

**Official Transcript of Proceedings**  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Title:                   Braidwood LRA Public Scoping Meeting  
                                  Evening Session

Docket Number:  50-456 and 50-457

Location:                Braidwood, Illinois

Date:                    Wednesday, August 21, 2013

Work Order No.:        NRC-154

Pages 1-58

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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BEFORE THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NUCLEAR MANAGEMENT COMPANY

BRAIDWOOD LRA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

+ + + + +

Regarding the License Renewal Application

NEPA Required Scoping Meeting

+ + + + +

WEDNESDAY

AUGUST 21, 2013

+ + + + +

386 W. KENNEDY ROAD

BRAIDWOOD, ILLINOIS

+ + + + +

7:00 p.m.

+ + + + +

The above-entitled matter commenced pursuant to Notice before Sheila Ray and Cheryl Hausman, Facilitators.

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PRESENT:

NRC STAFF:

Yaira Diaz

Tam Tran

Alex Garmo[e]

Stuart Sheldon

Anita Ghosh

Prema Chandrathil

Elizabeth Pool

Jacob Steff[e]s

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(7:01 P.M.)

1  
2  
3 MS. HAUSMAN: My name is Cheryl and I'm  
4 going to be the facilitator for this evening's  
5 meeting, and my role as a facilitator is to help make  
6 sure that the meeting runs smoothly, that everybody  
7 who wishes to speak gets a chance a chance to speak,  
8 and to kind of keep us on time. Before we get  
9 started this evening I just want to let everybody  
10 know that this meeting is being transcribed, so we'll  
11 try and keep the background noise and any sidebar  
12 conversations to a minimum so the transcriptionist  
13 can get an accurate record of this evening's meeting.

14 Just a couple ground rules. If you have  
15 any electronic devices, please put them on vibrate or  
16 mute for this evening's meeting. And, while other  
17 people are speaking, just please be respectful of the  
18 comments. The restrooms are outside to the left if  
19 anybody doesn't know. There's two exits to the room,  
20 one over here on the side and then in the back  
21 corner. And we also have Officer Vern Reid here this  
22 evening from the Braidwood Police Department, just in  
23 case of an emergency.

24 The purpose of today's meeting is to  
25 discuss the licensing renewal process to identify

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1 significant issues related to the proposed license  
2 renewal activity for Braidwood, Units 1 and 2, and to  
3 determine the scope of issues to be addressed in the  
4 environmental impact statement.

5 The agenda for this evening's meeting  
6 will be a presentation by the NRC staff to discuss  
7 the license renewal process, and when the  
8 presentation concludes we'll have a brief 10 or 15  
9 minute question and answer period about the  
10 presentation, if there's any questions you have about  
11 the presentation or anything you've seen on the  
12 slides. And then we'll open it up into the public  
13 comment period. And we're going to discuss the  
14 public comment period a little bit later on in the  
15 meeting, but just you know, if you have a comment, if  
16 you have not filled out one of the yellow cards,  
17 there's some on the tables out front. If you would  
18 like to make a comment, just please fill out the card  
19 and give it to me or Sheila and we'll add you to the  
20 list of people to be speaking.

21 And I'm going to introduce a few of the  
22 NRC staff that are here tonight. First Yoira.

23 MS. DIAZ: Good evening. I'm Yoira Diaz,  
24 I'm the Supervisor, Branch Chief in headquarters. My  
25 staff is in charge of the safety review of the

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1 License Renewal Application for Braidwood.

2 MS. HAUSMAN: Tam?

3 MR. TRAN: My name is Tam Tran, I'm the  
4 Project Manager for the Environmental Review of the  
5 License Renewal Application for Braidwood Stations.  
6 I will be one of the speakers today.

7 MS. HAUSMAN: Alex?

8 MR. GARMO[E]: My name is Alex Garmo[e],  
9 I'm the Acting Senior Resident Inspector at  
10 Braidwood, so I'm one of the two inspectors that  
11 reports there on a daily basis for inspections.

12 MR. SHELDON: Good evening. My name's  
13 Stuart Sheldon, I'm a Senior Inspector out of our,  
14 the NRC Regional Office up in Lisle, Illinois. I  
15 will be leading the regional inspections associated  
16 with the safety review for the license application.

17 MS. GHOSH: Good evening. My name is  
18 Anita Ghosh and I'm with the Office of the General  
19 Counsel.

20 MS. CHANDRATHIL: Good evening everyone.  
21 My name is Prema Chandrathil, I'm the Public Affairs  
22 Officer for the NRC, the Regional Office, located in  
23 Lisle, Illinois. I deal mainly with members of the  
24 public and reporters who have inquiries about NRC  
25 activities. Thanks.

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1 MS. HAUSMAN: And, is there anybody else  
2 from any other federal agencies?

3 MS. POOL: Hi, I'm Elizabeth Pool, I'm  
4 from USEPA in the Chicago Office, Region 5. I'm in  
5 the NEPA Compliance Division and I'm going to head up  
6 the EPA's review of the document.

7 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Okay, we're  
8 going to start this evening's presentations. Tam  
9 Tran. And if you have any questions about the  
10 presentation please hold them until the end. Thank  
11 you.

12 MR. TRAN: My name is Tam Tran. I'm one  
13 of the two project managers for the NRC Division of  
14 License Renewal, associates with the Braidwood  
15 Station, License Renewal Review. I am the  
16 Environmental Project Manager. The Safety Manager is  
17 John [D]ailey. John's not here today. And thank you  
18 for taking the time to come out to help us with this  
19 public meeting, to provide your comments. We value  
20 your comments. Thank [you].

21 Today I will provide an overview of the  
22 license renewal review process, which include[s] both  
23 a safety review and environmental review. I will  
24 describe in more detail the environmental review  
25 process for the Braidwood Station, but the most

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1 important part of today's meeting is to receive any  
2 comments that you may have on the scoping of the  
3 environmental review. I will also provide  
4 information about how comments can be submitted  
5 outside of this meeting.

6 I hope the information that we provide to  
7 you will help you to better understand the license  
8 renewal review process, and the role that you can  
9 play in helping us to make sure that NRC  
10 Environmental Review considers the relevant  
11 information that it should.

12 Before I get into the discussion of  
13 license renewal review process, I would like to  
14 briefly talk about NRC in terms of what we do and our  
15 missions. The NRC is a federal agency established by  
16 the Energy Reorganization Act that regulates the  
17 civilian use of nuclear material in the commercial  
18 sense. The Atomic Energy Act authorized the NRC to  
19 grant a 40-year operating license for nuclear power  
20 reactors. This 40-year term was based primarily on  
21 economic considerations, and anti-trust factors, not  
22 on safety or technical limitations.

23 The Atomic Energy Act also allows for a  
24 license renewal. The National Environmental Policy  
25 Act established the national policy for considering

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1 the impact of federal decisions on the human  
2 environment. As a matter of policy, the Commission  
3 determined that reactor license renewal constitutes a  
4 major federal action for which an environmental  
5 impact statement is warranted.

6 And exercise as regulatory authority, the  
7 NRC mission is three-fold; to ensure adequate  
8 protection of the public health and safety, to  
9 promote the common defense and security of the  
10 nations, and to protect the environment. The NRC  
11 accomplished [its] mission [through] a combination of  
12 regulatory programs and processes, such as  
13 establishing rules and regulations, conducting  
14 inspections, issuing enforcement actions, assessing  
15 licensee performance, and evaluating operating  
16 experience from nuclear plants across the country and  
17 internationally.

18 The NRC has resident inspectors at all  
19 operating nuclear power plants. These inspectors are  
20 considered the eyes and ears for the agency. They  
21 carry out safety missions on a daily basis and are on  
22 the front lines of ensuring acceptable safety  
23 performance and compliance with the regulatory  
24 requirement for the plant.

25 Now turning to the Braidwood Station,

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1 Exelon Generation Company filed an application dated  
2 May 29th seeking to renew the operating licenses of  
3 the Byron and Braidwood plants for an additional 20  
4 years of operations. The current operating license  
5 for Braidwood expires on October 17, 2026 for unit  
6 one, and December 18, 2027 for unit two.

7 Exelon, in submitting a single  
8 application to cover both Byron and Braidwood plants,  
9 cited extensive similarity in the system structures  
10 and components that are analyzed in the license  
11 renewal review. The NRC will conduct a separate  
12 environmental review for Braidwood because of the  
13 differences and the environmental and cultural  
14 resources surrounding the Braidwood Station in  
15 comparison to the Byron.

16 A license renewal application is required  
17 to contain certain sets of information. General  
18 information such as the applicant's name, address,  
19 business and administrative information, and  
20 technical information which pertain to aging  
21 managements. This information is the focus of the  
22 safety review. The application also includes an  
23 environment report, which is the applicant assessment  
24 of the environmental impact of continued operations.  
25 This information serves as a starting point for the

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1 staff to review the environmental aspect of the  
2 license renewal for the Braidwood stations.

3 This diagram illustrates the safety and  
4 environment review processes. It's also featured  
5 t[w]o other consideration and the Commission decision  
6 of whether or not to renew an operating license. One  
7 of these considerations is the independent review  
8 performed by the Advisory Committee on Reactor  
9 Safeguards. The so-called ACRS is a group of  
10 scientists and nuclear safety experts who serve as a  
11 consulting body to the Commissions. The ACRS reports  
12 its findings and recommendations directly to the  
13 Commissions. The ACRS review would also include a  
14 public meeting.

15 Hearings may also be conducted. Before  
16 September 23, 2013 Braidwood interested stakeholders  
17 may submit concerns or contentions and request a  
18 hearing. A panel of the Atomic Safety Licensing  
19 Board will be established to review the contentions  
20 for the admissibility. If hearing is approved, the  
21 Commission will consider the outcome of the hearing  
22 process, and its decision of whether or not to issue  
23 a renewal of operating license.

24 License renewal involves two parallel  
25 reviews; the safety review and the environmental

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1 review. The safety review focuses on the aging  
2 effects of passive and long-lived components and  
3 structures that the NRC deems important to plant  
4 safety. The staff's main objective in this review is  
5 to determine whether effects of aging will be  
6 adequately managed by the applicant. The review also  
7 considered generic and site-specific operating  
8 experience related to the effects of aging. The  
9 results of the safety review are documented in the  
10 Safety Evaluation Report, and sometimes we may refer  
11 to that document as the SER.

12 For the environment review, the staff  
13 considers, evaluates and discloses the environmental  
14 impacts of continued plant operation for an  
15 additional 20 years. The staff also evaluates  
16 environmental impacts of alternatives to license  
17 renewal. The objective of the review is to determine  
18 of the environmental impact of license renewal is so  
19 great that license renewal would not be a reasonable  
20 option. Or more plainly, it is, whether or not[,] is  
21 license renewal acceptable from an environmental  
22 standpoint. The staff prepared an environmental  
23 impact statement to document its review, and you may  
24 hear us to refer to that document as EIS.

25 Before I go into more depth about the

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1 safety environmental reviews, I want to mention a few  
2 areas that are very important and part of the NRC  
3 oversight process. These are emergency planning,  
4 security and current safety performance. NRC  
5 addresses this area of performance every day as  
6 part[s] of the ongoing regulatory oversight provided  
7 for all currently operating power reactors.

8 Current license issues [are] addressed on  
9 an ongoing basis under the current operating  
10 licensing term. License renewal issues are addressed  
11 separately as a part of the license renewal review.

12 Now we will cover a little bit more  
13 detail about the safety review. The regulation  
14 governing license renewals for the safety review has  
15 two guiding princip[le]s. The first princip[le] is  
16 that the current regulatory process is adequate to  
17 ensure the licensing basis of all our operating  
18 plants, and it provide[s] an acceptable level of  
19 safety.

20 The second princip[le] is that the  
21 current plan's specific licensing basis must be  
22 maintained during the license renewal in the same  
23 manner and to the same extent as during the original  
24 license term. In other words, the same rules that  
25 apply under the current license will continue to

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1 apply during the new term, or the additional 20 years  
2 of operations.

3 In addition, a renewal license will  
4 include conditions that must be met to ensure aging  
5 [of] components, important safety adequately managed  
6 so that the plant's current licensing basis is  
7 maintained during the period of extended operations.

8 For safety, the staff will perform  
9 [multi] levels review. First, the staff reviews the  
10 license renewal application and supporting  
11 documentations. This review includes an evaluation  
12 of new and existing programs and surveillance  
13 activity to determine with reasonable assurance that  
14 effect of aging of certain plant structure and  
15 component [will be] adequately manage[d] or  
16 monitor[ed].

17 Second, the staff will perform site  
18 audits to verify the technical basis of the license  
19 renewal application, and to confirm that the  
20 applicant's aging management programs and activities  
21 conform with how they are described in the  
22 applications. The staff documents the basis and  
23 conclusion of its review in the safety [evaluation]  
24 report, which is publicly available.

25 In addition, a team of specialized

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1 inspectors from the NRC Region III travel[s] to the  
2 reactor site to verify that aging management programs  
3 are being implemented, modified or planned consistent  
4 with the license renewal applications.

5 Finally, as I have mentioned, the  
6 advisory committee on reactor safeguards will  
7 [per]form an independent review of the license  
8 renewal application, and the staff safety  
9 [evaluation] report, and makes a recommendation to  
10 the Commission regarding the proposed action  
11 iss[uance] of a renewal of operating license.

12 For the environmental review, the staff  
13 [will] perform an environmental review in accordance  
14 with the National Environmental Policy Act or so-  
15 called NEPA. NEPA provides the basic architectures  
16 for the federal environmental review requirements.  
17 It requires that all federal agenc[ies] [to] follow a  
18 systematic approach in evaluating potential impacts  
19 associated with the major federal actions, and  
20 alternative to those actions[.]

21 The NEPA process involves public  
22 participations and public involvement, as well as  
23 public disclosure. The NRC environmental regulations  
24 contained in 10CFR, part 51, are largely based on  
25 implementing regulations for NEPA. NRC environmental

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1 review considered the impact associated with the  
2 license renewal, and any mitigation for those impacts  
3 we consider to be significant. We also considered  
4 the impacts of alternatives to license renewal,  
5 including the impact of not issuing a renewal  
6 license.

7 In conducting the review, the NRC staff  
8 will look at various impacts to the affected  
9 environment. This review involves a wide range of  
10 [expertise]-- illustrated on this slide. The expert  
11 [will] examine environment justice, ecology, land  
12 use, regulatory compliance, climate change, et cetera  
13 for the EIS. As illustrated on this slide, some of  
14 the agencies that we work with will include U.S. Fish  
15 and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection  
16 Agency, state's Historical Preservation Offices as  
17 well as many local and state agencies, and any  
18 affected Indian tribes.

19 The NRC staff, we also review cumulative  
20 impacts associated with the continued operation of  
21 the Braidwood Station. For cumulative impacts, the  
22 staff will look at the [e]ffects on the environment  
23 from past, present and reasonably foreseeable future  
24 [human] actions. The cumulative impacts will include  
25 both from the Braidwood Station operations and other

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1 activities near Braidwood. In other words, the  
2 cumulative impacts analysis consider[s] potential  
3 impacts through the end of the 20 year renewal term.  
4

5 For the term beyond the 20 year period of  
6 extended operations, the NRC Waste Confidence  
7 addresses the environmental impact of the management  
8 of the spent nuclear fuel after the license life,  
9 including renewal. Previous license renewal EIS  
10 noted that environmental impacts of temporary storage  
11 of spent nuclear fuel for the period following the  
12 reactor operating license term were addressed by the  
13 NRC Waste Confidence Rule.

14 The Waste Confidence environmental impact  
15 statement is expected to be issued in 2014. In  
16 August, 2012 the Commission decided that the agency  
17 will not issue a final licensing decision for  
18 reactors, including license renewal, until the Waste  
19 Confidence regulatory activities are completed. If  
20 at that time any license renewal related site-  
21 specific issue[s] at Braidwood station remain  
22 unresolved, they will be addressed separately.

23 The environmental review begins with the  
24 scoping process, which is where we are today. The  
25 purpose of the scoping process is to identify

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1 significant issues that should be considered in the  
2 environmental review. We are now gathering  
3 information that we will use to prepare an  
4 environmental impact statement for the Braidwood  
5 Station license renewal, that is, the environmental  
6 impact[s] that are loca[l] to this area, and that are  
7 important to the staff to consider.

8 The staff has developed a generic  
9 environmental impact statement that addresses a  
10 number of issues common to all nuclear power plants.

11 The staff is supplementing that generic EIS with a  
12 site-specific supplemental EIS for the Braidwood  
13 Stations. The staff [will] also reexamined the  
14 conclusion reached in that generic EIS to determine  
15 if there are any new and significant information that  
16 would change the conclusion and the generic EIS. The  
17 scoping period started on July 31st and we will  
18 continue to take comments until September 27th.

19 In general, we are looking for  
20 information about environmental impacts from  
21 continued operation of the Braidwood Station during  
22 the extended period of operation. You can assist us  
23 in that process by telling us, for example, what  
24 aspect of your local community we should focus on,  
25 what local environmental social and economic issue

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1 that NRC should examine, and what reasonable  
2 alternatives are most appropriate for this region.

3 This slide illustrates the NRC various  
4 considerations for deciding if a renewed operating  
5 license will be issued. It's a rigorous review  
6 involving the EIS, safety [evaluation] report,  
7 regional inspections, and so on. But, what's  
8 important to point out here is that the public  
9 comments are an important part of the license renewal  
10 process. We consider all comments that we receive  
11 today and throughout the scoping period, and the  
12 comments will help us to inform and to shape the  
13 supplemental environmental impact statement.

14 In addition to providing comments at  
15 today's meeting, there are other ways that you can  
16 submit comments on the environmental review. You can  
17 provide written comments by mail to the NRC Chief of  
18 Rules at direct[ive] branch at the address provided  
19 on this slide, and there [are] copies of this slide  
20 for you to use. Or you can send your comment  
21 electronically by going to [regulation.gov](http://regulation.gov). You can  
22 also make your comment in person if you happen to be  
23 in Rockville, Maryland. We ask that you get in touch  
24 with one of the NRC project managers beforehand so  
25 that we can set up appropriate arrangements. The

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1 comments should be submitted by September 27th.

2 This slide shows some important  
3 milestones for the environmental review process. The  
4 petition to request for hearing [dues] on September  
5 23rd, 2013. We plan to issue the draft environmental  
6 impact statement in 2014. Once the draft is issued,  
7 there will be a comment period where again there will  
8 be an opportunity for the public to read through the  
9 draft EIS and to comment on the draft.

10 The contact for the NRC environmental  
11 review is myself. John Daly is the contact for the  
12 safety review, and John's contact information is on  
13 the meeting handout. The Fossil Ridge Library has  
14 agreed to make the license renewal application  
15 available for public review, and when it's published  
16 for comment, the draft supplemental EIS will also be  
17 available at the library. In addition, these  
18 documents will be on the NRC website listed on this  
19 slide. As you came in, you were asked to fill out a  
20 reservation card at our reception desk. If you have  
21 included your address on that card and indicated you  
22 would like to be on the distribution list, we will  
23 send you a copy of the draft and the final EIS for  
24 your information. If you didn't have an opportunity  
25 to fill out that card, please feel free to do [so]

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1 before you leave[;] to fill out a card, and then add  
2 your address to it.

3 And that concludes my presentation.

4 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you, Tam. Before we  
5 move into the public comment period, the NRC staff  
6 would like to offer the opportunity to answer any  
7 questions about the presentation you've just seen.  
8 Does anybody have any questions about the  
9 presentation or the material that was presented?

10 Okay. Then we'll go into the public  
11 comment period, and I'll be calling everybody up one  
12 at a time. When you get to the microphone, the  
13 podium, please state your name and spell your last  
14 name so the court reporter can get the correct  
15 spelling of your name for the transcript. First I  
16 would like to invite Sue Rezin, State Senator.

17 MS. REZIN: Thank you. Rezin, R-e-z-i-n.

18 Since I won't be near Rockville, Maryland anytime  
19 soon, thank you for the opportunity to make the  
20 comments here tonight. It's much more convenient.  
21 Just briefly I'd like to say, my senate district is a  
22 high energy producing district, and with it we have  
23 three nuclear power plants in here. Exelon has been  
24 an excellent company for our communities in terms of,  
25 you know, reaching out to the communities, but also

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1 providing good paying jobs in the area as well. So,  
2 we appreciate them. We also appreciate you being  
3 here as they're going through the re-licensing, and  
4 anytime that we've had any questions with them,  
5 they're very responsive to us and we appreciate that  
6 as well. Thank you.

7 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Next I would  
8 like to invite Greg Ridenour from Representative  
9 Kissinger's office.

10 MR. RIDENOUR: It's R-i-d-e-n-o-u-r. The  
11 congressman couldn't make it here tonight, but he  
12 gave me a statement he would like me to read for him.

13 It's addressed to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory  
14 Commission. I write to express my full support for  
15 the renewal of the operating license of the nuclear  
16 generating station at Braidwood, Illinois. This  
17 facility provides lower energy costs for residents  
18 and businesses, and supports hundreds of high paying  
19 jobs in Illinois, while helping to ensure state  
20 compliance with federal clean air act regulations.  
21 It will undoubtedly play an important role in meeting  
22 the energy needs of Illinoisans well into the future.

23  
24 Nuclear energy production plays a  
25 critical role in Illinois where nuclear energy

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1 generates 48 percent of the state's electricity and  
2 employs nearly 5,000 skilled workers. Having visited  
3 the Braidwood Generating Facility, I can attest to  
4 the value it has to local residents and communities,  
5 which benefit through reduced energy costs, high  
6 quality jobs, and significant tax revenue.

7 While many areas of Illinois struggle to  
8 meet clear air standards, the generating station at  
9 Braidwood offers affordable, abundant energy with a  
10 fraction of the greenhouse gas admissions as other  
11 conventional energy sources. As Americans and  
12 Illinoisans' demand for energy rises, nuclear  
13 generating stations like Braidwood will be vital to  
14 meeting the energy needs for our citizens.

15 I fully support the operating license  
16 renewal for this generating station, and believe it  
17 will play a critical role in making America and the  
18 state of Illinois more energy secure. Signed, Adam  
19 Kissinger, member of Congress.

20 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. I'd like to  
21 invite Bill Rulien, Mayor of Braidwood.

22 MR. RULIEN: When I was about 10 years  
23 old I used to read my dad's newspaper, and the first  
24 commercial nuclear power plant in about 1960 came  
25 online, and it was an amazing thing to me. It

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1 produced power with almost no fuel, no pollution.  
2 Commonwealth Edison, the parent company of Exelon,  
3 was the cutting edge of technology, the company that  
4 brought that to us.

5           When I was about 20, I built a solar  
6 collector, and I also experimented with a wind  
7 generator. It didn't take too long to realize when  
8 the breeze quit that it was great supplemental power  
9 but it wasn't something you could really rely on as a  
10 source of power. In the 43 years since then, there  
11 hasn't been anything much that's changed. If you  
12 want reliable, mass produced pollution free electric  
13 power, nuclear power is the proven technology and the  
14 way to go for now, and as far as we can see into the  
15 future.

16           In about 1980 I was doing a little  
17 construction work out by Goose Lake, and it seemed  
18 that folks were starting to build houses out by  
19 nuclear power plants, and I thought that was a pretty  
20 remarkable thing. Well, for 25 years we in the  
21 Braidwood area now have lived side by side with  
22 working nuclear power plant, and it's brought many  
23 benefits to our area. They include good jobs,  
24 contribution to our tax base has been enormous, for  
25 our library, our schools and our fire district.

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1           They've been generous to our community.  
2           Kindly they've given millions of dollars to create a  
3           water system there in Braceville, millions of dollars  
4           in subsidy, food pantry, thousands of dollars in help  
5           to our food pantry, help our needy, and many other  
6           projects too numerous to mention. Last year they  
7           helped out the city when I asked them to help us buy  
8           the electronic sign outside of city hall, and to help  
9           us create a tourism spot that we hope will help us  
10          create tourism energy and economic benefit on Route  
11          66.

12                 So, they've been a really good neighbor,  
13           and I just wanted to say that a guy here earlier  
14           today, he mentioned that, you know, his whole thing  
15           was what's going to happen if the power plant was to  
16           close down. Well, you know, we think about those  
17           things, and my administration's planned on those  
18           things, and we're planning to use the money we get in  
19           this area from our nuclear power plant and the good  
20           jobs and everything to help prepare us for that  
21           future. We've set aside acreage for industry and  
22           things like that, and we intend to be ready for that  
23           date.

24                 But I also, personally, believe that the  
25           infrastructure that's there on that power plant site

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1 now, they will develop a way to use that, because  
2 they're going to have a major investment in that  
3 site, and they might build Braidwood three and four  
4 there, I don't know, it'll probably be after I'm long  
5 gone, but I look forward to that, and we look forward  
6 to you giving them a license to continue operations  
7 into the future. Thank you.

8 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. I'd like to  
9 invite Mark Kavanos, site VP for Braidwood.

10 MR. KANAVOS: Kanavos, K-a-n-a-v-o-s.  
11 Good evening, I'm Mark Kanavos, I'm the Site Vice  
12 President at Braidwood Generating Station. I have  
13 the overall responsibility for the safe and reliable  
14 operation of the facility, and the coordination and  
15 management of personnel, and overall station  
16 performance.

17 A little bit about my background. I have  
18 over 32 years of progressive nuclear power plant  
19 experience. Before I took my current role as Site  
20 Vice President, I was the Plant Manager at Braidwood.

21 Prior to that I was the Plant Manager at Clinton  
22 Nuclear Station in Clinton, Illinois, and at Comanche  
23 Peak Nuclear Station in Glen Rose, Texas. I've had  
24 experience in project management, maintenance and  
25 engineering.

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1           Operating the station safely and reliably  
2 is a key responsibility of all of the employees at  
3 the Braidwood Generating Station, one that we take  
4 very seriously and as a personal commitment to  
5 ourselves, to the community and to our industry.  
6 Proud to say that we've been a key part of this  
7 community for over 25 years.

8           Braidwood Generating Station operates  
9 under the manner that preserves the environment. We  
10 maintain a comprehensive, radiological monitoring  
11 program that extensively monitors the air, water and  
12 food products around the facility to ensure that we  
13 did not adversely impact the environment.

14           We have a comprehensive on-site  
15 environmental groundwater protection program for  
16 monitoring and detecting the presence of  
17 radioactivity in the ground water before it has a  
18 chance to migrate off of our property. This program  
19 includes 19 on-site monitoring wells designed to  
20 protect, detect and alert us of any unusual events,  
21 levels of radiation in the groundwater, so that we  
22 can assess and address any changes quickly.

23           We have detailed procedures that outline  
24 how we test all the water leaving our station.  
25 Radiation monitors are staged at 40 locations within

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1 a ten mile radius around the planet to monitor any  
2 radiation levels and dose to ensure the safety of the  
3 community.

4 We also have had great success in our  
5 tritium remediation efforts. In the last seven years  
6 Braidwood has made significant progress.  
7 Hydrogeologists have confirmed that remediation is  
8 having the intended effect. As of today the square  
9 footage of land affected by tritium has been reduced  
10 by 96 percent, and the highest concentrations of  
11 tritium in the groundwater have been reduced by 99  
12 percent. We'll continue to monitor and retain the  
13 ability to remediate via pumping, should that become  
14 necessary.

15 Braidwood's environmental management  
16 systems are certified under the strictest criteria,  
17 the International Organization of Standardization, or  
18 ISO, specifically we have received the ISO 14001  
19 certification, an industry standard recognition.  
20 This is an internationally recognized benchmark for  
21 environmental management. The ISO 14000  
22 certification requires a commitment to excellence in  
23 meeting our regulatory requirements, and the  
24 prevention of pollution and continuous improvement in  
25 our environmental programs and systems.

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1           Last year the Wildlife Habitat Counsel  
2 recognized Braidwood Generating Station's commitment  
3 to the environmental stewardship by awarding us the  
4 Wildlife award certification. This distinction was  
5 awarded to our commitment for ensuring that the  
6 continuance of the healthy wildlife around our  
7 planet, through our fish habitat restoration project.

8           This project places artificial habitats in the  
9 Braidwood Lake, and that greatly benefits the fish  
10 throughout their life, and greatly enhances the  
11 fishery.

12           To ensure that Braidwood continues to  
13 operate safely for years to come, Exelon continues to  
14 invest in Braidwood. We've spent millions of dollars  
15 each year to improve and modernize our equipment and  
16 enhance our plan operations and safety systems. Our  
17 investment in the future doesn't stop with the  
18 equipment. We've hired 152 new employees in the last  
19 two years, and we maintain a workforce of  
20 approximately 850 employees.

21           During our annual maintenance and  
22 refueling outage, that population grows by another  
23 1,500 to 2,000 employees, bringing a boost to the  
24 local economy. We also take pride in our investments  
25 in the community. Last year employees contributed

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1 over 240,000 to the United Way Crusade of Mercy, and  
2 our signature annual event, Fishing for a Cure, has  
3 generated over \$300,000 to charity over the years.  
4 We also support the Braidwood Summer Fest, the  
5 Braidwood Shootout, and numerous other community  
6 activities.

7 Our employees host blood drives, toy  
8 drives and fund drives for various community groups  
9 and agencies. They also volunteer, and in short, we  
10 do our very best to be a good neighbor.

11 For over 25 years Braidwood has performed  
12 reliably and safely, and has set numerous benchmarks  
13 in the nuclear power industry. We work towards  
14 license renewal every day through dedication to  
15 continuous improvement.

16 In conclusion, we look forward to working  
17 with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the review  
18 of our license renewal application. Thank you for  
19 this opportunity to address the public.

20 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. I would like to  
21 invite Mike Gallagher, the VP for License Renewal,  
22 Exelon.

23 MR. GALLAGHER: Okay, good evening. My  
24 name is Mike Gallagher, and that's G-a-l-l-a-g-h-e-r,  
25 and I'm the Vice President of License Renewal for

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1 Exelon. I have overall responsibility for the  
2 Braidwood Generating Station license renewal  
3 application.

4 First of all I'd like to thank the NRC  
5 for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Exelon for  
6 this very important project for us. Exelon has a  
7 great deal of experience with license renewal, as we  
8 have already obtained the renewed licenses for our  
9 Dresden and Quad Cities plants here in Illinois, and  
10 for three of our other facilities in Pennsylvania and  
11 New Jersey. We've also, an application for our  
12 Limerick Plant in Pennsylvania under NRC review.

13 Just a little, briefly, about myself.  
14 I've been working in the nuclear industry for 32  
15 years. I was a licensed senior reactor operator and  
16 plant manager at our Limerick Generating Station  
17 facility in Pennsylvania, and I worked at two other  
18 nuclear power plants and our corporate office.

19 Mr. Kanavos, the Site Vice-President for  
20 Braidwood spoke to us all here about how rigorously  
21 we safely operate Braidwood, and about the reasons  
22 for renewing the license. I'd like to speak briefly  
23 about the process for preparing this license renewal  
24 application, and the amount of the work and  
25 engineering analysis that was put into preparing the

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1 application.

2 Because the Braidwood Station can operate  
3 safely and reliably, Exelon decided to pursue license  
4 renewal. Braidwood's safe, efficient operation  
5 promotes a critical supply of carbon free electricity  
6 for Illinois and beyond. Braidwood produces enough  
7 clean power to supply more than two million homes.

8 So in 2011 we announced our intention to  
9 seek license renewal for Braidwood and a similar  
10 plant, or Byron Generating Station up in Ogle County.

11 Later that year we started the work necessary to  
12 prepare the application, and after over two years of  
13 work we submitted the application to the Nuclear  
14 Regulatory Commission on May 29th, 2013.

15 So safe and reliable operations has been  
16 hallmark at Braidwood Station since it came online,  
17 and our goal during the license renewal process is to  
18 demonstrate to the NRC and to our neighbors that we  
19 will continue that legacy throughout the 20 year  
20 extended operating period.

21 The application is a very large  
22 application. When you print it out it's about 3,500  
23 pages, and when you put it in binders, it's in four  
24 large binders about this thick. It's a huge amount  
25 of information. But that only represents a small

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1 part of the work that was done for the engineering  
2 analysis. The total amount of engineering analysis  
3 if we printed it all out would be about 400 binders  
4 of information. We invested over 90,000 man hours of  
5 engineering work. Once we completed the engineering  
6 work to prepare the application, we brought in  
7 experts from outside Exelon to review the  
8 application, to ensure that it was complete, thorough  
9 and accurate. Our total cost to prepare this  
10 application and to get it reviewed by the Nuclear  
11 Regulatory Commission for both Byron and Braidwood  
12 will be approximately \$45 million.

13 There are two different parts of the  
14 application, the safety review and the environmental  
15 review. For the safety review we took an in-depth  
16 look at the history and the condition of the safety  
17 equipment in the plant. We did that to determine  
18 whether the necessary maintenance was being performed  
19 on that equipment, to make sure that the equipment  
20 will be able to operate when it's needed, not only  
21 for today, but for the additional 20 year period.

22 When you look back at Braidwood, when it  
23 was built, it was brand new, it was all thoroughly  
24 tested to make sure it would work properly, but like  
25 anything else the equipment does age, and therefore

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1 we have to do certain activities to it. Preventative  
2 maintenance is performed, sometimes equipment is  
3 refurbished, some equipment may be replaced, there  
4 may be modifications done to the plant to upgrade  
5 equipment. In fact, Exelon has invested over \$230  
6 million in the last four years alone at Braidwood, to  
7 improve and modernize the equipment, to enhance plant  
8 operations and safety.

9 We also reviewed the calculations that  
10 were performed as part of the design of the plant,  
11 that were originally done to, for the plant to  
12 operate for the original 40 year period. We analyzed  
13 all those calculations and were able to confirm that  
14 the plant was able to operate safely for an  
15 additional 20 years, up to 60 years. So overall our  
16 conclusion from an engineering review was that  
17 Braidwood could operate safely for 60 years.

18 We also took a look at the environmental  
19 aspects, and the impacts to continue to operate  
20 Braidwood. We looked at all the aspects of the,  
21 well, the impact of the plant on the environment, and  
22 our conclusion is that these impacts on the  
23 environment are small, and I use the term small in  
24 the sense of the regulation. The regulation defines  
25 small as the environmental effects are not detectable

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1 or minor.

2 We've also reviewed the alternatives if  
3 Braidwood would not have its license renewed and  
4 another source of electric generation would have to  
5 be installed, either here on site or someplace else  
6 to generate the replacement electricity. We  
7 concluded that any other means of generating the  
8 replacement electricity would have more an impact to  
9 the environment than the continued operation of  
10 Braidwood.

11 So in conclusion, we operate Braidwood  
12 safely, and we can continue to operate safely for an  
13 additional 20 years. Braidwood will provide  
14 approximately 2,340 megawatts of baseload generation  
15 that's not only safe, but it's clean, it's reliable,  
16 and it's economical. Continued operation of  
17 Braidwood will benefit this community, the state of  
18 Illinois and our nation. Thanks again for the  
19 opportunity to make my statement.

20 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Next I would  
21 like to invite John Greuling, Will County Center for  
22 Economic Development.

23 MR. GREULING: Thank you, and that's  
24 Greuling, G-r-e-u-l-i-n-g. The Will County Center  
25 for Economic Development is a private, not for profit

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1 economic development corporation that's served Will  
2 County for 32 years. Our membership includes  
3 representatives from the largest corporations in Will  
4 County, along with other private sector leaders as  
5 well as governmental leaders. Our mission is to  
6 assist in the retention, the expansion and the  
7 recruitment of business to Will County.

8 We support critical infrastructure  
9 investments as well, such as energy infrastructure,  
10 to make sure that the investments and reinvestments  
11 are being made appropriately to serve our rapidly  
12 growing area. Since 1990 Will County has more than  
13 doubled in population to where today we're just under  
14 700,000 people, and we've become one of the fastest  
15 growing job generators in the metro Chicago area.  
16 We're also home to the largest Inland Container Port  
17 in North America, supporting global freight movement.

18  
19 The Will County Center for Economic  
20 Development is here today in support of Braidwood  
21 Generating Station's license renewal application  
22 submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
23 on May 29th of this year. Since 1987 the Braidwood  
24 facility has been producing emissions-free energies  
25 in Northeastern Illinois. The Center for Economic

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1 Development believes by granting this renewal the NRC  
2 will allow Exelon Generation to continue to provide  
3 thousands of megawatts of clean energy to the tens of  
4 thousands of businesses in the region. Adequate,  
5 reliable and affordable energy supply has become one  
6 of the most important factors when businesses are  
7 considering an expansion or relocation today.  
8 Without it we cannot successfully compete for good  
9 jobs for our residents.

10 The Braidwood facility itself is an  
11 economic engine for the region. With over 850 good  
12 paying jobs and an annual payroll of \$82 million,  
13 Braidwood is one of the largest employers in Will  
14 County, and certainly one of its most significant.  
15 In addition, the facility made \$20.7 million in tax  
16 payments in 2012. The significant contributions that  
17 Exelon generation and its employees made to the local  
18 economy cannot be overstated. Support for groups  
19 like the United Way, Fishing for a Cure, and other  
20 local and business, local business and civic  
21 associations are critical to the fabric of our  
22 community in this part of Will County.

23 The CED recognizes what a good  
24 environmental steward Exelon has been and will  
25 continue to be at their Braidwood facility. The

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1 radiological monitoring and the groundwater  
2 protection programs in place today give the community  
3 a sense of safety and environmental protection we  
4 expect from a world class facility like Braidwood.

5 To close, the CED again supports the  
6 renewal application for the Braidwood Generating  
7 Station, and I thank you for your time.

8 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. I would like to  
9 next invite Don Moran.

10 MR. MORAN: Good evening. Don Moran, M-  
11 o-r-a-n. From 1984 until 1987 I worked at the  
12 Braidwood Station as a young construction worker, or  
13 sheet metal worker. Today I'm employed as a business  
14 representative for sheet metal workers, but I'll  
15 speak on behalf of not only my own local union, but  
16 the Will and Grundy building and construction trades  
17 as well.

18 Beginning in the fall of 2007, a full  
19 year before the rest of the country's economy was  
20 effected, the construction industry was decimated by  
21 the worse case of unemployment it had seen since the  
22 great depression. Literally thousands of our members  
23 lost their jobs, their homes, their families, during  
24 the next five and a half years of economic blight.

25 One bright spot during all those years

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1 has been the construction jobs provided during the  
2 refueling and upgrading of the Braidwood Station.  
3 Having been involved in the building and maintenance  
4 of the station over the past 30 years, I'm very  
5 confident in the continued safe operation of this  
6 plant into the future, and I'm thankful for their  
7 commitment to local trades by providing good jobs and  
8 benefits to people.

9 My frustration with the high unemployment  
10 led me to run for office. Earlier today the Will  
11 County Executive, Larry Walsh, and the Will County  
12 Board Speaker were both here, and spoke on behalf of  
13 our county board, where we passed a unanimous  
14 resolution supporting the re-licensing at our July  
15 board meeting. I voted in favor of that resolution.

16 As Illinois struggles in today's  
17 competitive business market, we cannot afford to  
18 ignore any of the things that helped put us on a  
19 better footing. One of the building blocks to  
20 economic development is affordable and reliable  
21 electricity. Illinois' diverse network of  
22 electricity generation coming from coal, wind and  
23 nuclear gives us an advantage in enticing new and  
24 retaining existing businesses to the area.

25 Unlike the rolling blackouts experienced

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1 in California during 2000 and 2001, our local  
2 electric generation and transmission systems have  
3 provided consistent, reliable electricity and have  
4 done so with a diminishing cost to consumers, as  
5 compared to the CPI.

6 I remember cooling my first home, a tiny,  
7 900 square foot house, with summer monthly electric  
8 bills of over \$200 in the mid 80's. Today I live in  
9 a modest town home about three times that large and I  
10 pay about \$150 in the summer months to cool it, quite  
11 the bargain compared to nearly 30 years ago,  
12 especially if considered next to the costs associated  
13 with fuel in your car or paying for healthcare.

14 As President of the Illinois State Rifle  
15 Association, I represent the interest of many  
16 outdoors people, including fisherman and water fowl  
17 hunters, many of whom have benefitted greatly from  
18 the public access to Braidwood Station's cooling  
19 lake. In addition to being a source of reliable  
20 electricity generation, Braidwood Station has been a  
21 benefit to local school districts, fire protection  
22 and other taxing bodies in the community, not to  
23 mention its commitment to local charities and  
24 community events. They've been a good steward to our  
25 communities, and I'd ask that the NRC renew the

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1 license for Braidwood Station. Thank you.

2 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Next I would  
3 like to invite Dee deGroh, who's a member of the  
4 Community Advisory Board.

5 MS. DEGROH: Good evening, and thank you,  
6 Sheila. My name is Dee deGroh, and that is spelled  
7 d-e-G-r-o-h. I, my family's from the Braidwood/Essex  
8 area, my parents and my grandparents and my great  
9 grandparents were from Essex and Braidwood. I moved  
10 here about eight years ago, and was just concerned  
11 that I wanted to be involved in the community, so I  
12 became quite involved, as a matter of fact I'm  
13 President of the Historical Society, Secretary of the  
14 Library Board, a member of CAP, the Community Advisor  
15 Panel, and the Chamber of Commerce. School district  
16 has a group called the Community Involvement  
17 Committee, to get the students involved in our  
18 communities and vice versa, and of course I'm  
19 involved in church groups. So, I'm an involved  
20 person.

21 I recall there was excitement when it was  
22 announced that there was going to be a power plant  
23 built in the Braidwood area in 1976. They started  
24 construction then, and my mother and my sister and  
25 many others were on committees to talk to

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1 Commonwealth Edison at the time about how is this  
2 going to effect us, what is it? People didn't even  
3 know what it was and how it was going to effect our  
4 community. And they did form various committees to  
5 talk to ComEd, and they felt somewhat, I'm sure, very  
6 relieved, because not only was it going to improve  
7 the economics of the area, but they were also taking  
8 over some of the spoiled lands left by the coal  
9 companies, and it was considered spoiled land at that  
10 time. Now they're wonderful recreation clubs for  
11 many people, but at that time there weren't a lot.

12 At any rate, the concerns about the  
13 safety and health issues were alleviated during  
14 those, that time, and it took 12 years to build the  
15 plant and open it, it opened in '88, and at that time  
16 the community was allowed to go in and see the plant.

17 I was fortunate enough to be one of them, and very,  
18 very impressed with all of the security concerns and  
19 health issues and just getting in and out at that  
20 time.

21 And then I joined this Community Advisory  
22 Panel a few years ago when it was started, and we got  
23 to tour the plant, and with the changes and additions  
24 due to 911, it's unbelievable what security one goes  
25 through, on a daily basis if you're an employee and

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1 have to get into the plant everyday. It took us,  
2 well of course there was about 15 of us, 12 of us  
3 maybe going on that tour, but it took us a good 20  
4 minutes or more. You may have read in the Braidwood  
5 Journal last week the reporter had just taken a tour  
6 and she was just in awe of what she saw and all the  
7 security she went through.

8 At any rate, this advisory panel helps  
9 the community because anyone who asks us a question  
10 about an issue that they're concerned with, we can  
11 take that concern to the CAP meeting, and Exelon  
12 either addresses it right then and there or our next  
13 meeting they'll have someone who is knowledgeable  
14 about that issue, such as tritium, and bring it to  
15 the committee, and we'll spend the entire evening  
16 maybe discussing that issue. It's wonderful that  
17 they're so concerned about our safety and acceptance  
18 of Exelon.

19 We're all interested in public health and  
20 safety. We all want it. I know I want it for  
21 myself. I would not have moved here if I didn't feel  
22 comfortable doing so eight years ago, and I have  
23 never felt uncomfortable being in the area. The  
24 station, the Braidwood Station has been really a  
25 wonderful neighbor, because they're not only

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1 employing people in the area and helping to feed tax  
2 money into our schools and fire department and police  
3 and library, et cetera. They are interested in  
4 community organizations and help all of us, including  
5 the Historical Society and the Lions Club and Park  
6 District and many such groups, Chamber of Commerce  
7 and so on. So, they're really wonderful neighbors  
8 and they support all of these groups, and when they  
9 do that it makes our town more viable, more lively,  
10 more full of life because they're helping us to  
11 continue in day to day issues.

12 And, I went to the presentation August  
13 8th at City Hall by NRC, and at that meeting they  
14 made it very clear that Exelon has met, if not  
15 exceeded, all their expectations regarding safety.  
16 And because of that, I just welcome the approval of  
17 the renewal license for our good neighbor, Exelon.  
18 Thank you very much.

19 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. I would like to  
20 invite Doug O'Brien from the Illinois Clean Energy  
21 Coalition.

22 MR. O'BRIEN: Thank you very much, it's  
23 O-B-r-i-e-n. And I'm the Executive Director of the  
24 Illinois Clean Energy Coalition. Our group that is  
25 supported by business, labor and policy leaders

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1 across the state promotes the development and use of  
2 clean energy in a competitive market that benefits  
3 both the environment and our economy. And regardless  
4 of where people are individually on what various  
5 policy courses they favor, I think everybody across  
6 the country wants to see our country move towards  
7 cleaner, a cleaner environment, and the cleaner  
8 generation of energy.

9 Now, we've heard a lot about the positive  
10 impacts that Braidwood has on the surrounding  
11 communities, the jobs, the economic impact, the  
12 millions of dollars that are invested in the  
13 community, but the positive impacts reach much  
14 further than the areas that benefit directly from the  
15 plant operations. Nuclear has also brought a broad  
16 benefit to the energy market in Illinois. It has  
17 impacted, had a positive impact on rates, and  
18 certainly on reliability, and as we've heard that is  
19 oftentimes a key factor in attracting and retaining  
20 good jobs.

21 And the benefits derived at Braidwood and  
22 other nuclear plants are not limited to the economy.

23 It's an enormous benefit that the generation of 18  
24 million megawatts of electricity at Braidwood last  
25 year produced no carbon air emissions. And that's an

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1 objective, that's a goal we all want to strive to in  
2 our country.

3 Earlier this year NASA's  
4 Goddard Institute, which is a leading research  
5 organization studying the impacts of climate change,  
6 sought to quantify the impact of nuclear power's  
7 carbon free emissions. Goddard's study found that  
8 replacing nuclear power with fossil fuel generation,  
9 would lead to approximately 76,000 deaths globally  
10 every year, primarily as a result of increased cardio  
11 and pulmonary disease.

12 This is even more important here in  
13 Illinois, as we all know the Chicago metropolitan  
14 area is designated as a non-attainment area by the  
15 EPA due to air pollution, and this situation would be  
16 greatly exacerbated without the existence of the  
17 Braidwood Generating Station, which produces energy  
18 to power up to two million homes, without adding to  
19 our existing environmental problems.

20 And I think it's also important to note  
21 that while we care tremendously about the local  
22 impacts, the environmental impact statement that  
23 we're talking about primarily here looks at a broad  
24 range of issues. In addition to local environmental  
25 issues, it looks at quality of life issues, revenues

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1 that are created, job creation and economic impact  
2 are all part of the environmental impacts of the  
3 Braidwood Generating Station.

4 And for these reasons the Illinois Clean  
5 Energy Coalition strongly urges the renewal of the  
6 operating license for the Braidwood station. Thank  
7 you.

8 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. I would like to  
9 invite Angie Hutton from the Braidwood Chamber.

10 MS. HUTTON: It's Angie Hutton, H-u-t-t-  
11 o-n, and on behalf of the Chamber, and I sent a blast  
12 e-mail out before I left the house, I got nothing  
13 derogatory from any of them again, Exelon supports  
14 our schools, all of our businesses, and not only with  
15 what they do for us but the people that work there,  
16 which is, definitely helps our businesses in town,  
17 and our schools couldn't do without them. I mean,  
18 they're just, they've been wonderful. Anything we've  
19 asked for, they've helped us as the chamber, and for  
20 that we say thank you.

21 And there was an issue with the tritium,  
22 and as being a good neighbor, which they promised  
23 when they started, they did remediate the area, they  
24 bought the property that was impacted, and with that  
25 they took aggressive action so that it doesn't happen

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1 again. And with that they also opened up great  
2 communications.

3 And as Dee said, the CAP, we go in there  
4 and they have no idea what questions we're bringing.

5 Anything that the public wants to know, anything  
6 that we want to know, and they do answer it right  
7 away, and if not, it's at the next meeting, but they  
8 have no idea. And with all that they do for support,  
9 they're meeting people everyday with no idea what  
10 people on the street are going to ask, and they do  
11 answer it. And that, in this day and age, is a big  
12 deal, there's no, well, I'll get back to you or let  
13 me see what I can find out, they do answer it.

14 So, with that and the support that  
15 they've given us, and Exelon will be speaking at our  
16 next chamber meeting, so, and they'll have no idea  
17 what those people are going to ask that morning.  
18 With that, we would like the license for the station  
19 to be renewed.

20 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. I would like to  
21 invite K. Denise Forrest from the community and  
22 Exelon.

23 MS. FORREST: Hello. Last name's  
24 Forrest, F-o-r-r-e-s-t. So first I'll talk to you as  
25 a community member. So my dad grew up in Braidwood

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1 and attended the one-room schoolhouse on Center  
2 Street, and I didn't venture far from home because I  
3 bought a house in Braidwood five years ago. My  
4 future son-in-law just bought a house in Braidwood in  
5 January. We're both employees of Braidwood Station  
6 and grateful to be employees of Braidwood Station.

7 We do all of our shopping in Braidwood,  
8 we see the physicians in Braidwood, even the people  
9 who don't live in Braidwood still use all the  
10 services that Braidwood offers. When I hear the  
11 truck go by spraying for mosquitoes at night I think,  
12 Braidwood may have impacted that by their tax money,  
13 so.

14 How, the impact, so I live on Bodeen  
15 Drive. My neighbors on both sides of my house are  
16 directly impacted by Braidwood Station, either as a  
17 contractor or as an employee. My neighbor on the  
18 back side of me is an operator. A block away from  
19 me, two employees from Braidwood Station. My son-in-  
20 law lives on Third Street, his neighbor is a  
21 contractor. So Exelon and Braidwood Station has a  
22 direct impact on the economy, just from a personal  
23 perspective.

24 Whenever I go to the grocery store or I'm  
25 at the mine, I'm always running into people that I

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1 work with, even the people who don't live locally,  
2 just out of convenience they'll stop at the grocery  
3 store, our gas is cheaper here, we gas our cars here.

4 Our taxes are cheaper here, so purchases are  
5 sometimes cheaper.

6 So, not only for the Exelon employees but  
7 also family-owned contractors. We support a lot of  
8 contractors by bidding out business at the plant, so  
9 a lot of them are also impacted directly.

10 As an employee, I'm a maintenance analyst  
11 at Braidwood. I'm proud to say that I was part of  
12 the start-up team from the 1980's, so I've been there  
13 quite a while. Not only is the equipment updated,  
14 but the people are updated as well, we are developed,  
15 so thank you to Exelon, they've developed me as well.

16 As I get new employees into the site, I'm  
17 so proud of our plant and the way that it looks and  
18 the perception when you see it, that I take my people  
19 for tours out in the plant so that they can talk to  
20 their neighbors and say, wow, that is just a great  
21 operation. It's not scary when you actually see it.

22 It's all the talk behind the scenes, when you don't  
23 actually get to witness it and see how clean and how  
24 professional it is.

25 Safety, so I am a community, I am

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1 community, Mark knows I say that all the time. So  
2 when we tied into the septic, or the sewer, selfishly  
3 I was worried about how that would, how my toilet  
4 would handle that at home. Pleased to announce no  
5 problems at all. So I'm always worried about the  
6 community aspect.

7 They are an excellent neighbor. The  
8 plant doesn't stink, it's not loud. When we do night  
9 activities we notify the community. It's just a  
10 respectful company to work for.

11 Lastly, industrial safety, radiation  
12 safety, I have no fears at all being, living in the  
13 community and living my entire life in the community.

14 We have so many systems, so many controls and so  
15 many monitors in place, and even with all that, you  
16 still, you have to have a culture. If you have the  
17 people and the equipment in place but you have a  
18 culture that doesn't support that questioning  
19 attitude of being your brother's keeper and looking  
20 out for everything, then you're not going to have a,  
21 you're not going to succeed in this business.

22 The expectation at Braidwood, and at any  
23 Exelon plant, is that if you see something that  
24 doesn't look right, you bring it up. We don't hide  
25 anything, we put it out there in the open and then we

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1 address it. And that's everybody's, everybody's  
2 responsibility, it's not just for Mark, it's not just  
3 for the manager, it's for the clerical person all the  
4 way up, the contractor, anybody to bring it up.

5 So knowing that culture, and that is the  
6 expectation, I'm grateful to be at Braidwood and I  
7 would like to be extended as well.

8 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. I would like to  
9 invite Philip O'Connor from Proactive Strategies,  
10 Inc.

11 MR. O'CONNOR: My name is Philip R.  
12 O'Connor, that's O-'-C-o-n-n-o-r. And first of all,  
13 thank you to the NRC for holding this meeting. In  
14 the early 1980's, during the peak construction period  
15 at both Braidwood and Byron, I was serving as  
16 Chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission, which  
17 is the utility regulatory body for our state. At  
18 that time I was also serving as the representative of  
19 all of the other state utility regulators on the  
20 board of, the Advisory Board of the Institute for  
21 Nuclear Power Operations. And one of the things that  
22 we came to an appreciation of during that period, and  
23 even more so since, is the connection between the  
24 safe practices in a nuclear plant and economic  
25 performance.

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1           That peak period of construction in the  
2 early 80's was one of substantial controversy about  
3 both the economics of the projects and the long run  
4 impact on electricity prices in northern Illinois, I  
5 know, because my home used to be regularly picketed,  
6 and I would be yelled at on the bus.

7           But let me tell you, and we all know it,  
8 things have worked out extraordinarily well, far  
9 better than most expected. Just three quick points.

10          First, both Braidwood and Byron have proven to be  
11 stellar performers with capacity factors well over 90  
12 percent. Second, in an era in which there's been  
13 both great uncertainty about the economics as well as  
14 the environmental aspects of fossil fuels, these two  
15 stations have had the advantage of a low cost, non-  
16 fossil fuel supply and all of the intended  
17 consequences of that.

18          Third, and this is particularly dear to  
19 my heart, Illinois was a pioneer in moving away from  
20 traditional electricity price regulation and toward  
21 customer choice and competition in the generation and  
22 supply sectors. The high performance and the low  
23 production costs at both Braidwood and Byron have  
24 been important factors in a successful transition  
25 from traditional regulation and competition.

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1           Let me just illustrate this. In the  
2 decade prior to Illinois' 1997 restructuring law, the  
3 average Illinois electricity price was consistently  
4 about 10 percent above the national average. In the  
5 more than a decade since the full implementation of  
6 choice, average Illinois electricity prices have been  
7 seven to eight percent below the national average.  
8 That 18 point swing has been worth about 35 billion  
9 dollars so far, and is growing every day.

10           As of the end of May, Illinois had the  
11 11th lowest electricity prices in the United States.

12       I mean, the only ones who have lower prices are  
13 those with, in the west, with a lot of hydroelectric  
14 power and so forth. And I think that just, you know,  
15 Mr. Moran's comment about his bill now compared to  
16 what it was, I think helps to illustrate the point.

17           So Byron and Braidwood are no longer  
18 owned by a utility, it's true they're affiliated with  
19 ComEd, but they are not part of the utility rate  
20 base, and they have been operating successfully as  
21 fully competitive assets in a highly competitive  
22 generation market. So the bottom line here is that  
23 Braidwood and Byron, if they are allowed to operate  
24 well into the future by being re-licensed, are likely  
25 to continue to play a positive role in maintaining

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1 Illinois' advantageous electricity price position,  
2 and that, of course, is a big plus for job creation  
3 and prosperity in Illinois.

4 So let me end where I began, and that is  
5 simply noting that Exelon's ongoing adherence to best  
6 practices for nuclear safety will be an important  
7 underpinning of ongoing strong economic performance  
8 of both those plants and of the Illinois electricity  
9 market. Thank you.

10 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Next I would  
11 like to invite Steve Quigley from the Will County  
12 Governmental League.

13 MR. QUIGLEY: Quigley, Q-u-i-g-l-e-y.  
14 Hi, I'm Steve Quigley, Will County Governmental  
15 League on behalf of the 32 communities that the Will  
16 County Governmental League represents. We would  
17 endorse the licensor to be renewed. On a personal  
18 note, in 1992 I became the Public Information  
19 Director for the Illinois Emergency Management  
20 Office, and, or agency actually, and as a public  
21 information director I had the opportunity and chance  
22 to view all the nuclear power stations in Illinois,  
23 and I learned a lot.

24 Number one, I didn't know that we had  
25 more active nuclear sites, or reactors in Illinois

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1 than any other state in the nation. Upon doing that,  
2 that was back in the ComEd days, I saw how safety was  
3 an important aspect to what goes on in any nuclear  
4 power station, and I also learned subsequently when I  
5 took this position how the Exelon/ComEd, it was ComEd  
6 when I started, now Exelon, took their community  
7 outreach. Community outreach to  
8 individuals in the communities I represent is  
9 paramount to having a utility such as a nuclear  
10 safety or nuclear production site like this, to what  
11 the mayors that I represent, they want to know, they  
12 want information, it's not just Braidwood, it's the  
13 communities throughout Will County. And one of the  
14 things, Mr. Greuling took about half my speech so I  
15 just left my notes on the thing, but we do represent  
16 almost 700,000 residents. Economic  
17 development is a very important aspect of what mayors  
18 do in their communities. John does it in a bigger  
19 picture, our mayor's do it, you know, for their own  
20 communities. Having clean, efficient service and  
21 reliability is a great economic benefit when mayors  
22 are going out and trying to do outreach to bring  
23 businesses into their communities, and the Will  
24 County community as a whole.

25 But I cannot commend the staff at this

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1 local station more for the outreach. They get in  
2 touch with me two or three times a year, ask if  
3 there's any meetings that they can attend, we have  
4 monthly meetings with our mayors and our city  
5 administrators, are there things they can come, is  
6 there anything they can do on the behalf to  
7 enlighten. They offer opportunities for the  
8 community leaders to come and tour the plant. I had  
9 the privilege of going right before they did the last  
10 generator turnover, which I think was a couple years  
11 ago.

12 I've had the opportunity to go since then  
13 but they were gearing up and the safety on the inside  
14 of the plant and the security on the outside of the  
15 plant in my humble opinion, as somebody who's seen  
16 this over the last 15 years, can't be matched. And  
17 we would endorse fully the NRC's extension for the  
18 next 20 years of this licensor. Thank you.

19 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Mr. Frank Antos  
20 from the Community Advisory Panel.

21 MR. ANTOS: That's A-n-t-o-s. As a long  
22 time resident of the area, I don't see any problem  
23 with them getting renewed on their license. They've  
24 been excellent, good neighbors. All I can tell you,  
25 that's, go for it.

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1 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Nancy Ammer  
2 from the Grundy Economic Development.

3 MS. AMMER: Good evening, last name  
4 Ammer, A-m-m-e-r. Like Mr. Quigley I'm tempted to  
5 say ditto and sit back down as I know you're all  
6 anxious to get home, but I just want to make a few  
7 quick comments. I'm with the Grundy Economic  
8 Development Counsel in Grundy County, the adjacent  
9 County over. And so we find ourselves really in an  
10 enviable position in that we are sandwiched by  
11 nuclear stations with LaSalle Station on our western  
12 border in the next county over, Braidwood here in  
13 Will County and then we're home to Dresden Station,  
14 all operated by Exelon and all excellently operated.

15 I also have the opportunity then from  
16 looking at them as existing businesses in our area,  
17 but then also what they bring to the table as we're  
18 trying to track new business to Illinois and to  
19 Grundy County. The robust energy market has been  
20 good for consumers, and it has also been good for  
21 existing businesses as well as in the attraction  
22 efforts of new businesses, especially as we're seeing  
23 some reemergence of manufacturing in our area, that  
24 have very energy-intensive types of businesses so  
25 that we are now, have statistically, the employment,

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1 the lowest in the country. It just gives more  
2 validation to what we've been working on.

3 The quality jobs that we see at  
4 Braidwood, that we see at Dresden, that we see at  
5 Exelon cannot be understated, especially in this  
6 environment of high unemployment. When you take  
7 those 800 plus jobs with excellent payroll, excellent  
8 benefits, multiple it by three, by all three of the  
9 stations, and all of a sudden you start to see  
10 significant impacts of payrolls in excess of \$80  
11 million here, multiply that by three with the three  
12 stations, employment of over 2,500.

13 And then also to not forget the  
14 multipliers that we see when there are the refueling  
15 outages. I can assure you as an economic development  
16 person, I can't speak on behalf of Mr. Greuling, but  
17 there's not a lot of people knocking on our doors to  
18 bring in \$80 million payroll to our community. We  
19 are thankful that they are here, we are thankful the  
20 commitment that they make to our taxing bodies, and  
21 on behalf of the Grundy Economic Development Counsel  
22 I would encourage the renewal of the license. Thank  
23 you.

24 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you everyone for your  
25 comments. I'd like to open it up to the floor, and

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1 if there's anybody who has not made a comment yet  
2 that would like to speak, please step up to the  
3 podium. Everybody wants to go home.

4 Okay, and I've got a few closing comments  
5 here. Thank you everyone again for your  
6 participation, for the comments, for attending the  
7 meeting this evening. And the comments provided will  
8 be addressed in the Scoping Summary Report for  
9 openness and transparency the Scoping Summary Report  
10 will be available publicly on the NRC license renewal  
11 website, and the address is in the handout.

12 And if there are any further comments you  
13 can provide them either in writing or electronically.

14 Please do so by September 27th. And the NRC is  
15 always looking for ways to improve our public meeting  
16 process, so there are feedback forms on the table, if  
17 you would like to fill one of those out. They're  
18 postage paid and you can send them in, and any  
19 improvements would be welcome.

20 Does anybody have any comments before we  
21 close the meeting? Then this meeting is adjourned.  
22 Thank you very much.

23 (Whereupon at 8:20 p.m. the meeting was  
24 adjourned.)  
25

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