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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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RELATED TO THE VIRGIL C. SUMMER
NUCLEAR STATION UNIT 1 SUBSEQUENT
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING RELATED TO THE VIRGIL
C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION UNIT 1 SUBSEQUENT LICENSE
RENEWAL APPLICATION

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THURSDAY,

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

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The meeting convened via Teleconference
at 2:00 p.m. EST, Lance Rakovan, Meeting Facilitator,
presiding.

NRC STAFF PRESENT:

LANCE RAKOVAN, NRC Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards (NMSS), Meeting Facilitator

MARIELIZ JOHNSON, NRC Office of Nuclear Reactor
Regulation (NRR), Safety Review Lead

KIM CONWAY, NMSS, Environmental Review Lead

JOHN MOSES, Deputy Director, Division of Rulemaking,
Environmental, and Financial Support (REFS), NMSS

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AGENDA

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P R O C E E D I N G S

2:01 p.m.

MR. RAKOVAN: My name is Lance Rakovan.

And I would like to welcome everyone to this webinar hosted by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or NRC. My colleagues, Marieliz Johnson and Kim Conway, will be our main presenters today. Can we go to the second slide, please?

Our goals today are to provide you with an overview of the subsequent license renewal process, both safety and environmental, for the V.C. Summer review and to solicit your input on the environmental issues that the NRC should address in our environmental review.

To avoid any potential confusion, I'd like to stress that we are here today to gather information to prepare an environmental impact statement, or EIS, to evaluate the environmental impacts for the potential license renewal of the operator and license for V.C. Summer Unit 1.

Given the breadth of NRC's licensing and oversight functions, we may have many different actions handled by other specialists throughout the agency at any given time.

On Monday, our Region II office will host

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1 a regulatory conference to discuss a finding with an
2 associated apparent violation at the V.C. Summer
3 site. This regulatory conference will be open to the
4 public observation. And the meeting details are
5 available on NRC's public meeting website. If you
6 are looking for more information about that event, we
7 encourage you to attend.

8 Today, we look forward to hearing your
9 scoping comments related to areas covered by our
10 environmental review. A term that you're going to
11 hear a lot today is scoping, which I've already used
12 a few times. It simply means determining the scope
13 of the environmental review, in this case for the
14 continued operation of the V.C. Summer plant.

15 Today's meeting is just one way that you
16 can participate in the process. And we will be going
17 into more detail about that soon. Slide 3, please.

18 So our agenda today, after providing an
19 overview of the license renewal process and some
20 opening remarks, after the presentation, we'll pause
21 briefly to see if anyone has any clarifying questions
22 about the information presented.

23 And after that comes the most important
24 part of this webinar where we will open the virtual
25 floor to receive your scoping comments. This is where

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1 we are hoping you will provide your input on what the
2 NRC should consider to be in scope of the NRC's
3 environmental review for V.C. Summer subsequent
4 license renewal. Slide 4, please.

5 So our primary speakers today, again,
6 will be Marieliz Johnson, Marieliz is the safety
7 review lead, and Kim Conway, who is the environmental
8 review lead. We also have with us today John Moses.
9 John is the Deputy Director of our Division of
10 Rulemaking, Environmental, and Financial Support.
11 And I think John wanted to say a few words kind of to
12 welcome folks. John, are you with us?

13 MR. MOSES: Yes, I am. Thanks, Lance.

14 Good afternoon, everyone. Thanks for
15 joining our first environmental scoping meeting for
16 the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station subsequent license
17 renewal application.

18 The purpose for our meeting is to inform
19 you about our review process, which you'll hear from
20 Marieliz and Kim, as well as to seek your input on
21 the kinds of environmental issues and topics that our
22 team should assess and consider when conducting the
23 environmental review.

24 We will conduct a second, in-person
25 meeting from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Eastern on November

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1 14th, next Tuesday, at the McCrorey-Liston School of
2 Technology, 1978 State Highway 215 in Blair, South
3 Carolina.

4 And just to let you know, the public
5 comment period is open until December 4, 2023.

6 Just to wrap up my remarks and let you
7 know about our values and how we approach our work,
8 our process encourages public participation and
9 transparency. Public participation, openness, and
10 transparency are key to all of NRC's activities,
11 including the licensing of nuclear facilities.

12 After the presenters describe the
13 Agency's process to conduct safety environmental
14 reviews, we'll pause and ask if there are any
15 questions or comments about the process for license
16 renewal. Then we'll solicit your comments or
17 questions about the applicant's environmental report.

18 So I'm looking forward to your feedback
19 on significant issues that you feel are important for
20 our staff to consider in their detailed analysis of
21 environmental issues related to this facility. Our
22 goal is to hear from you and collect any comments you
23 might have so that we may fully consider them during
24 our review.

25 Thank you in advance for your

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1 participation. And with that, I'll turn back over to
2 Lance.

3 MR. RAKOVAN: Thanks, John. Let's go
4 ahead and go to slide 5.

5 So, in terms of our overall logistics for
6 our webinar today, this is a comment gathering
7 meeting by the NRC's definition. So we are actively
8 seeking your input. Please note that we are
9 transcribing and recording today's meeting so the NRC
10 staff can be sure to get a full accounting of the
11 comments that you provide.

12 And I'd like to stress that no regulatory
13 decisions will be made at today's meeting. Slide 6,
14 please.

15 I'm going to turn things over to Kim
16 Conway now. Kim. Kim, you're muted.

17 MS. CONWAY: Thanks. Thanks, Lance.

18 Good afternoon. My name is Kim Conway.
19 I'm the environmental project manager for the V.C.
20 Summer subsequent license renewal environmental
21 review. I have some slides to provide some background
22 on the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station and its request.
23 Let me see. Are we on slide 6? Hold on one second
24 while we get the slides. Sorry.

25 (Pause.)

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1 MS. CONWAY: So V.C. Summer Unit 1 was
2 first licensed in November of 1982 and was granted an
3 initial renewed license in 2004. The current renewed
4 license expires in August of 2042. If a license
5 renewal is granted, it will be for an additional 20
6 years.

7 Dominion Energy South Carolina filed an
8 application for a subsequent license renewal for V.C.
9 Summer Unit 1 back in August of this year. The
10 license renewal application is required to contain
11 general information such as the applicant's name and
12 address, business and administrative information,
13 technical information, which pertains to aging
14 management. The technical information is the focus
15 of the safety review.

16 The application also includes an
17 environmental report, which is the applicant's
18 assessment of the environmental impacts associated
19 with continued operation. This information serves as
20 the starting point for the staff to review the
21 environmental aspects of the subsequent license
22 renewal for V.C. Summer.

23 I would now like to turn the presentation
24 over to Marieliz Johnson to provide a short overview
25 of our safety review process for the application.

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1 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, Kim.

2 And once again, my name is Marieliz
3 Johnson. And I'm the safety project manager for the
4 V.C. Summer subsequent license renewal review.

5 I will now walk us through the NRC's
6 subsequent license renewal review process as shown on
7 this slide. Starting from the left, the process
8 begins once a subsequent license renewal application,
9 or SLRA, has been accepted for review. Then the
10 process breaks into two parallel reviews, the safety
11 review, which is the one on the top, and the
12 environmental review in the middle. These two
13 reviews evaluate separate aspects of the license
14 renewal application.

15 On the safety side, following the staff
16 review of the application, the Advisory Committee of
17 Reactor Safeguards, or ACRS, completes an independent
18 review of the application to make a recommendation to
19 the Commission.

20 At the bottom of the flowchart, dotted
21 lines lead to hearings. The dotted lines represent
22 the opportunity for a hearing in accordance with the
23 Atomic Energy Act, which establishes a process for
24 members of the public to request involvement in
25 hearings on a variety of civilian matters, including

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1 subsequent license renewal. The Commission considers
2 the outcome of the hearing process in its decision on
3 whether or not to issue a renewed operating license.

4 Finally, with the inputs from the
5 environmental review, ACRS recommendation on the
6 safety review, as well as the staff findings on the
7 safety review, a final decision is made by the NRC.
8 Next slide, please.

9 The Atomic Energy Act authorizes the NRC
10 to issue a license for a commercial power reactor to
11 operate up to 40 years. These licenses can be renewed
12 for an additional 20 years at a time. This period
13 following the initial license term is known as the
14 period of extended operation.

15 Now, subsequent license renewal will
16 allow plants to operate beyond 60 years of the initial
17 license and its first renewal. Subsequent license
18 renewal will also be for 20 years.

19 The purpose of the safety review is to
20 identify aging effects that could impair ability of
21 safety, of system, structures, and components, or
22 SSC, within the scope of license renewal to perform
23 their intended functions and to demonstrate that
24 these aging effects will be adequately managed during
25 the period of extended operation. This scope has not

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1 changed from the initial license renewal to
2 subsequent license renewal.

3 As previously mentioned, in August of
4 2023, Dominion Energy South Carolina submitted a
5 subsequent license renewal application for V.C.
6 Summer Unit 1. After receiving the application, the
7 NRC conducted an acceptance review, the first
8 required review. The NRC determined that the
9 application was sufficient and acceptable for
10 docketing on October 11, 2023.

11 Then we move into our technical review,
12 which includes an aging management audit. The aging
13 management audit consists of three parts, the in-
14 office technical review audit, the on-site audit, and
15 the breakout audit. During all phases of the audit,
16 the NRC staff review the application, documents, and
17 references in greater detail.

18 As part of the safety review, the staff
19 also reviews the applicant's operating experience for
20 information applicable to aging management.
21 Following the audit, an audit report is issued. At
22 the very end, the staff will conduct its review in a
23 safety, will document -- I'm sorry. We will document
24 its review in a safety evaluation, or SE. Next slide,
25 please.

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1 The NRC ensures the adequate protection
2 of public health and safety and the environment
3 through the regulatory process, which is shown in
4 this slide. The regulatory process consists in five
5 major components.

6 We develop regulations and guidance for
7 applicants and licensees. We license or certify
8 applicants to either use nuclear material, operate
9 nuclear facilities for the Commission, oversee
10 licensees' operation and facilities to ensure that
11 licensees comply with the safety requirements. We
12 evaluate operating experience at licensed facilities
13 or involved license activities.

14 In support of our regulatory decisions,
15 we conduct research, hold hearings to address the
16 concerns of parties affected by the Agency, and
17 obtain independent reviews. With license renewal,
18 the regulatory process now considers aging management
19 as represented by the red block and arrow.

20 Now we'll turn it back to Kim, who will
21 discuss the environmental review. Next slide.

22 MS. CONWAY: Sorry. I did that again.
23 Thanks, Marieliz. And I'll switch back to some slides
24 that are specific to the environmental review.

25 The National Environmental Policy Act, or

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1 NEPA, which you've probably heard about, obligates
2 federal agencies to consider environmental impacts in
3 federal actions. The NRC's specific environmental
4 regulations are contained in 10 CFR Part 51.

5 The objective of our environmental review
6 is to determine if environmental impacts of
7 subsequent license renewal are so great that
8 subsequent license renewal would not be a reasonable
9 option or, more plainly, if subsequent license
10 renewal is unacceptable from an environmental
11 standpoint. Next slide.

12 Our environmental review considers the
13 impacts of continuing to operate the plant for an
14 additional 20 years and any proposed mitigation of
15 those impacts as warranted. We also consider the
16 impacts of reasonable alternatives to the proposed
17 action of subsequent license renewal, including the
18 impacts of not issuing a subsequent renewed license.

19 The staff documents its environmental
20 review in an environmental impact statement, or an
21 EIS. The staff has developed a generic environmental
22 impact statement that addresses a number of issues
23 common to all nuclear power plants.

24 For license renewals, the staff
25 supplements the generic EIS with a site-specific EIS

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1 in which we will address issues that are specific to
2 that site. The staff also reexamines the conclusions
3 reached in that generic EIS to determine if there is
4 new and significant information that could change
5 those conclusions. Next slide, please.

6 For the subsequent license renewal
7 review, a team of NRC subject matter experts, many of
8 whom are listening in today, will be reviewing a wide
9 range of environmental resource areas to prepare a
10 site-specific EIS for the V.C. Summer subsequent
11 license renewal. This slide gives you an idea of the
12 areas evaluated.

13 Some of these areas covered in the review
14 are terrestrial and aquatic ecology, environmental
15 justice, water resources, air quality, human health,
16 and historic and cultural resources. Next slide,
17 please.

18 This slide is a good illustration of
19 those different areas the staff reviews and considers
20 as part of preparing the environmental impact
21 statement. Hopefully it can give you a better picture
22 of some of the areas covered by our environmental
23 review and their interrelationships. Next slide,
24 please.

25 In conducting our environmental review,

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1 we coordinate and consult with various local, state,
2 federal, and tribal officials and gather pertinent
3 information from these sources to ensure it is
4 considered in our analysis. As illustrated on this
5 slide about consulting agencies, examples include
6 Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA, State Historic
7 Preservation Officer and so on.

8 As part of the environmental review, the
9 staff may hold public meetings to receive comments on
10 the draft EIS. And as for why we're here today for
11 environmental scoping, I'm now going to discuss some
12 of that in more detail. Next slide, please.

13 The environmental review begins with a
14 scoping process. And the purpose is to identify
15 significant issues that should be considered during
16 our environmental review. We're currently gathering
17 information that we'll use to prepare our
18 environmental impact statement for the subsequent
19 license renewal application for V.C. Summer.

20 As part of that process, today, we would
21 like your comments on the scope of the environmental
22 review, that is the environmental impacts that the
23 staff should consider in the areas we discussed
24 previously, in prior slides.

25 The scoping period started on November

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1 3rd when a notice of intent to prepare an EIS and
2 conduct scoping was published in the Federal
3 Register. The NRC will be accepting comments on the
4 scope of the environmental review until December 4th.

5 In general, we're looking for information
6 about environmental impacts from the continued
7 operation of the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station during
8 the period of extended operation, that being from
9 2042 to 2062. You can assist us in that process by
10 telling us, for example, what aspects of your local
11 community should we focus on, what local
12 environmental, social, and economic issues the NRC
13 should examine during the environmental review, and
14 what reasonable alternatives may be most appropriate
15 for your local area.

16 Those are just some examples of the input
17 that we're looking for. And they represent the kinds
18 of information that we're seeking through our
19 environmental scoping period, which again runs until
20 December 4th. Your comments today will be helpful in
21 providing insight of this nature for our
22 environmental analysis. Next slide, please.

23 Here are important milestone that our
24 environmental review process will follow. If you
25 have environmental scoping process, sorry, if you

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1 have environmental scoping comments and you would
2 like to submit those outside of today's meeting, you
3 have until December 4th to do so.

4 For those located near the plant, as John
5 mentioned earlier, there will be an in-person meeting
6 opportunity at the McCrorey-Liston School next
7 Tuesday, November 14th. That meeting will begin at
8 6:00 p.m. And we'll also be around beforehand if
9 you, you know, want to stop by and ask us any
10 questions before the meeting starts.

11 Based on our current schedule, we plan to
12 issue a draft environmental impact statement for
13 public comment by next November. This is another way
14 you can be involved in the process. Once it's kind
15 of further down the line, members of the public will
16 have an opportunity to provide comments on that draft
17 environmental impact statement that the staff
18 prepares.

19 While this slide lists milestones for the
20 environmental review and opportunities for public
21 involvement, the safety review will be performed in
22 parallel on a similar but separate schedule. Next
23 slide, please.

24 This slide identifies primary points of
25 contact within the NRC for license renewal of the

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1 V.C. Summer Nuclear Station. The other individual
2 listed here is Ed Miller. He's the senior project
3 manager who is the current operating reactor PM for
4 V.C. Summer. Next slide, please.

5 For those members of the public who may
6 be located in the V.C. Summer area, the Fairfield
7 County Library has agreed to make the license renewal
8 application available for public inspection. If you
9 don't have access to the internet or, you know, you
10 just prefer to look at it in a hard copy, feel free
11 to share that information with anyone who you think
12 would want to take a look at the application. A draft
13 EIS will also be available at the library when it's
14 published for comment.

15 In addition, these documents will
16 continue to be available on the NRC public website.
17 Next slide, please.

18 As mentioned earlier, the most important
19 piece of today's meeting is to receive comments that
20 you all have on the scope of the environmental review.
21 Here are some various ways you can go about submitting
22 your comments for the review. They all count just
23 the same. They'll all end up in the same place in
24 our scoping report.

25 You can provide comments here today. You

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1 can provide written comments by mailing to the
2 address on this slide. You can email us at
3 SummerEnvironmental@nrc.gov., or the federal
4 rulemaking regulations.gov website at the docket ID
5 listed will bring you to a place you can submit
6 comments through regulations.gov.

7 There are a lot of different ways to
8 provide comments. Again, they all count the same.
9 And they should be submitted by December 4th.

10 And I'd like to turn things back over to
11 Lance now.

12 MR. RAKOVAN: Thanks, Kim.

13 So let's go ahead and shift to slide 21.
14 Again, I just want to remind folks and hopefully avoid
15 any potential confusion, again, we're here today to
16 gather information to prepare an environmental impact
17 statement to evaluate the environmental impacts for
18 potential license renewal of the operator license for
19 V.C. Summer.

20 On Monday, our Region II office will host
21 a regulatory conference to discuss a finding with an
22 associated apparent violation at the V.C. Summer
23 site. The regulatory conference is open to public
24 observation. And the meeting details can be found on
25 NRC's public meeting schedule. If you are looking

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1 for more information about that issue, we encourage
2 you to attend that meeting.

3 Today, again, we're hoping to hear your
4 scoping comments related to areas covered by our
5 environmental review. So we have a couple ways. For
6 those of you who are participating on Teams, you can
7 use your raise my hand button, and we will allow your
8 microphone. For those of you who are on the phone,
9 you can press star 5 in order to raise your hand.

10 And I will go ahead and go through the
11 hands as I see them in order with an emphasis on
12 making sure that everyone has at least one chance to
13 have their time at the microphone. So I'm going to
14 go ahead and fade into the background.

15 Let's go ahead. I see our first hand
16 belongs to Paul Gunter. Paul, you should be able to
17 unmute yourself and provide your comments or question
18 at this time. Paul, are you with us?

19 All right. Mitchell, can you bring up
20 slide 22, please? Hoping that we wouldn't need this
21 slide. But if you have any issues with unmuting
22 yourself once it's time to provide a question or
23 comment, the first thing you could do, the easiest,
24 is to just drop off the meeting and log back on.

25 We have the bridge line information here,

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1 which is also listed on our public meeting schedule.
2 You can call in. Or you can check your device in
3 Teams. Go to the more button, which is the three
4 little dots, and choose settings, device settings, to
5 make sure that your microphone is, that the
6 microphone that you're attempting to use is linked
7 properly if you will.

8 Paul, I'm going to give you, I'm going to
9 check in with you one more time before I go to the
10 next hand. Are you with us?

11 MR. GUNTER: Yes, I can -- yes, there it
12 is. Can you hear me?

13 MR. RAKOVAN: There you are. Yes, we can
14 hear you, Paul. Please proceed.

15 MR. GUNTER: My vision is failing me. I
16 can't find that little icon.

17 Thank you. My name is Paul Gunter. And
18 I'm with Beyond Nuclear in Takoma Park, Maryland. We
19 have constituents in South Carolina, in the 50-mile
20 EPZ.

21 But with regard to the transcript and the
22 video recording of this oral scoping process, does it
23 get posted to ADAMS separately in advance of the
24 written comment posting or do you wait?

25 MR. RAKOVAN: So once -- and I'll go ahead

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1 and address this. Once this meeting is concluded and
2 we receive the draft transcriptions from both
3 meetings, we'll put that together with a meeting
4 summary and publish that in public ADAMS. So that
5 will go out in a, on a separate timeline than any
6 scoping summary report or anything else associated
7 with the scoping process.

8 MR. GUNTER: Okay. Thanks.

9 MR. RAKOVAN: Sure. Did you have
10 anything else while you have the floor, Paul?

11 MR. GUNTER: No.

12 MR. RAKOVAN: Okay.

13 MR. GUNTER: I'll wait for the public
14 comment period.

15 MR. RAKOVAN: Okay. All right. The next
16 hand that I see is, it just says Priscilla.
17 Priscilla, you should be able to unmute.

18 MS. PRESTON: Yes. Can you hear me?

19 MR. RAKOVAN: We can. Please proceed.

20 MS. PRESTON: Okay. Great. And now this
21 is just the questions. Is that right?

22 MR. RAKOVAN: Yeah, if we could stick
23 with clarifying questions at this point, that would
24 be great. We'll shift to commenting as soon as we
25 exhaust those.

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1 MS. PRESTON: Yeah, I'm not sure these
2 are clarifying questions. But I'll just go ahead and
3 start.

4 Has V.C. Summer installed thicker piping
5 in the generator system as promised after the yellow
6 finding was issued? I didn't see that in their
7 response.

8 MR. RAKOVAN: So I'll just pause to see
9 if anybody online knows about that. But again, given
10 the focus of this meeting and that we're focused
11 specifically on environmental scoping, it's probable
12 that no one online is cognizant of that. And I'm
13 sure nobody wants to weigh in if they don't have a
14 good understanding of the issue.

15 So I'm going to assume that that's a bit
16 out of the scope of anything that we can address.
17 But if you wanted to reach out to any of the NRC staff
18 that are on today, we can certainly try to find the
19 right person to answer that question for you and get
20 back to you after the meeting.

21 MS. PRESTON: Okay. I have several other
22 questions. They're sort of -- if it's not, if it's
23 something that can be answered later, that's fine.

24 But the NRC had requested proactively
25 monitoring for leakage in the cracked pipes rather

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1 than, you know, just reacting to the cracks as they
2 happen and fixing them and then going on. Do you
3 know if that has changed, or is the NRC following up
4 with that?

5 MR. RAKOVAN: Again, I'll pause to see if
6 anyone on knows or would like to address this. But
7 I think your questions are going to be outside of the
8 scope of what we can answer at today's meeting.

9 MS. PRESTON: Okay. What about -- well,
10 okay. So I think you were referring to procedural
11 clarification questions. Is that right?

12 MR. RAKOVAN: Correct.

13 MS. PRESTON: Not -- okay. I'm sorry.
14 All right. That's fine. I'll wait for the comment
15 period.

16 MR. RAKOVAN: Okay. Thank you.

17 MS. PRESTON: Thank you.

18 MR. RAKOVAN: All right. Elaine Cooper.
19 Elaine Cooper, you should be able to unmute and ask
20 your clarifying question at this time.

21 MS. COOPER: I just had a general
22 question. So, and again, you may or may not be able
23 to answer, but I still want to go on record just
24 stating the question.

25 The NRC plans to conduct an aging

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1 management audit from November 6, 2023 to February 7,
2 2024. So how can any movement go forward on this
3 licensing when, how can the NRC take public comments
4 without this completion of this audit along with the
5 publication of the aging results that according to
6 this will not be accomplished till February 7, 2024?
7 That's my question.

8 MR. RAKOVAN: Marieliz, do you want to
9 address this one?

10 MS. JOHNSON: So, yeah, Elaine, we, like
11 you said, we are conducting a regulatory audit. And
12 we plan to complete the audit on February of 2025,
13 I'm sorry, in 2024. And after that, 90 days after we
14 complete the audit, we issue an audit summary. So
15 there's where you can see all our, all we review and
16 all our findings for the safety audit. Does that --

17 MR. RAKOVAN: Anybody else? Sorry. I
18 was going to see if anybody else wanted to weigh in
19 on that. I think really the, you know, what we're
20 saying is that we are doing the safety and
21 environmental reviews concurrently. So the re-
22 licensing will hinge upon the results of both of those
23 reviews. Ms. Cooper, does that answer your question?
24 You've muted again. Okay. There you are.

25 MS. COOPER: Not really. But I -- but

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1 anyway, moving on.

2 MR. RAKOVAN: All right. I have one more
3 hand. Jeff Mitman, if you have a clarifying question,
4 go ahead and ask. And then --

5 MR. MITMAN: Yes.

6 MR. RAKOVAN: -- I think we'll go ahead
7 and move to commenting.

8 MR. MITMAN: Yes, this is Jeff Mitman.
9 Can you hear me?

10 MR. RAKOVAN: Yes, we can. Please
11 proceed.

12 MR. MITMAN: All right. I'm a retired
13 NRC risk analyst. And I've got a question, an area
14 of concern about climate change. How will the review
15 process address climate change on both the
16 environmental impact and the safety reviews?

17 MS. CONWAY: Hi, Jeff. As part of the
18 environmental review, we're primarily focused on the
19 impacts that the continued operation of the plant
20 will have on the environment when we're looking at
21 climate change and things of that nature. As far as
22 the effects of climate change on the plant over, you
23 know, an extended period of time, that's continually
24 addressed through our operating oversight programs
25 and various safety reviews.

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1 MR. MITMAN: So I assume you guys are
2 aware of the Council on Environmental Quality Federal
3 Register notice from January 9th of this year. And
4 it's entitled NEPA Guidance on Consideration of
5 Greenhouse Gas Submissions and Climate Change. And
6 section five of that stipulates that the review
7 should look at the climate change impact on the
8 proposed change.

9 So that's going to be an area of
10 considerable interest. And I don't think the
11 oversight process is adequate in that sense. So
12 you'll probably be getting some comments on that
13 during, as part of the formal review. So I just want
14 to let you guys know about that so you're prepared.

15 MS. CONWAY: Yeah. And like I said,
16 certainly submit those comments and we'll make sure
17 they're considered in the review. I'm not a climate
18 change expert. I'm just the project manager. But it
19 will be passed along to whoever the cognizant experts
20 are that will be performing the reviews.

21 MR. MITMAN: Okay. Again, I'd suggest
22 you take a hard look at that RN notice because that's
23 very relevant. Thank you.

24 MR. RAKOVAN: All right. I don't see any
25 other hands at this point. So, Paul. I see Paul's

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1 hand. Let's see if we can get him back up. Paul,
2 did you have another question, or did you want the
3 first spot, if you will, on providing comments?

4 MR. GUNTER: Thank you, Lance. I jumped
5 the gun. I did want to comment, enter my comment,
6 though.

7 MR. RAKOVAN: Yeah, that's okay. Please,
8 by all means. I was just about to say why don't we
9 move to commenting. So --

10 MR. GUNTER: Thank you.

11 MR. RAKOVAN: -- the floor is yours,
12 Paul.

13 MR. GUNTER: Thank you very much. My
14 name is Paul Gunter. I am with Beyond Nuclear in
15 Takoma Park, Maryland. We are, we have constituents
16 in the South Carolina, in the 50-mile radius.

17 And I'd just like to segue onto Mr.
18 Mitman's comment. You know, the National
19 Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, requires the
20 consideration of all relevant environmental impact
21 information.

22 Therefore, you know, why is the NRC only
23 considering the V.C. Summer unit's 60 to 80-year
24 license extension's impact on climate change and not
25 climate change's environmental impacts on the nuclear

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1 power station's safe and reliable operations for the
2 subsequent license renewal period?

3 I mean, after all, you know, this is the
4 public's opportunity to address the issues at hand
5 within, you know, the opportunity for public hearing
6 and need to intervene. So, you know, again, we think
7 that it's only fair to provide NEPA the hard look
8 that it requires for, and the opportunity for the
9 public process to exercise its due process.

10 And I'm going to offer you an example,
11 that on February 16, 2023 the lead NRC meteorologist
12 for the Office of Nuclear Regulation testified before
13 a newly formed study committee of the National
14 Academies of Science, NAS, that the Agency is only
15 considering the NAS modernization for probable
16 maximum precipitation estimation, or PMP, and its
17 relevance to flooding as a result of climate change
18 for new reactor designs and not operating license
19 renewal.

20 So this, we would like your comments to
21 address in the -- again, going back to Jeff's concerns
22 that, you know, the public has due process in this.
23 And we keep going round and round over this. And
24 let's just resolve it now. Thank you.

25 MR. RAKOVAN: All right. Thanks, Paul.

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1 I will see if we have any other hands. Anyone else
2 wish to provide scoping comments at this time? All
3 right. I see Priscilla. Let me go ahead. All right.
4 Priscilla, you should be able to unmute.

5 MS. PRESTON: All right. Thank you. Can
6 you hear me?

7 MR. RAKOVAN: We can.

8 MS. PRESTON: Okay. Again, my name is
9 Priscilla Preston from Columbia, South Carolina, 25
10 miles south of V.C. Summer. And I appreciate this
11 opportunity to discuss the environmental impacts of
12 V.C. Summer license renewal.

13 Recently, of course, there's been a lot
14 of discussion about the yellow alert with the backup
15 diesel generators. And again, to go back to the
16 discussion about climate change, that's going to make
17 the backup systems even more critical, because
18 there's a much greater chance now that we will have
19 loss of grid power due to the frequency of storms and
20 the intensity of storms.

21 And again, as everyone knows, the yellow
22 alert is the second highest alert there is. Only
23 seven other alerts have been given since 2009 for all
24 100, you know, over 100 nuclear power plants. So I
25 think that's an indication that maybe safety

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1 standards aren't maybe what they should be. And these
2 warnings were issued multiple times. Several cracks
3 have been found a half dozen times in the past 20
4 years in pipes that carry fuel to emergency
5 generators that provide cooling water for a reactor
6 if electricity fails.

7 So, again, that's something that I would
8 really like to know. I know that a response has come
9 out. But I think the summary of the response from
10 Dominion was it was, they are requesting a downgrade
11 to a white finding, which doesn't sound like that
12 would solve the problem. So I urge NRC to safeguard
13 the safety of South Carolinians and continue to press
14 Dominion to make the necessary changes so that the
15 problem is solved.

16 And all of this, the cracks and the
17 equipment is a result of aging components, which is
18 another reason that they should not be allowed a
19 license renewal, because the, there's intense heat,
20 pressure, and radiation exposure on the equipment.
21 So the effects of aging are intensified or greater
22 than they would be in some other form of operation.
23 So, for these reasons, I'm asking NRC not to give the
24 subsequent license renewal for 20 years.

25 And I had some, the questions I had

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1 earlier, I'm again concerned about the root cause
2 evaluation that hasn't been done. And again, the
3 response referred to the root cause evaluation. But
4 I couldn't tell if it had even yet, if that has been
5 done. So all of these things are extreme
6 environmental concerns.

7 Also, there were cracks in the reactor
8 pressure vessel head, which had to eventually be
9 replaced. But what about the reactor pressure vessel
10 itself? That's also aging. And that's, I don't
11 believe that's really practical to consider replacing
12 that.

13 And then the radioactive elements into
14 the water supply, in the water intake facility for
15 the City of Columbia, is Dominion monitoring that?
16 And if they are monitoring it, what do they plan to
17 do to eliminate it when they do find it? Again, this
18 is directly related to our drinking water supply.

19 So I hope that all of these issues will
20 be carefully considered before any more, before
21 considering a license extension of any kind. Thank
22 you.

23 MR. RAKOVAN: Thank you. Okay. I see
24 our next hand is Elaine Cooper. Elaine, you should
25 be able to unmute and give your comments.

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1 MS. COOPER: Yes. I would like to follow
2 up on Priscilla Preston's comment. I live in
3 Columbia, too, 25 miles out. Well, in the past, they
4 identified, NRC identified a pattern of cracks and
5 leaks going back 20 years in the plant's emergency
6 generator system.

7 And my other concern other than climate
8 change is that David Lochbaum, former NRC instructor
9 and expert on the inner workings of nuclear power
10 plants, had said probably operating diesel systems
11 ensure safety after hurricanes and earthquakes. I
12 just want to go on record that South Carolina has had
13 a higher than usual number of earthquakes.

14 That's another safety concern of the
15 surrounding community, that, my God, because of the
16 yellow alert, we're all very, very concerned about
17 the aging components of this generator and other
18 aging components. And along with our increased storm
19 activity, we also have to consider earthquakes. So
20 I just want to go on record mentioning the
21 earthquakes, besides the increased storm activity.

22 We're very, very concerned about the
23 safety of our surrounding community and how Columbia
24 would be affected 25 miles away if there was a major
25 incident. Thanks.

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1 MR. RAKOVAN: Thank you. Okay. I ask
2 again, if you wish to provide a comment on MS Teams,
3 please use your raise my hand button, which is the
4 little hand. On the phone, you can press star 5, and
5 that will essentially do the same thing as raising
6 your hand on my screen. And we will take hands as we
7 see them to allow folks to provide scoping comments.

8 So I don't see any hands right now. But
9 I will pause so that we can give folks a chance to
10 find their buttons. So we'll pause for a moment to
11 give folks a chance.

12 Okay. While folks are potentially
13 looking, why don't we go ahead and move a slide back
14 to slide 20? I always like to go over this several
15 times during the meeting.

16 Again, today is certainly not your last
17 chance to provide your comments. We do have another
18 in-person scoping meeting scheduled for next week.
19 And you can also provide your comments by mail to our
20 Office of Administration, that's Washington, D.C.
21 20555, or if you go to the regulations.gov website
22 and search for docket ID NRC-2023-0152 and provide
23 your comments that way, or you can email to
24 SummerEnvironmental@nrc.gov.

25 Again, we hope that you can provide your

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1 comments by December 4th. If you provide them
2 afterwards, we will do our best to include them,
3 depending on where we are in our processes and if we
4 are able to incorporate those into our processes.

5 Okay. I'll pause again to see if anyone
6 has any comments that they would like to provide.
7 Mitchell, can we go to slide 21, please? Thank you.

8 Again, if you're looking to provide a
9 comment at today's meeting, please use the raise my
10 hand feature if you are on MS Teams, or if you're on
11 your phone, press star 5 on your phone and that will
12 raise your hand on my screen. We'll pause for a
13 moment to see if anyone has any additional comments
14 they'd like to share.

15 (Pause.)

16 MR. RAKOVAN: So, not seeing any hands at
17 this time. Maybe we should go ahead and slowly move
18 to close. I'll keep an eye out to see if anyone has
19 any late comments. But, Kim or John, do you want to
20 go ahead and finish up with some closing remarks?
21 And again, I'll keep an eye on hands.

22 MR. MOSES: Great. Thanks, Lance.

23 And good afternoon, everyone. On behalf
24 of the entire staff, I wanted to thank you for taking
25 the time to attend today's meeting and just to remind

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1 everyone, two upcoming meetings. Next Monday there
2 will be a meeting to discuss some of the issues that
3 were raised during this meeting, a regulatory
4 conference. And you can look at our public meeting
5 system for more details on when that will be. And
6 then we'll have a round two of the public
7 environmental scoping meeting next Tuesday from 6:00
8 to 8:00 with an open house from 5:00 to 6:00.

9 So, if you have any comments in addition
10 to what you've shared today, please provide them to
11 us. Probably the easiest way is to our public website
12 at www.regulations.gov. And to find this document
13 quickly, it's NRC-2023-0152. Once again, the docket
14 ID, you can put that in the search bar, NRC-2023-
15 0152. Also you can provide them by email as shown on
16 the slides or even send a postal mail letter. Thanks.
17 Perfect.

18 And we'll look at all of those comments.
19 The team will evaluate them, put them in a group, and
20 then issue a scoping summary report summarizing the
21 conclusions of the scoping process. We'll take those
22 comments and consider those as we conduct the
23 environmental review.

24 And we anticipate issuing the draft
25 environmental impact statement in the winter of 2024,

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1 as Kim pointed out. Once we issue that draft
2 environmental impact statement, we'll have another
3 public comment meeting and also a comment period to
4 receive additional input from you.

5 So, finally, we appreciate today's
6 questions and sharing of perspectives. And even
7 though this is an environmental scoping meeting, we
8 will bring back what we heard to the appropriate
9 safety team for their reviews as well.

10 And thank you for your comments,
11 questions, and taking the time with us. And I hope
12 you have a wonderful afternoon.

13 MR. RAKOVAN: All right. Thank you,
14 John.

15 With that, we are closed. Thank you,
16 everyone. Take care.

17 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
18 went off the record at 2:49 p.m.)

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