, you know, I think we're in a situation  
16 here where we need to think seriously about the safety.  
17 Just to talk about this (Indicating) is what we're  
18 supposed to be here for. But this is like, how do you  
19 talk about the environmental report when we're talking  
20 about something that is going to be affecting the  
21 environment for thousands of years to come. This isn't  
22 just about when it's operating and it's operating safely  
23 and everything is fine. This is about what happens if  
24 you have a catastrophic event. What happens if you have

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1 a direct hit from a Category 5 hurricane or if a terrorist  
2 flies a plane into that plant? Or, who knows? I mean  
3 we don't know what the weather's going to be like 20 years  
4 from now, 10 years from now, 5 years from now. But  
5 there's a couple of plants that are underwater right now  
6 that they never planned to have that event happen.

7 You know, we've got a fire out in New Mexico  
8 that's threatening to burn up some serious atomic waste  
9 stockpiles there that are in the way of this fire and,  
10 you know, could be a real serious problem with the  
11 plutonium that's in it if it does get consumed by this  
12 fire.

13 So, you know, there's all kinds of risks.  
14 And as here in Crystal River I appreciate the idea that  
15 this plant has been providing jobs and providing power.  
16 And, you know, it isn't like you can't just say there's  
17 no good that came from this. But we have to learn. We  
18 have to learn as we go along, and right now we're talking  
19 about investing over a billion dollars -- a billion  
20 dollars to patch up an aging plant so that it can generate  
21 more power for another 20 years.

22 Is that really a wise investment? And if  
23 it is, then why is it an investment that the company makes  
24 without public subsidies, without the cost of recovery

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1 being taken out of the pockets of the ratepayers who may  
2 never see a watt from this plant if it doesn't go online,  
3 or, you know, if they die before it happens?

4 Why do we have Price Anderson Act? I mean  
5 why not -- if these things are so safe, let's repeal Price  
6 Anderson and let's let the nuclear industry pay all of  
7 the costs for their own insurance for these things out  
8 of their profits. Why should they be making profits at  
9 our expense?

10 You know, I know that people in Japan made  
11 the same arguments against these plants when they were  
12 getting built, and they have been talking about the  
13 safety issues all along and being told, "Trust us. This  
14 will never happen. Trust us, everything is fine. We  
15 thought of all the contingencies and all the  
16 possibilities."

17 And, you know, they did. They thought  
18 about an earthquake and they thought about a tsunami.  
19 They didn't build the wall high enough, and apparently  
20 one of those reactors was actually breached in the  
21 earthquake itself, not just with the tsunami.

22 So we are fallible creatures, and we think  
23 we're a lot smarter than we really are, I think a lot of  
24 times, and I think the nuclear -- if Fukushima doesn't

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1 raise a flag with everyone and say, are you willing --  
2 are you prepared to take responsibility for this?

3 I mean I'm sure there are some people here  
4 who have bought a lottery ticket, and the odds of winning  
5 the lottery are way, way, way less than the odds of a  
6 nuclear accident in a nuclear plant. Okay. But you buy  
7 that ticket thinking, you might win. Well, I know the  
8 odds aren't that great of a catastrophic accident at this  
9 plant.

10 But the Green Party of Florida requests that  
11 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission protect public health  
12 and safety by suspending all license extensions for  
13 nuclear reactors in Florida. This is not the time to be  
14 rubber stamping extensions for reactors when we have not  
15 conducted a thorough evaluation of the safety issues  
16 involved.

17 We have flooding issues, we have security  
18 issues that nobody wants to talk about. Someone flying  
19 a plane into the Pentagon or into the World Trade Center,  
20 could just as easily have flown it into a nuclear reactor  
21 and probably done even more damage, and some people  
22 wonder why that didn't happen.

23 But we're not protected from that. We're  
24 not protected from all kinds of risk. And the

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1 consequences go far beyond monetary. They go to future  
2 generations, they go to damaged genetic legacy of our DNA  
3 and the birth defects that will be happening in  
4 generations from now because of the radiation being  
5 released from those reactors in Japan. It's going to be  
6 all over the world, not just in Japan.

7 So we are asking the NRC and the utilities,  
8 stop this relicensing. Conduct a thorough and  
9 comprehensive review of all safety and security issues  
10 with Florida nuclear plants before any more licenses are  
11 issued for new plants or relicense of old plants are  
12 issued.

13 And, this should involve an open public  
14 discussion about energy policy. People have brought up  
15 some things tonight about alternative energy. Well,  
16 we're at the threshold of a new era with energy, and we  
17 don't need to be building more base load, you know, dirty  
18 power plants, whether it's nuclear or coal, or you know,  
19 even gas is cleaner than coal. But what we need to do  
20 is look to how we're going to live on this planet without  
21 ruining it and just spoiling the water and the air.

22 And the investment of 1.3 billion in a 40-  
23 year old reactor is not an investment that would be made  
24 without the company being assured that the costs are

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1 going to be subsidized.

2 So, again, let's cut out the subsidies,  
3 let's cut out -- I mean one subsidy that we can't get out  
4 of, you know, and the people are talking about smaller  
5 government and lower taxes, but the same people that are  
6 preaching to me about smaller government and lower taxes  
7 are pro-nuclear.

8 I said, well, you can't find any industry  
9 that's going to guarantee higher taxes and bigger  
10 government than the nuclear industry, the bureaucracy  
11 that it's going to take to safeguard nuclear waste in  
12 perpetuity, you're going to pay for, your kids, your  
13 grandkids, their grandkids, their grandkids are going to  
14 be paying for this long after Progress Energy goes out  
15 of business. Long after these plants are all  
16 mothballed, that waste is going to be there and your  
17 descendents are going to be paying for it in perpetuity.  
18 There's no way, you can't line item that one out of the  
19 budget. You can't say, well, we're just going to stop  
20 paying for that.

21 So the more of this we create the more we're  
22 going to be storing and the more we're going to be having  
23 to safeguard and keep secure. And I say, you know, quit  
24 while you're ahead.

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1           But we will put in -- we will submit a  
2 written comment on this (Indicating), but we're still  
3 reading it and still trying to digest some of the  
4 information in this, and then we'll provide that comment  
5 in writing before the comment period ends.

6           I guess that's all I have to say tonight.  
7 But I would encourage the NRC to deny any relicensing of  
8 any reactor in Florida until there has been a lot more  
9 study and a lot more public discussion about the health  
10 and safety risks involved, including emergency  
11 evacuation plans, including the protection of our water  
12 resources that are too precious to put at risk. Thanks.

13           MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Canney.

14           Sir, are you still on the line?

15           MR. SAPORITO: Yes. Yes, I am. Is it my  
16 turn?

17           MR. SMITH: Again, thanks again for your  
18 patience. And we would definitely like you to finish  
19 your comments and finish your thoughts.

20           (Pause.)

21           MR. SMITH: Go ahead, sir.

22           MR. SAPORITO: Is it my turn now?

23           MR. SMITH: Yes, sir.

24           MR. SAPORITO: Okay. Thank you. I'll be

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1 very brief so the other people can speak.

2           Again, my name is Thomas Saporito and I am  
3 in Jupiter, Florida. I have a question for the NRC  
4 present at this meeting today, and I would like an answer  
5 to this question for the record, for this public record.

6           Is it the intention of the United States  
7 Nuclear Regulatory Commission to grant the licensee,  
8 Progress Energy, a 20 year license extension before the  
9 licensee completes repairs to the nuclear reactor's  
10 containment building? Yes or no.

11           MR. SMITH: One moment, sir.

12           MR. SAPORITO: Pardon me?

13           MR. SMITH: One moment. We're going to  
14 have a technical expert to come up and answer your  
15 question.

16           Again, this is George Smith. I am the  
17 facilitator for the meeting. And Dan Doyle will come up  
18 and answer your question.

19           MR. DOYLE: Hi, sir. This is Dan Doyle.  
20 I'm the Project Manager, one of the Project Managers  
21 working on this project, so I'm not really a technical  
22 expert I would say.

23           But just from a process standpoint, I would  
24 say that, yes, it is possible that the NRC could grant

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1 the license renewal extension if all of our concerns  
2 about the plan for the repair are adequately satisfied.

3 So if the question is, does the repair need  
4 to be 100 percent complete and the plant brought online  
5 prior to renewing the license, I believe the answer to  
6 that is, no.

7 MR. SAPORITO: Well, let me ask you this  
8 then, because my understanding of your regulation  
9 requires that the only way that plant can operate is if  
10 it meets the safety standards set out in the final safety  
11 analysis report. And the final safety analysis report  
12 requires a monolithic containment building, meaning,  
13 there can be no delaminations whatsoever. It has to be  
14 a solid construction.

15 So with that in mind, if there was no defect  
16 in that containment building that plant would be  
17 operating right now under its existing license. So it  
18 stands to reason to me, being just a public citizen, that  
19 the government should not be allowed to authorize under  
20 the current law, and under current NRC regulations --  
21 should not be allowed and does not have requisite  
22 jurisdiction to authorize any 20 year license extension  
23 until the licensee can demonstrate that the repairs to  
24 the containment building meet the final safety analysis

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1 report safety margin.

2           Because what you're doing -- if you do that  
3 ahead of time, is saying, you can operate your reactor  
4 for 20 more years with a flaw in your containment  
5 building. And it doesn't make any sense to anybody with  
6 half a brain, so I'm very concerned. Very concerned  
7 about your opinion that the NRC is going to --  
8 theoretically can allow them and grant them a license  
9 extension for 20 more years without the containment  
10 building being satisfactorily repaired under the current  
11 statute, under 10 CFR Part 50.

12           And, again, as I stated at a prior meeting  
13 this morning, I demand that this record be provided to  
14 the NRC Office of the Inspector General, so that agency  
15 can make an informed decision as to whether the NRC is  
16 guilty of wrongdoing here in these circumstances.

17           And also I'd like this record to reflect  
18 that the NRC, as a government agency, is currently under  
19 investigation by the United States Senate Subcommittee  
20 overseeing the Energy Department, and they're under  
21 investigation by the government Accounting Office.

22           So until those investigations are  
23 concluded, which encompass and are centered on the AP  
24 report on aging nuclear reactors, the Associated Press'

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1 report, which one gentleman explained in some great  
2 detail earlier tonight, until those investigations are  
3 concluded the NRC should have a moratorium on granting  
4 any license extension because the public health and  
5 safety's at risk here where we don't know whether the NRC  
6 has in the past just rubber stamped these licenses  
7 without due regard for existing regulations and whether  
8 the agency in fact relaxes its standard, and because they  
9 relax their safety standard that they allow these plants  
10 and granted these plants a 20 year license extension.

11 So there's too much in the air here. We  
12 have this public health and safety at risk here. Our  
13 families live in this area, our friends live in this area.  
14 We have physical homes in these areas. And the NRC is  
15 going to go back to Atlanta, they're going to go back to  
16 Washington, but we stay here.

17 So we want our health and safety protected,  
18 and you people should not be making these off-the-cuff  
19 decisions. You better go check with your lawyers and  
20 find out whether you even have authority to grant the  
21 license extension with these pending investigations  
22 going on. Thank you very much.

23 MR. SMITH: Thank you for your comments,  
24 sir.

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1 Does anyone else have any comments? Sir?

2 Sir, we have a reporter, so if you can come  
3 up to the mic and make a comment, I appreciate it. Thank  
4 you, sir.

5 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is Jim Williams, I  
6 live in Homosassa. I'm a member of the Homosassa  
7 Property Owners Association. I'm here tonight strictly  
8 for the purposes of learning. I don't have an axe to  
9 grind or really an opinion on this, but I am somewhat  
10 confused, so I'd like to get an answer.

11 This seems to me it said that this was an  
12 environmental review, and that was the limit of your  
13 investigation. Is that correct? Was this an  
14 engineering review?

15 MR. DOYLE: There's a safety review --

16 MR. WILLIAMS: That's a separate review?

17 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

18 MR. WILLIAMS: But done by different  
19 people, not you?

20 MR. DOYLE: That's correct.

21 MR. WILLIAMS: And is there a quality  
22 control review?

23 MR. DOYLE: I'm not sure exactly what you  
24 mean by quality control. Like quality control of the NRC

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1 or --

2 MR. WILLIAMS: Is there someone who  
3 inspects the QC manual at the plant? Is it you?

4 MR. DOYLE: We have resident inspector at  
5 the NRC. There are inspectors that live at the plant and  
6 there are inspections that happen.

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Do they have input before  
8 there is a permit renewal?

9 MR. DOYLE: There is an inspection that is  
10 specifically associated with license renewal, so.

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Let me ask this to you a  
12 different way: Are you the only stage -- step between  
13 renewal and non-renewal?

14 MR. DOYLE: No.

15 MR. WILLIAMS: You are just the  
16 environmental part?

17 MR. DOYLE: That's correct, yes.

18 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

19 MR. SMITH: Thank you, sir.

20 Are there any more questions?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. SMITH: Again, we would like to thank  
23 you very much for showing up at the public meeting, and  
24 we also had some stakeholders to show up to both meetings,

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1 and we really appreciate that, to provide your comments.

2 Again, we do have a reporter, a recorder,  
3 and your comments will be considered and addressed in a  
4 final SEIS.

5 I'd like to bring your attention again to  
6 where to submit your comments and the  
7 www.regulations.gov website. And I'd like to emphasize  
8 the July 25th deadline date for your submittals.

9 Sir, on the line if you need that  
10 information, we can e-mail it to you if you provide your  
11 e-mail address. Are you still there?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. SMITH: Oh, it's the same guy. Okay,  
14 very good.

15 Thank you very much.

16 (Public hearing concluded, 8:39 p.m.)

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