

Official Transcript of Proceedings

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION **CORRECTED TRANSCRIPT**

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Enrichment Facility Draft EIS
Public Meeting: Afternoon Session

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Pages 1-63

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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GENERAL ELECTRIC-HITACHI

GLOBAL LASER ENRICHMENT FACILITY

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PUBLIC MEETING

+ + + + +

Thursday,

July 22nd, 2010

+ + + + +

Wilmington, North Carolina

+ + + + +

The Public Meeting was held at 12:00 p.m., at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, 601 South College Road, Wilmington, North Carolina, William Burton, Facilitator, presiding.

APPEARANCES:

WILLIAM BURTON - Facilitator

LARRY CAMPER

TIM JOHNSON

JENNIFER DAVIS

KEVIN HSUEH

MICHAEL TSCHILTZ

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

2:30 p.m.

1
2
3 FACILITATOR BURTON: I guess we will go on
4 and get started. I want to welcome everybody. My
5 name is William Burton, I'm, in my day job I'm a
6 branch chief in the NRC's Office of New Reactors, but
7 today I'm wearing a different hat, I will be
8 facilitating the meeting.

9 I appreciate everybody coming out on this
10 nice cool summer day. My role, as the facilitator, is
11 to help ensure that we have a useful meeting, that
12 everyone can get their questions answered, and provide
13 comments to the staff.

14 This is the first of two meetings that we
15 are going to have today. Both are on the same topic,
16 and it involves the staff's evaluation of an
17 application submitted by General Electric--Hitachi
18 Global Laser Enrichment, LLC.

19 We will probably refer to them either as
20 GE or the Applicant, throughout the meeting. But
21 their application is to build and operate a uranium
22 enrichment facility, here in Wilmington, using laser
23 based technology.

24 ~~More specifically,~~ today's meeting has two
25 purposes. First is to discuss the staff's findings

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1 from the staff's ~~E~~environmental ~~R~~review of GE's
2 application, and share those findings with you.

3 ~~_____~~ And, ~~r~~ secondly, to provide an opportunity
4 for you to comment on the staff's draft findings. The
5 staff performed this review in coordination with other
6 federal and state agencies, and reviewed the
7 Environmental Report that was submitted by GE.

8 We documented the findings in the Draft
9 Environmental Impact Statement, which hopefully many
10 of you have had an opportunity to look at.

11 I want to talk a little bit about the
12 format of the meeting, and also go over some ground
13 rules.

14 The format of the meeting. First, what is
15 going to happen is we are going to have a series of
16 speakers who are going to present to you the role, and
17 responsibilities, ~~r~~ of the NRC during the review,
18 provide an overview of the licensing process, and then
19 we will provide the ~~D~~draft ~~F~~findings from the staff's
20 review. ~~_____~~

21 ~~_____~~ After that, we are going to have a short
22 Q&A session, ~~r~~ that is going to be an opportunity for
23 you to ask us any questions you may have about the
24 ~~E~~environmental ~~R~~review ~~P~~process.

25 And then after that we are going to go

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1 into what is really the heart of the meeting, which is
2 for us to hear your comments, and an opportunity for
3 you to provide input to us on the findings from the
4 ~~E~~environmental ~~R~~review that we performed.

5 A little bit about the ground rules. We
6 all want to have a good meeting, and we have done this
7 for quite a while. And so there are some things that
8 we would like to share with you, to help ensure that
9 we do have a smooth meeting.

10 First of all, we do want to have your
11 questions, but we would prefer that you hold your
12 questions until after the presentations.

13 ~~—~~The presentations ~~is~~are an opportunity to
14 give a complete overview of the staff's draft
15 findings, so it is important that we be able to
16 communicate that.

17 As I mentioned before, the Q&A session
18 will be following immediately after the presentations,
19 and that will be your opportunity to ask whatever
20 questions you may have.

21 We have brought several people, from the
22 staff, who hopefully will be able to answer all the
23 questions you may have. If for some reason we can't,
24 we will make sure that we get back to you with an
25 answer. We do try to close the loop with you on that.

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1 When we go into the comments portion, you
2 need to know that the entire meeting is transcribed.
3 We have Mr. Ed Johns here, who will be our
4 transcriber, and all of the comments that you provide
5 this evening will also be included with any written
6 comments that are provided to us during the comment
7 period.

8 And I just wanted to let you know that any
9 | comments that you provide here today, carry the same
10 weight as any written comments that are provided
11 during the comment period.

12 We do ask that we have only one speaker at
13 a time. The reason being is because it is being
14 transcribed, it is very important that we get a clean
15 transcript. So we do ask that we have one
16 conversation, one speaker at a time.

17 It is important that everyone who does
18 speak, that we give them the proper respect. We are
19 going to have varying views of this project, but we do
20 want to make sure that every speaker gets the respect
21 that they deserve.

22 If anybody has their cell phones on, if
23 | you could turn them off, or put them on vibrate, that
24 would be a great benefit to us. I was asked to let
25 you know that there are certain places that you can

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1 park, and there are certain places you shouldn't park.

2 If you've parked some place that you
3 shouldn't, you should be okay. Officer Albertson, in
4 the back, if you wind up getting a ticket, just see
5 him, and he will take care of it. I could have used
6 him many times in the past.

7 A quick comment. Rest-rooms are off the
8 hallway directly behind here, if you need to go.
9 Hopefully everyone has grabbed a set of slides,
10 presentation slides. If you haven't, we do have
11 copies at the front table.

12 One of the things that we try to do here,
13 at the NRC, we do a lot of public meetings, and we are
14 always looking to improve how we do them. And so as
15 part of that, one of the things that we also have on
16 the front table are feedback forms.

17 So if you have any strong comments, or any
18 feedback that you want to give us on how we can
19 improve our future public meetings, please let us
20 know, you can use that form.

21 Questions about anything, anything I have
22 said so far?

23 (No response.)

24 FACILITATOR BURTON: Okay, so far so good.

25 Next thing I want to do is briefly introduce our main

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1 | presenters, and some of the other key staff from the
2 | Agency, and then after that we will get into the heart
3 | of the meeting.

4 | Our first presenter is going to be Mr.
5 | Larry Camper, here in the middle. Mr. Camper is the
6 | Director of the Division of Waste Management and
7 | Environmental Programs in the NRC's Office of Federal
8 | and State Materials and Environmental Management
9 | Programs. That is a mouthful.

10 | ~~_____~~We generally refer to that office as FSME.

11 | So you may hear that this evening. Mr. Camper
12 | received his bachelor's degree in Radiological
13 | Science, and an MBA from George Washington University,
14 | and he has over 36 years of experience in the nuclear
15 | field, both public and private.

16 | Currently he serves as the USA
17 | representative to the Waste Safety Standard Advisory
18 | Committee of the International Atomic Energy Agency in
19 | Vienna. He is also a member of the Board of
20 | Directors, and Program Advisory Committee for the
21 | Waste Management Symposium. He will be our first
22 | presenter.

23 | After Mr. Camper, we will have Mr. Tim
24 | Johnson. Mr. Johnson has served as the safety
25 | project manager for this project. Mr. Johnson is in

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1 | the NRC's Office of Nuclear Materials, Safety and
2 | Safeguards, which we generally refer to as NMSS.

3 | Mr. Johnson received his bachelor's degree
4 | in Mechanical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic
5 | Institute, and his ~~M~~master's in Nuclear Engineering
6 | from Ohio State.

7 | ~~_____~~ He has been with the NRC since 1977, and
8 | has worked in low level waste management, and
9 | decommissioning. He also served as the safety project
10 | manager on the Louisiana Energy Services Enrichment
11 | project.

12 | Next we will have Ms. Jennifer Davis. She
13 | is the ~~P~~project ~~M~~manager overseeing the environmental
14 | portion of the review for this project. Ms. Davis
15 | received her bachelor's degree in historic
16 | preservation and classic civilization, ~~r~~ from Mary
17 | Washington College.

18 | ~~_____~~ And she has been with the NRC since 2002.

19 | She has spent most of that time as a lead
20 | environmental project manager in the ~~d~~Division of
21 | ~~L~~icense ~~r~~Renewal in our Office of Nuclear Reactor
22 | Regulation.

23 | Those will be our main speakers. We do
24 | have a couple of other people who play vital roles in
25 | the project. First we have Mr. Kevin ~~Hsueh~~Shea, here

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1 | ~~i~~on the end. He is the chief of the Environmental
2 | Projects Branch that is overseeing the environmental
3 | portion of the review.

4 | And then we also have Mr. Mike
5 | ~~TschiltzSchultz~~. Mike is the Deputy Director in the
6 | Division of Fuel Cycle Facility Licensing in NMSS. So
7 | these are some of the major players that have been
8 | involved in the staff's review of the application. We
9 | wanted to make sure that you knew who they were.

10 | So, with that, I will turn it over to our
11 | first speaker, Mr. Camper.

12 | MR. CAMPER: Thank you very much. Good
13 | afternoon, everyone. It is a pleasure to be here.
14 | Amongst the things that we do as a regulator, frankly,
15 | getting out and doing meetings like this is amongst
16 | the most important things, and in many ways some of
17 | the most enjoyable things.

18 | ~~It~~ It is important that we get out and
19 | communicate with you about whatever particular
20 | regulatory issue is at hand at the moment, and today
21 | it is the Environmental Impact Statement that we are
22 | conducting for the GE-Hitachi facility, as our
23 | facilitator mentioned.

24 | Again, I'm Larry Camper, I'm the Director
25 | of the Division of Waste Management and Environmental

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1 Protection at the NRC. My division has responsibility
2 for a number of key activities. But amongst those is
3 the development of Environmental Impact Statements and
4 other environmental assessments for activities that
5 fall within my office, and also the ~~e~~Office of Nuclear
6 Material Safety and Safeguards, which is the office
7 that is responsible for issuing, or addressing the
8 license application from GE-Hitachi.

9 We do a lot of Environmental Impact
10 Statements. For example, at this moment in time we
11 are also conducting the Environmental Impact Statement
12 for the ~~AREVA~~areva facility that will be built at Eagle
13 Rock, in Idaho.

14 That is actually going on right now. We
15 are getting ready to start the scoping process for the
16 International Isotopes ~~s~~ Deconversion Facility in Hobbs,
17 New Mexico. So I have the good fortune of having an
18 excellent staff that brings to bear a great deal of
19 experience, and that is being brought to bear in this
20 review, as well.

21 There are a number of other NRC staff
22 members around the audience. And so during breaks, or
23 other opportunities, don't feel shy about asking any
24 one of us questions.

25 ~~—————~~Also we will be here tonight, of course.

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1 And we do welcome the opportunity to interface with
2 you.

3 As was mentioned in the opening remarks,
4 we are here to conduct two meetings today, one this
5 afternoon, and one tonight, to solicit comments on the
6 Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

7 I emphasize, again, solicit comments on
8 the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This is an
9 opportunity, we are transcribing the meeting. All the
10 remarks will be, of course, put down for the record.

11 The staff will review all comments that
12 are made. So it is an opportunity, good, bad or ugly,
13 it is an opportunity to provide comments, and we
14 encourage you to do that.

15 Next slide, please. So in terms of the
16 Nuclear Regulatory Commission, some of you may know a
17 lot about us, and some of you may not know much about
18 us.

19 ~~Who are we, and why are we doing this,~~
20 what is our role in this process? The Nuclear
21 Regulatory Commission is an independent federal
22 regulatory agency.

23 ~~And by meaning independent,~~ what I mean is
24 we are not part of the Executive Branch. We report
25 directly to the Congress of the United States, to

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1 Congressional Oversight Committees.

2 ~~And~~, as such, we have authority invested
3 in our agency under the Atomic Energy Act, as amended,
4 to carry out regulation of the commercial nuclear
5 power, and other nuclear uses in this country.

6 And, as an independent federal regulator I
7 would, again, emphasize we report directly to
8 Congressional Oversight Committees.

9 ~~Our~~ mission is to ensure protection of the
10 property, and workers health and safety in the use of
11 radioactive materials. We do not build, we do not
12 operate, and we do not promote the use of nuclear
13 power or nuclear materials.

14 Rather we exist primarily, and only, for
15 the reason of protecting public health and safety.
16 That is our mission. Next slide, please.

17 Now, this afternoon you are going to hear
18 from two of our presenters; ~~T~~ Tim Johnson is going to
19 be talking about the ~~S~~safety ~~R~~review part of our
20 program, and Jennifer Davis, later, will be talking
21 about the ~~E~~environmental ~~R~~review ~~P~~program.

22 The point of being here is that GE-Hitachi
23 wants to build a GE-Hitachi ~~g~~Global ~~L~~Laser ~~e~~Enrichment
24 facility nearby, on a property that is north of
25 Wilmington.

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1 | ~~_____~~To build that facility, and then to
2 | operate that facility, requires that a license be
3 | received from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

4 | And so the ~~S~~safety ~~R~~review, as well as the
5 | ~~E~~environmental ~~R~~review, that you are going to hear
6 | about today, are two major components, both of which
7 | are required in order for us to be able to ultimately
8 | issue a license for this facility to be built and
9 | operated.

10 | ~~_____~~Next slide, please.

11 | The Environmental Impact Statement is a
12 | key component in this review. And the document, the
13 | Draft Environmental Impact Statement, NUREG--1938, is
14 | now published in draft for comment.

15 | Jennifer will be talking about this in
16 | much more detail. The comment period goes until the
17 | ~~8~~9th of August, I believe it is, Jennifer? Until the
18 | ~~8~~9th of August.

19 | It is a fairly extensive and I would
20 | suggest a very well done document. And, obviously, if
21 | you have not had a chance yet to look at it, we would
22 | like for you to do so.

23 | The ~~E~~environmental ~~R~~review that we
24 | conduct, the Environmental Impact Statement that we
25 | prepare, is required by the National Environmental

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1 Policy Act of 1969.

2 Our regulations in 10 CFR Part 51 are the
3 regulations that we use to implement the requirements
4 of NEPA, as it is known. The product for doing that,
5 in a licensing activity of this type, is an
6 Environmental Impact Statement.

7 ~~Next slide, please.~~

8 So, primarily, what we want to do today is
9 present the results of the Environmental Impact
10 Statement that we have prepared, thus far.

11 ~~To share with you the approach that is~~
12 involved with conducting the ~~S~~safety ~~R~~review, how
13 these two documents come together. We want to listen
14 to your comments, and once again I urge comments. We
15 like to hear comments, please.

16 And then, of course, to let you know that
17 all the comments that are made today, all the comments
18 that are provided in written form will be considered
19 by the staff, will be analyzed by the staff, and will
20 be documented as comments received, and will go into
21 the development of the ultimate final Environmental
22 Impact Statement. And Jennifer will tell you much
23 more about that in detail.

24 So I think with that I will stop. I just
25 want to, again, thank all of you for being here. And

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1 | Tim Johnson will now present the ~~S~~safety ~~R~~rreview side
2 | of the process. Thank you.

3 | MR. JOHNSON: Thank you very much. This
4 | is considered one of our agency's most important
5 | licensing actions, so I really appreciate the
6 | opportunity to talk to you today.

7 | The objectives that I have are to give you
8 | a brief summary of the GE project and, also, to talk
9 | about our licensing process. GE is proposing to build
10 | an enrichment facility, using laser technology, at its
11 | site on the north side of Wilmington, on Castle Hayne
12 | ~~Road~~Boulevard, near the intersection of I-140.

13 | And the product from this plant will be
14 | used for fuel for nuclear power plants.

15 | How does this process fit in with overall
16 | fuel production? Well, first of all, uranium turns
17 | out to be fairly ubiquitous in the earth's crust.

18 | ~~—————~~And there are places in the world where
19 | the concentrations and deposits are high enough that
20 | it can be mined economically. And uranium is mined by
21 | a couple of different methods.

22 | ~~—————~~And it is processed to separate the
23 | uranium from the remaining rock. And then it is
24 | chemically converted into a compound called uranium
25 | hexafluoride. And it is that compound that is sent to

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1 an enrichment plant for enrichment.

2 What GE is proposing is to use a laser-
3 based system, based on technology that was originally
4 developed by the Australian company Silex Ltd. And in
5 this process it will separate isotopes of uranium 235
6 and 238, to increase the concentration of U235 to up
7 to 8 percent.

8 Now, if we can all go back in a time
9 machine to your days in high school chemistry, -- and
10 I hope I'm not bringing back bad memories for you, ---
11 ~~B~~but in your high school chemistry class, one of the
12 things that you learned was that elements normally
13 contain more than one isotope.

14 ~~-----~~An isotope is an atom that has the same
15 amount of protons, but different -- but can have
16 different numbers of neutrons. It would have the same
17 chemical properties, in general, but has different
18 atomic properties.

19 And for uranium, naturally occurring
20 uranium, has three primary isotopes, 99.3 percent of
21 that natural uranium is of the isotope U-238. About
22 0.7 percent is the isotope U-235. And there is a
23 smaller amount of U-234.

24 But the important isotope here is U-235,
25 because that is the only fissionable nuclide of

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1 uranium that is found in nature. And to be useful in
2 the power plants that we use in this country, the
3 concentration of U-235 needs to be increased from .7
4 percent to, generally, on the order of 3 to 5 percent,
5 which is the concentration of U-235 in the current
6 uses of fuel today, nuclear fuel.

7 ~~—————~~ These concentration levels are well below
8 those needed to produce nuclear weapons.

9 The product from this plant would then be
10 shipped to a fuel fabrication facility, where it would
11 be further processed into fuel pellets, and loaded
12 into fuel assemblies and, ultimately, sent to a
13 nuclear power plant to produce power.

14 One of the fuel facilities that could be
15 used here is the one that GE operates at its site on
16 Castle Hayne ~~Road~~ ~~Boulevard~~, and GE has operated this
17 fuel fabrication facility since 1967.

18 The laser enrichment process is new. This
19 is the first application of it, and because it is new,
20 GE is developing this project in two primary phases.

21 ~~—————~~ The first phase is a demonstration test
22 loop phase, in which they want to demonstrate that the
23 process can be made economically viable from a
24 business sense.

25 And they received a license, in May of

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1 2008 for this test loop facility, and they have been
2 conducting tests there for over a year. And they are
3 going to continue to do testing there on larger pieces
4 of equipment later on next year.

5 Based on the results of this testing, GE
6 will decide whether or not to go forward and build a
7 commercial facility. And it is the commercial
8 facility that we are in the process of licensing right
9 now.

10 And now I'd like to talk about, you know,
11 what we are going to do with this license application.

12 And I want to re-emphasize what Larry talked about,
13 is that the NRC is an independent agency responsible
14 for ensuring public and worker health in the
15 commercial use of radioactive materials.

16 Our jurisdiction resides with commercial
17 uses of nuclear materials. We don't have jurisdiction
18 over the Department of Energy, or national defense
19 activities that use radioactive materials, except in a
20 handful of cases where Congress has specifically
21 designated the NRC to review those projects.

22 Now, some uses of radioactive materials
23 are regulated by states. We refer to them as
24 aAgreement sStates. And they have specific limitations
25 on what the state can license.

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1 ~~_____~~ But North Carolina, for example, is an
2 agreement state. And, because of that, it regulates
3 radioactive materials use at facilities such as
4 hospitals, research organizations, universities, and a
5 number of industrial users of radioactive materials.

6 ~~_____~~ But the state's jurisdiction does not ~~fall~~
7 ~~for~~include enrichment plants. And so, therefore, NRC
8 would regulate this enrichment facility.

9 Again, the NRC is not a promoter of this
10 project. Our job is to regulate the health and safety
11 aspects of it.

12 Some aspects of the licensing that are
13 important.

14 ~~_____~~ First of all, the enrichment facility
15 construction cannot begin until a license is ~~going to~~
16 ~~be~~ issued. And we are not going to issue a license
17 until GE can demonstrate to us that it can meet our
18 health and safety requirements.

19 There may be some construction activities
20 that take place at the site before licensing. But
21 these would be construction activities that fall
22 outside of our regulatory jurisdiction. For example,
23 clearing of land.

24 ~~_____~~ That, really, doesn't involve the
25 construction of the facility, per se, and GE could do

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1 those kinds of activities. But they would still need
2 to get any federal, state, or local and county
3 permits, for doing that construction, the same as
4 anyone would do.

5 Another aspect of the facility is laser
6 safety. And this falls outside of our jurisdiction.
7 And that would be regulated by the State of North
8 Carolina Department of Labor.

9 Back in January of last year GE submitted
10 its Environmental Reportview for the project. And six
11 months later submitted a license application. And the
12 NRC has been involved in that since that time, in the
13 review of those documents.

14 One of the things that we are going to be
15 doing is a technical review of their application, with
16 the objective of ensuring that it meets our health and
17 safety requirements.

18 ~~—————~~We are also preparing an Environmental
19 Impact Statement, which Larry discussed, and Jennifer
20 will talk about in more detail.

21 Our technical review is expected to take
22 18 months from the date the application was submitted.

23 And in that technical review we will be looking at
24 GE's proposed radiationradioactive protection program,
25 its program for nuclear criticality safety, fire and

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1 chemical safety.

2 We will look at its decommissioning
3 program and financial assurance proposals. We also
4 look at emergency preparedness, physical protection,
5 and materials control and accountability, which
6 relates to ensuring that diversion of the enriched
7 product doesn't occur.

8 We will review the application in those
9 areas, and we will document that review, that ~~S~~safety
10 ~~R~~review. ~~And~~ in what we refer to as a Safety
11 Evaluation Report. Right now our schedule is to
12 complete that Safety Evaluation Report in December of
13 this year.

14 Also a part of this process involves
15 hearings. And hearings fall under two categories.
16 The first one is a mandatory hearing, that is required
17 by law, for this type of facility.

18 ~~And~~ this hearing is held by a Licensing
19 Board that consists of Administrative Law Judges,
20 three Administrative Law Judges. And their objective
21 is to review the Safety Evaluation Report that we
22 generate, as well as the Environmental Impact
23 Statement, and make a determination as to whether it
24 is adequate to protect health and safety, and meet the
25 requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

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1 Another category of hearings is, we refer
2 to as a contested hearing. And in a contested
3 hearing, an opportunity for the public to petition for
4 a hearing is made. And this opportunity was provided
5 on January 7th of this year.

6 ~~_____~~ And 60 days were allocated for a member of
7 the public to petition for a hearing, if they wanted
8 to. And in that they would also identify the areas
9 that they wanted to litigate.

10 ~~_____~~ But after that 60 day period, we received
11 no petitions for a hearing. So the only hearing that
12 will take place at this point, is the mandatory
13 hearing that I have talked about.

14 And that would take place after we
15 complete our Environmental Impact Statement, and our
16 Safety Evaluation Report. So that process should
17 begin early in 2011.

18 There are also going to be some other
19 points where we come and talk to the public. In May
20 2009 we had public meetings on Environmental Impact
21 Statements ~~s~~ scoping. And based on the comments that we
22 received, we prepared a Scoping Summary Report that
23 was issued in November of 2009.

24 We are having these meetings to take your
25 comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

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1 And when the Final Environmental Impact Statement and
2 Safety Evaluation Report are completed, we will come
3 back, again, and talk to you about the results of
4 those reviews.

5 And if a license is ultimately issued,
6 after the hearings, we will set up another public
7 meeting to talk about how we intend to inspect the
8 construction and operation of the facility.

9 We set up, on the NRC's website,
10 information on uranium enrichment, and the GE project
11 in particular. And I provided, in the handouts, the
12 addresses if you wish to look at that, and read the
13 information on those areas.

14 And in the -- if you have any questions,
15 at all, there are two contacts with contact
16 information. My phone and email address are provided,
17 as well as Jennifer Davis, if you have questions on
18 the environmental side of the review.

19 So what I have talked about is I have
20 given a general overview of the project, and talked
21 about our licensing process. So now I will turn it
22 over to Jennifer, and she can talk in more detail
23 about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Thank
24 you very much.

25 MS. DAVIS: Thank you, Tim. My name is

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1 Jennifer Davis, I'm the ~~E~~environmental ~~P~~project
2 ~~M~~anager for the proposed GE-Hitachi Laser Enrichment
3 Facility.

4 ~~—————~~I would like to thank everybody for coming
5 out today, out of your busy schedules, to give us
6 feedback on our Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

7 The NRC has prepared this Draft
8 Environmental Impact Statement for the NRC's
9 regulations at 10 CFR Part 51, as Larry mentioned
10 earlier.

11 ~~—————~~10 CFR Part 51 are the NRC's regulations
12 that implement the National Environmental Policy Act.

13 The license, if granted, would authorize GE-Hitachi
14 to construct, operate, and decommission, the GE Global
15 Laser Enrichment Facility.

16 As indicated on this slide, the proposed
17 facility would be located in the north central sector
18 of the existing General Electric property which is,
19 approximately, six miles north of Wilmington.

20 ~~—————~~This map is from the Applicant's
21 Environmental Report. And I would like to draw your
22 attention to the bottom left-corner of this slide.

23 On this slide, we have the ADAMS accession
24 number. And I would like to briefly explain what
25 ADAMS is. ADAMS stands for Agency ~~W~~wide Documents

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1 Access and Management System. It is a searchable data
2 base for public information, publicly available
3 information regarding any environmental site, nuclear
4 power plant site, enrichment facility site.

5 And what we have here, we have provided a
6 link to ADAMS that will get you there, and the
7 accession number for the Environmental ~~Report~~. Also,
8 please note, at the end of the presentation we have
9 provided the website and accession numbers for the
10 Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

11 So if you will take these home you will
12 have the ML accession numbers at your hand, so you can
13 access the documents straight away.

14 As Larry talked about, earlier, and
15 touched upon, this slide is giving you a general
16 overview of the process. The green box is currently
17 where we are at in the process.

18 Earlier we were out here for scoping, back
19 in May of ~~this year~~2009. We would like to note that
20 all comments were addressed in a ~~Scoping~~ ~~Summary~~
21 ~~Report~~, which was issued in November.

22 But let me just start from the beginning,
23 and I will be very brief. We accepted the
24 ~~Environmental~~ ~~Report~~ from there we issued our
25 Federal Register Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS

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1 and conduct scoping.

2 We came out to the area in May ~~of this~~
3 ~~year 2009~~ to conduct scoping meetings, to garner any
4 additional information, or areas where you, the
5 public, feel that we should incorporate into our
6 review, and that is when we also began engaging with
7 other federal, state, local and tribal authorities.

8 From there we published a ~~s~~Scoping
9 ~~s~~Summary ~~r~~Report, from that point, and identified and
10 analyzed any information that we picked up from the
11 consultation process.

12 We start with the Applicant's
13 ~~e~~Environmental ~~r~~Report, and then we move on for
14 information from other agencies, other permitting
15 authorities. And then we compile all that
16 information, asses the impacts, and compile the Draft
17 Environmental Impact Statement.

18 Now, the Draft Environmental Impact
19 Statement was issued on June the 18th. The comment
20 period started on June 25th, and that starts with the
21 EPA's Notice of Filing of an Environmental Impact
22 Statement.

23 It is a ~~45--~~day comment period, and the
24 comment period is scheduled to end on August the 9th.
25 The NRC staff looks at any comments, ~~s~~ubmitted by that

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1 date. And if you happen to give a comment to us a
2 little late, if it is practical, we will include it.

3 ~~_____~~We will make an attempt to address all
4 comments, and they will be included in the Final
5 Environmental Impact Statement.

6 As shown on the slide, the main topics
7 covered in this Draft Environmental Impact Statement,
8 include a description of the proposed action, along
9 with its purpose and need; alternatives to the
10 proposed action, including a no-action alternative,
11 which is not building or licensing the facility; a
12 description of the affected environment, a discussion
13 of the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts
14 associated with the proposed action; cost and
15 benefits, and mitigative measures that the Applicant
16 has proposed in order to minimize or avoid impacts.

17 Direct effects are effects that are caused
18 by the proposed action, and will occur at the same
19 time and place. Indirect effects are those that are
20 caused by the action, and are later in time, or
21 further removed in distance, but are still reasonably
22 foreseeable.

23 Cumulative impacts~~r~~ are the impacts~~r~~ on
24 the environment, which result from the proposed
25 action, but also other federal, non-federal, private

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1 actions that are ongoing.

2 | So basically, you are looking at this
3 action combined with the total projects in the area.
4 Basically you are looking at past, present, and
5 reasonably foreseeable actions.

6 | In the Cost Benefit Analysis, the analysis
7 is providing a rationale for deciding whether or not a
8 project is likely to have a net positive impact, by
9 aggregating each of the costs and benefits resulting
10 from the project. And this is shown in monetary terms,
11 to the extent possible.

12 | What is meant by mitigating measures, it
13 is any measure that is taken by an Applicant, or
14 another agency, to avoid, minimize, restore, preserve,
15 the affected environment, by reducing or eliminating
16 the impact.

17 | ~~Chapter 6~~ Chapter 6 of the Draft Environmental
18 Impact Statement also provides monitoring and
19 mitigative measures that were proposed by the license
20 Applicant, and disclosed.

21 | As was mentioned earlier, the proposed
22 action is to construct, operate, and decommission a
23 commercial facility to enrich uranium. The purpose
24 and need is to supply enriched uranium for nuclear
25 fuel, for commercial nuclear power plants, and to

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1 fulfill electricity demands.

2 But, also, to supply a domestic supply of
3 enriched uranium for national energy security. I
4 would like to note that alternatives of the proposed
5 action are based upon the purpose and need, and I will
6 talk about alternatives on the next slide.

7 The range of alternatives is based upon
8 the purposes and need, as I just indicated. The staff
9 identified gas centrifuge technology as a reasonable
10 alternative, in the Draft Environmental Impact
11 Statement, along with the no-action alternative.

12 Other alternatives included looking at
13 additional sites. However, they were eliminated
14 from detailed analyses. The proposed site was found
15 to be most suitable for accommodating the footprint of
16 the proposed facility, and resulted in fewer
17 environmental impacts.

18 Other alternative technologies were also
19 considered, but eliminated from additional analyses,
20 due to high energy requirements, slow production, high
21 cost of energy concerns, or the technology has been
22 superseded.

23 The rationale behind looking at gas
24 centrifuge, we basically took the approach of siting a
25 similarly sized facility, within the GE property.

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1 This is a technically and commercially viable
2 technology that is currently in use, I believe, one
3 facility is under review and two are, actually, under
4 construction.

5 ~~Next slide.~~

6 The NRC classifies impacts into three
7 categories, small, moderate, and large. And by
8 looking at the slide, it is going to look, what does
9 this mean?

10 ~~But these are the questions that we ask~~
11 ourselves when we are, actually, compiling the
12 information. When we think of small we are asking
13 ourselves, is the effect minor? ~~Is it noticeable?~~

14 ~~For moderate, does the effect noticeably~~
15 alter important and attributes of a resource? Large,
16 does the effect destabilize important attributes of
17 the resource. For example, an example that I would
18 use is fish populations within a local waterway.

19 For a small impact, the facility
20 construction and operation would have no noticeable
21 impact. You don't see an impact on populations, ~~or~~
22 ~~what not.~~

23 A moderate impact, you see a population of
24 fish that may decline, however, stabilize at a lower
25 level. A large impact involves a population decline

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1 and it is not recovering.

2 Whenever we encounter a moderate or a
3 large impact, they typically need to have some sort of
4 mitigation involved. And that, also, especially in
5 the case of fish, would involve consultation with
6 other federal and state agencies.

7 The staff evaluated environmental impacts
8 in each of the following resource areas. Resource
9 areas in bold have small to moderate impacts. All
10 others are small.

11 ~~_____~~ I will discuss the small to moderate
12 findings on the following slide. However, I would
13 like to note here that some were small to moderate, or
14 some ranged small to moderate, and others were just
15 moderate.

16 For transportation, ~~the~~ the greatest impact
17 that we would see would be during initial land
18 clearing activities and, also, facility construction.

19 Construction truck traffic would result in a small
20 overall impact increase on the local roads.

21 ~~_____~~ When you start seeing construction
22 advancing, you start seeing more trips, construction
23 materials hauled in, hauled out. You see a
24 construction work force coming in.

25 And during construction it is anticipated

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1 between 600 to 800 additional trips by construction
2 personnel. And this is expected to have a moderate
3 impact only on local traffic within the area.
4 Regional traffic you are not going to expect, it is
5 going to be small.

6 Now, the operations phase would overlap
7 with the construction's phase for approximately five
8 years. During this time vehicular traffic would add
9 to the increased traffic from construction activities.

10 Traffic in the vicinity of Castle Hayne
11 Road could increase, ~~in on the~~ I-140, near the site
12 entrance, may become congested during shift changes.
13 Thus we came to the small to moderate impact level
14 range. Impacts could be lessened if shift changes
15 were shifted, so they wouldn't coincide with local
16 traffic.

17 Most construction activities would occur
18 in areas that have already been disturbed by site
19 preparation activities. Impacts to vegetation would
20 occur, primarily, from clearing habitat, vegetation
21 clearing, habitat fragmentation, alteration of
22 topography, changes in drainage patterns, and soil
23 compaction.

24 ~~Therefore~~ Therefore we found that during
25 construction the overall impacts could be moderate.

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1 No wetlands would be directly impacted by the
2 construction of the proposed facility. However, since
3 GE submitted its ~~s~~Supplement ~~two~~, to revise their
4 entrance, three jurisdictional wetlands, and one
5 isolated wetland occur within the corridor of the
6 revised entrance and roadway.

7 ~~However,~~ However, it is possible that the isolated
8 wetland could be directly impacted, resulting in
9 wetland loss. However, if you look at state
10 guidelines, the wetland is considered to be of low
11 value.

12 For the three jurisdictional wetlands, the
13 disturbance would be limited to, approximately, 60
14 feet. And they believe that they can avoid impacting
15 those wetlands.

16 Any involvement with wetlands would
17 involve consultation with the Army Corps of Engineers.
18 From our review we also determined that no
19 environmentally sensitive areas would be directly
20 impacted by construction.

21 Impacts on wildlife, from construction,
22 could include habitat disturbance, wildlife
23 disturbance, or injury, or mortality of wildlife.
24 Habitats within the footprint disturbed by
25 construction, could be reduced or altered, and

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1 construction activities would result in habitat
2 fragmentation.

3 No population of threatened and endangered
4 species and other ~~sState~~-listed species, no
5 population level impacts would be expected.
6 Similarly, no population level impacts would be --
7 sorry, for state, federal, and also no environmentally
8 sensitive areas, again, would be impacted.

9 The staff's analysis for air quality
10 focused on emissions associated with the entire life
11 span of the project, which included assessing the
12 construction, land clearing, building, start-up, and
13 final construction and operations.

14 ~~-----~~Air quality impacts will be the highest
15 during road construction and land clearing. The
16 impacts would be ~~-~~moderate, primarily, from fugitive
17 dust emissions, but would be temporary in nature.

18 The Applicant has committed to take
19 mitigative measures to limit dust emissions. Impacts
20 during plant operations are expected to be small.
21 Also no criteria pollutants would be generated,
22 because no combustion is involved.

23 During construction, vehicular traffic~~7~~
24 around the proposed facility, along with nearby
25 traffic routes, would generate intermittent noise.

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1 Noise would generally be limited to the immediate
2 vicinity.

3 ~~_____~~ However, most of the noise would be
4 associated with diesel engines. Again, most of the
5 impacts would be associated with land clearing
6 activities, site preparation, and construction.

7 These potential impacts, in the
8 surrounding community, would represent a moderate
9 impact. However, they would be temporary in nature.

10 Noise impacts during operations would be ~~limited to~~
11 enclosed within buildings, other sources would include
12 vehicular traffic, and hauling vehicles. -

13 ~~_____~~ Noise levels at the fence line, near the
14 subdivision, would be small.

15 Section 106 of the National Historic
16 Preservation Act requires federal agencies to
17 consider the effects of its undertakings on historic
18 properties.

19 ~~_____~~ The study area for this review is 263
20 acres. Construction would take place on ground that
21 has been previously disturbed, by logging activities,
22 but also by site preparation activities.

23 In preparation for the license
24 application, GE commissioned a study, in 2008. No
25 construction activities are expected to occur within

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1 | the portion of the Wilmington site, where there are
2 | historic and cultural resources.

3 | Currently, there are no resources within
4 | the area of potential effect, which is the
5 | construction footprint. During GE's initial site
6 | survey, an archaeological site was identified, and was
7 | determined to be eligible for listing.

8 | ~~_____~~ However, since the ER supplement was
9 | submitted, that area, that archaeological site is no
10 | longer within the proposed area of construction.

11 | ~~_____~~ However, since the site was identified,
12 | during our review, the State Historic Preservation
13 | Office has requested that GE develop a management plan
14 | or some sort of commitment to preserve and protect the
15 | site for future reference.

16 | So basis for our recommendation -- the NRC
17 | staff has preliminarily concluded that the overall
18 | benefits of the proposed GLEH facility, out-weigh the
19 | environmental disadvantages and cost, based on the
20 | consideration of the following:

21 | The need for an additional economical
22 | domestic source of enrichment services, and that the
23 | environmental impacts from the proposed action are
24 | generally small although they could be as high as
25 | moderate in the areas of historic and cultural

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1 | resources, ecological resources, noise, and
2 | transportation.

3 | The NRC staff preliminarily recommends
4 | that unless safety issues mandate otherwise, that the
5 | proposed license be issued to GLE. The NRC staff has
6 | concluded that the environmental impacts are
7 | generally small and taken in combination with
8 | applicable environmental monitoring program, and the
9 | proposed mitigation measures by GE, they would
10 | eliminate or substantially lessen any potential
11 | adverse impacts of the proposed action.

12 | This slide is just mainly pointing out
13 | where the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is
14 | located on the NRC's website. You can either go
15 | directly to the link above, or you could go through
16 | the electronic reading room. Or there are copies of a
17 | CD and a hard copy available at the New Hanover
18 | County Library.

19 | Additional information about the actual
20 | project, and the schedule, and any updates, we have a
21 | web link for that, as well. Also in our ADAMS data
22 | base, should you perform a search, use the docket
23 | number, which is indicated here, and that will allow
24 | you to pull up any documents that are related to this
25 | review.

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1 | RemMind you, that these are the only
2 | publicly available documents that are in this
3 | management system. At the bottom of our slide is our
4 | contact information. If you have questions regarding
5 | the Ssafety Rreview, contact Tim Johnson at the phone
6 | number and email listed on the slide. If you have any
7 | questions regarding the Eenvironmental Rreview, feel
8 | free to contact me.

9 | As Larry indicated, earlier today, the
10 | main purpose of today's meeting is to listen and to
11 | gather your comments. Many of you have signed up to
12 | speak during today's meeting.

13 | However, if you are not comfortable
14 | speaking, please feel free to either talk to us
15 | afterwards, you can fax your comments, you can email
16 | comments, there are many different ways to do that.

17 | And the mechanism for this is presented on
18 | the slide, along with the comment period, the end of
19 | the comment period. Thank you very much.

20 | FACILITATOR BURTON: Thank you, Jenny.
21 | And thank you, also, Tim and Larry. That concludes
22 | the presentation part of the meeting. The next part
23 | we are going to go into Q&A.

24 | This is going to be an opportunity for
25 | anyone who has any questions about the Eenvironmental

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1 | Rreview that the staff performed, anything about the
2 | process. Are there any questions from anyone?

3 | If you would just raise your hand and I
4 | will bring the microphone to you.

5 | (No response.)

6 | FACILITATOR BURTON: Boy, I think this is
7 | a first for me, no questions. Is that a good thing,
8 | or a bad thing? We are going to be following this,
9 | apparently, very shortly with the comment period.

10 | Anyone questions? We do have a question.
11 | And just give us your name, and ask your question.

12 | MS. BUTLER: Thank you. My name is
13 | Deborah Butler. And I apologize. Of course I have
14 | not read the DEIS, which I will do tonight when I have
15 | insomnia, perhaps.

16 | But I just had a quick question about the
17 | relative proximity to the proposed Titan Cement
18 | facility, which is in this region, and whether or not
19 | the Draft Environmental Impact Statement addresses
20 | those two projects, because they seem to be sort of to
21 | have a synergistic possibility between the two of
22 | them.

23 | FACILITATOR BURTON: Jen?

24 | MS. DAVIS: Yes, we do actually talk about
25 | the Titan Cement Project within our cumulative impacts

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1 | assessment, -- About the interrelation between
2 | the two.

3 | We are looking at it more from the
4 | environmental standpoint of added pressure to the
5 | local environment. You know, you are taking a look at
6 | the incremental impact of all projects in the area.

7 | But we do address and acknowledge it
8 | within our cumulative impact session.

9 | FACILITATOR BURTON: Do you want to go
10 | into more detail?

11 | MS. DAVIS: The question was asking about
12 | the --

13 | FACILITATOR BURTON: Just more detail
14 | about the cement, in the environmental impact.

15 | MS. DAVIS: Actually, if I could get back
16 | with her later. But the overall impacts, I believe,
17 | they were small. It wasn't adding too much. Let me
18 | get back to her.

19 | FACILITATOR BURTON: Yes, maybe after the
20 | meeting the two of you can talk and work it out.

21 | MS. KLEIN: This might come more under
22 | comments, but I would think that it is important, for
23 | the people here, to foundhear on record what you
24 | found, especially because Titan is going to have a
25 | major impact to the area.

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1 And I can picture your trucks, and their
2 trucks, coming into contact. And, you know, there is
3 a possibility of a whoosh effect, we hope not.

4 The other question I have, as far as
5 process, has to do with what, if any, contact you have
6 had regarding FEMA? And will FEMA have a role in
7 reviewing the plan and what would happen in terms of
8 if there were a disaster?

9 FACILITATOR BURTON: Okay, thank you.

10 MR. JOHNSON: One of the areas that we --

11 FACILITATOR BURTON: Hang on one second.
12 Good points. I do want you to put those on the
13 record, during the comment period, also. But I will
14 turn it over to Tim.

15 MR. JOHNSON: One of the areas that we
16 look at, in the ~~S~~safety ~~R~~review, is emergency
17 response. And a FEMA review, for this type of
18 facility, is not required, as it would be for a
19 nuclear power plant. But it is still an area that we
20 address, to make sure that there is appropriate
21 response.

22 ~~_____~~ And if evacuation is needed, that there
23 are appropriate ways to do that. Did that answer your
24 question?

25 MS. KLEIN: The devil is in the details.

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1 FACILITATOR BURTON: Yes. And we may be
2 able to speak more on it, after the meeting, to get
3 you the detail you want. Because some of the
4 information may be available to you.

5 MS. DAVIS: And what I will do is I can
6 get up afterwards and finish the response here.

7 FACILITATOR BURTON: Good start. Other
8 questions, anyone?

9 (No response.)

10 FACILITATOR BURTON: Well, I appreciate
11 the two that we got. I guess we will go into the main
12 part of the meeting, which is an opportunity for you
13 to provide your comment and input on the draft
14 findings, that are documented in the Draft
15 Environmental Impact Statement.

16 I think what I will do is to ask those
17 folks who signed up to speak, I will just leave the
18 microphone here, and you can come up and make your
19 comment.

20 Now, I will say that, so far, we only have
21 four speakers, which is a first for me, personally.
22 We generally, if anyone would like to make a comment,
23 we prefer that you fill out one of these yellow cards.

24 And I do have a few extra.

25 We like these because we need them to make

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1 sure we know who is speaking, to capture it on the
2 transcript, and also to help manage the time for the
3 remainder of the meeting.

4 Given four speakers, I think we can be
5 pretty liberal with the time. Is there anyone else
6 who would like to speak? The blue card is general
7 attendance. The yellow card is to speak.

8 Okay, so this should be fairly easy. Our
9 first speaker is going to be Andy Yates. And I will
10 apologize, up front, if I mess up people's names. But
11 that one I think I got.

12 MR. YATES: My name is Andy Yates. I just
13 want to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity
14 to speak. And don't worry, I printed these in large
15 print, I'm not going to be here for an hour or
16 anything.

17 I just printed them so I could read them.
18 Again, my name is Andy Yates, and I'm here to speak
19 on the behalf of Ilario Pantano, he is the Republican
20 candidate for North Carolina 7th Congressional
21 District.

22 Ilario would like to express his regret
23 that he was not able to be here, personally, to
24 address the Commission. He had a scheduling conflict
25 that he could not avoid.

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1 I'm here on his behalf to speak in support
2 of the proposed GE-Hitachi Global Laser eEnrichment
3 project. I want to commend the NRC staff for doing a
4 thorough job of evaluating the impacts of the project,
5 and I would like to urge the Commission to move
6 expeditiously^r to approve the GE-Hitachi license
7 application.

8 First I want to thank GE for four decades
9 in New Hanover County as a good corporate citizen. We
10 appreciate GE's investment in our community. GE has
11 provided us with good jobs, and pay substantial state
12 and local taxes.

13 We also appreciate the many volunteer
14 contributions made to the community by GE, and GE
15 employees. Finally, we appreciate GE's respect for
16 our laws protecting public health and the environment.

17 We look forward to expanding our mutual
18 beneficial relationship, with GE's decision to locate
19 an advanced enrichment facility here in New Hanover
20 County.

21 To the NRC staff I say, welcome to our
22 community. We appreciate your ongoing efforts to
23 assure that both the GE-Hitachi and Progress Energy
24 Brunswick facilities in our community are designed,
25 built, and operated safely.

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1 | ~~_____~~We count on your expertise and commitment
2 | to the public interest, to protect the community from
3 | significant adverse impacts in the new enrichment
4 | project.

5 | We appreciate your diligent review of the
6 | laser enrichment facility license application, as
7 | evidenced by your 800~~---~~page report. Although this
8 | advanced enrichment technology is difficult for a
9 | layman to understand, you can tell from the review,
10 | that the potential impact of the facility, on the
11 | community, was broad and deep.

12 | To both NRC and GE-Hitachi, I say, let us
13 | move forward with the project. Our country needs to
14 | develop its commercial nuclear infrastructure as a
15 | matter of sound energy policy.

16 | ~~_____~~Nuclear power is reliable, affordable,
17 | clean and safe. We need more of it, especially for
18 | domestic sources, like this proposed project.

19 | ~~_____~~I'm frustrated while the nuclear
20 | renaissance moves ahead in the rest of the world, here
21 | in America, the birth place of peaceful nuclear
22 | energy, new reactor projects spend forever in
23 | regulatory reviews.

24 | We want to congratulate the NRC for having
25 | the integrity, courage, and fortitude to deny the

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1 mention from the Department of Energy to withdraw with
2 prejudice the license to open the deep geologic
3 repository at Yucca Mountain.

4 ~~That project~~ That project which would put nuclear waste
5 from plants like Brunswick, in a deep geological
6 repository, is tied up in political wrangling and
7 electoral politics. Don't let this happen here.

8 On the basis of our review of the NRC's
9 staff report, we believe that the GE-Hitachi project
10 will be good for our community, our citizens and our
11 country. It should move forward.

12 We found the following statements in the
13 report particularly persuasive. Enrich~~edment~~ uranium
14 provides 20 percent of U.S. electricity from 104
15 domestic reactors. But production from our only
16 current domestic supply provides about ten to fifteen
17 percent of U.S. enrichment uranium needs.

18 ~~The rest~~ The rest comes from foreign sources,
19 mostly Russia. This is a reliability risk to the fuel
20 supply for our U.S. reactor fleet. We need this
21 facility to make the U.S. energy supply more secure,
22 and more independent.

23 The GE laser-based process is a step
24 forward in nuclear technology, and should offer
25 economic and environmental advantages over both the

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1 enrichment process now used by the industry.

2 The project will average 1,550 jobs during
3 construction, and 732 jobs during operation. Those
4 are jobs that are desperately needed in southeastern
5 North Carolina right now.

6 ~~_____~~This project will generate income and
7 sales tax revenues of four million dollars per year
8 during facility operation, and 8.7 million per year in
9 property taxes.

10 The staff includes in the report that the
11 environmental impacts in the project are small in
12 magnitude, and small in comparison to the local and
13 national benefits.

14 Upon review of the report this is
15 something that we definitely agree with. This project
16 will provide economic, fiscal, and in particular
17 energy security benefits at both the local and
18 national levels.

19 On the basis of these findings and
20 conclusions, and on the basis of GE's long standing
21 record of corporate citizenship, we recommend that the
22 Commission approve the GE-Hitachi license application.

23 We have a final request. We urge the
24 Commission and staff to act as expeditiously as
25 possible to approve the application. Southeastern

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1 North Carolina has been hard hit by the current
2 recession.

3 ~~Our~~ Our employment rate has been near ten
4 percent for over a year, in New Hanover eCounty, and
5 many of the surroundings counties have well over ten
6 percent unemployment.

7 ~~Local~~ Local budgets are squeezed, and important
8 public services are being cut. The laser enrichment
9 project will be a huge shot in the arm for our
10 economy.

11 The NRC staff has done a great job in
12 looking at the impact of the project. Please do not
13 make us wait endlessly for needless bureaucratic
14 reviews before we can reap the great benefits of this
15 project.

16 Remember delay will not just hurt GE-
17 Hitachi, it will hurt you and me, our community, and
18 our economy. We need these green jobs. Thank you for
19 the opportunity to be heard.

20 FACILITATOR BURTON: Next we have John
21 Monroe.

22 MR. MONROE: Good afternoon. My name is
23 John Monroe, I'm a retiree living here in New Hanover
24 County. I have been very impressed with the DEIS
25 review, and how thorough you folks are about going

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1 about this study.

2 I'm here to support GE for many reasons.
3 They have been an outstanding corporate citizen here
4 for over 40 years, with respect to the environment,
5 and the safety of their operations, it is a blue chip
6 company.

7 I have known and worked with many of the
8 senior managers for many years. They bring
9 outstanding leadership to our community, and I'm
10 urging you to move forward with this project.

11 And while I have been impressed, very
12 much, with the environmental impact study, I'm
13 interested, very much, in the economy. It seems to me
14 that the number one issue in our nation today is the
15 economy, having to do with jobs.

16 And the tax base that we need here. We
17 have, right now, about 9,500 people looking for jobs
18 in New Hanover County. And I think there is an
19 opportunity here for this expansion to meet those
20 needs.

21 I noted in your report something about the
22 economic impact. And I assume that there may be more
23 details about that in the study. I want to look at
24 that to see just what that impact might be. But we
25 need those jobs.

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1 Our country needs energy, our state needs
2 energy, our county needs energy, we need jobs, we need
3 tax relief, a tax base, and we need the community
4 leadership that GE can provide.

5 So I urge you^r and encourage you^r to
6 continue with the thorough review and process that you
7 have underway. And thank you, again, for giving the
8 public the opportunity to ask question and make
9 comments.

10 FACILITATOR BURTON: All right, thank you,
11 Mr. Monroe. Next we will have Ms. Ellie Klein.

12 MS. KLEIN: My name is Ellie Klein, I'm a
13 New Hanover eCounty and Wilmington resident. And,
14 unlike some, I didn't plan to speak but the panel
15 prompted some questions, and I thank you for being
16 here.

17 I wish more of my fellow citizens would be
18 here. Like Deborah Butler who is a concerned New
19 Hanover citizen and, actually, is -- I hope will
20 represent us on the New Hanover County Commission, I
21 won't be reading the report, the study.

22 And I'm sure like most of the residents
23 here, I try to find the balance between doing a job,
24 and presenting information in a way that will entice
25 people like me, who are basically somewhat uninformed

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1 and lazy, to know what is happening.

2 So, again, Ms. Butler will read it, I
3 won't. And that is why my question to Ms. Davis, and
4 why I think it is important for the information to be
5 presented in a forum and via the media.

6 ~~_____~~ Although I don't count on the media for,
7 necessarily, accurate information, information that I
8 subscribe to. But it is important that you get the
9 information out to the public.

10 GE is a really good company here in town
11 and, in fact, I would have liked a job with GE. And I
12 think it is important to note that, as a nation, we
13 do, even though I wish we didn't need to, make use of
14 uranium, we need to accept that as a fact of life.

15 One question that I have, that I hope you
16 also will address, is what happens to the waste that
17 might be produced here. We know we are not going to
18 get it here, luckily Wilmington isn't one of the areas
19 that will have to deal with it, unlike Yucca Mountain.

20 But that certainly is of concern to me,
21 but that doesn't mean that I'm against this particular
22 initiative. I'm here to fact--find. And unlike with
23 some of the initiatives that are proposed for this
24 area, I'm more inclined to be for it, but I would like
25 you to address the concerns.

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1 As far as what the NRC does, or FEMA does,
2 or whatever, or EPA, we know that regulations are
3 really, what is passed are the very minimum of what is
4 acceptable to people and to our Congress.

5 It is a political process. And so we
6 can't necessarily think that all regulations are going
7 to protect us, just because they are regulations. And
8 just because it is a political process, the officials
9 change, the regulations change.

10 So we need to keep that in mind when we
11 approve big initiatives such as this. My question had
12 to do with the Titan Cement Plant. It is a
13 controversial initiative. It is proceeding with, I
14 think, without really knowing the real impact, the
15 number of jobs that are supposedly proposed, what is
16 stated even by the media is inaccurate, it goes with
17 the press release that Titan has put out.

18 I'm concerned about the truck travel that
19 will not only will limestone carrying trucks have
20 going through this city, but if and when they meet
21 with the trucks, and possibly rail cars that are
22 carrying the uranium that comes in.

23 What Titan will do is volatile, not only
24 in the figurative sense, but certainly in the literal
25 sense. And God forbid there is a hurricane, and it is

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1 compounded.

2 What happens with Titan is compounded by
3 what the GE plant intends to do. And I'm very against
4 Titan, and I'm more against it because of this
5 proposal.

6 ~~_____~~ And I think it is important for the public
7 to understand that interface. The other part that I
8 was concerned about, you said -- and this will be my
9 last point.

10 You said that you are concerned with the
11 environmental impact and that the GE proposal has to
12 go through and maybe go across, jump across different
13 hurdles. But they are allowed to start construction.

14 So very often, whether it is with paring
15 down a building in downtown, for something that might
16 be built, or construction for this project, somehow
17 once something is started, even if other factors show
18 that the initiative should be stopped, then there is
19 the statement that, oh well, we have already spent so
20 much money, we can't stop it now.

21 And that part of it would concern me. And
22 I would hope that even though within your purview,
23 that GE, or any other initiative is allowed to get
24 started, I would hope that nothing can be started
25 until all the hurdles are met.

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1 Thank you for listening.

2 FACILITATOR BURTON: Thank you, Ms. Klein,
3 I appreciate it. Next speaker -- now, remember I
4 apologized for mangling names. Cornelius Milmoe.

5 MR. MILMOE: I am Cornelius Milmoe, you
6 did pronounce my name correctly. I'm a proud resident
7 of Wilmington, and I'm also senior policy council to
8 the ~~n~~Nuclear ~~i~~Infrastructure ~~e~~Council.

9 The ~~e~~Council is an association of nuclear
10 companies, like GE-Hitachi, who serve the owner-
11 operators of the 104 reactors in the U.S. nuclear
12 fleet.

13 My remarks are supported by the ~~e~~Council,
14 but are not necessarily supported by all of its
15 members. And they will address the national benefits
16 of the proposed project, which I think the NRC staff
17 has done a good job in the Draft Environmental Impact
18 Statement of identifying, and I appreciate the good
19 job you did in doing that.

20 The Nuclear Infrastructure Council has
21 five policy objectives. First, build new reactors in
22 the United States. Second, expand nuclear industry
23 infrastructure. Third, assure effective regulation of
24 nuclear facilities; fourth, develop a sustainable
25 nuclear fuel cycle; and five, prevent proliferation

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1 and non-peaceful use of nuclear technology.

2 Licensing the proposed GE-Hitachi
3 enrichment facility would serve each of these
4 objectives. First, build new reactors in the United
5 States. The American public supports constructing new
6 reactors to supply reliable, affordable, clean and
7 safe nuclear electricity.

8 In terms of reliability, they see nuclear
9 as a way to make America more energy secure and
10 independent. But, as noted in your Environmental
11 Impact Statement, U.S. reactors currently get about 85
12 percent of their requirements for enrichment uranium,
13 from foreign sources, primarily Russia.

14 In order for new reactors to make us more
15 energy independent and secure, we need more domestic
16 enrichment facilities like the one proposed by GE-
17 Hitachi.

18 Second, expand nuclear energy
19 infrastructure. The GE-Hitachi facility can be an
20 important part of the front end facilities that will
21 support an expanded reactor fleet in the United
22 States.

23 We also welcome Louisiana Energy Services
24 recently completed centrifuge facility in New Mexico,
25 USEC's proposed enrichment facility in Ohio, and

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1 | AREVA~~reva~~'s planned centrifuge in Idaho.

2 | If all the increased capacity comes on
3 | line, the United States could meet about 80 percent of
4 | its requirement, for the existing fleet, from domestic
5 | sources, making us more energy secure and independent.

6 | Three, assure effective regulation of
7 | nuclear facilities. We recognize the thorough and
8 | professional job that the NRC staff has done in
9 | evaluating the impact of the GE-Hitachi project, and
10 | preparing the Environmental Impact Statement.

11 | Effective regulation means timely review
12 | and decision making, and we hope the NRC will stay on
13 | schedule with this licensing process.

14 | As a personal aside, I would like to
15 | compliment the NRC staff on the work it continues to
16 | do on the Yucca Mountain license application against
17 | political headwinds.

18 | And congratulate the NRC construction
19 | authorization board for its correct and courageous
20 | decision to let the NRC continue to do its job at
21 | Yucca Mountain.

22 | Four, develop a sustainable nuclear fuel
23 | cycle, building a modern, efficient enrichment
24 | facility, will not only enhance the front end of
25 | nuclear fuel infrastructure, but the back end as well.

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1 We believe that the country will move to
2 recycle spent nuclear fuel, drastically reduce the
3 waste that would go to places like Yucca Mountain, and
4 become self-sufficient in nuclear fuel in the
5 foreseeable future.

6 Five, prevent proliferation and non-
7 peaceful use of nuclear technology. We recognize the
8 sensitive nature of enrichment technology. We believe
9 that having a robust U.S. enrichment capability, able
10 to supply the world with a reliable source of
11 affordable nuclear fuel, will convince other nations
12 that they have no need to build their own facilities.

13 Those facilities could be misused,
14 supposedly used for peaceful purposes, they could be
15 converted to produce weapons grade material.

16 My thanks to the NRC staff for this
17 opportunity to speak. You have, appropriately,
18 identified important national benefits from the
19 proposed facility. ~~7~~ *Keep up the good work, and let's
20 get this facility licensed.

21 FACILITATOR BURTON: Thank you, Mr.
22 Milmoe. Our last speaker is Tom Goolsby.

23 MR. GOOLSBY: My name is Tom Goolsby, I'm
24 the Republican candidate here, in New Hanover County,
25 for the North Carolina ~~s~~State ~~s~~Senate.

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1 And I'm excited -- first off, we
2 appreciate GE and their presence here in our area over
3 many, many years. It is exciting that we have, and I
4 can't really get an explanation from anybody.

5 I guess it truly is top secret, the
6 technology that is going to be used to help enrich
7 this uranium and will be, really, one of the first, if
8 not the first, cutting--edge facility to actually do
9 this.

10 So that is exciting. We appreciate the
11 NRC's work to make sure that the impact on our
12 environment is negligible. Of course you guys are
13 going to put it in the same site where you already
14 have space, and you provide us lots of jobs in the
15 county.

16 I'm looking at 550 jobs in our local
17 county during construction, 732 jobs during operation,
18 revenues to our county of four million a year, and
19 incoming sales taxes will be 8.7 million a year, and
20 property taxes.

21 Thank you. I hope that it will start as
22 soon as possible, we could use it. As your ~~s~~State
23 ~~s~~Senator, hopefully, I promise I will do everything I
24 can to assist you in any way, that is GE, in making
25 sure that this is a tax favorable place for you to do

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1 more business, that we can reduce our policies of tax
2 and spend, and continuing to increase your cost of
3 doing business here.

4 We are going to try to change that come
5 November. So we welcome you. Anything I can do, if I
6 get up to the Senate, to help you I will do. And we
7 want to encourage you, and do everything we can to
8 bring those jobs here, to bring those opportunities
9 here, and to make the U.S. and North Carolina truly
10 energy independent. Thank you.

11 FACILITATOR BURTON: Thank you, Mr.
12 Goolsby. That was our last speaker. I wanted to give
13 you another opportunity, if anyone would like to
14 speak, make a comment? Anyone?

15 MS. DAVIS: Actually, could I respond to
16 Ms. Kline?

17 FACILITATOR BURTON: Please do, sure.

18 MS. DAVIS: I did a quick sweep. Sorry
19 for -- I wanted to give you as detailed an answer as
20 possible, but I wanted to verify my information first.

21 Also to let you know that any comment that is made
22 here today, we will respond to fully, and it will be
23 documented in the Final Environmental Impact
24 Statement.

25 We did discuss the Titan Cement plant

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1 within the context of additional workers. I believe
2 it was 800 additional workers. And it would roughly
3 coincide with the planned construction of the GLE
4 facility.

5 | So there would be an ~~in~~-migration of
6 workers, and overall effects of bringing in additional
7 workers, and we estimated it to be a small to moderate
8 impact.

9 Now, I didn't see any language directly
10 related to truck traffic, but I will do some further
11 digging, and I will answer your response completely,
12 and it will be in the Final Environmental Impact
13 Statement.

14 FACILITATOR BURTON: Very good. Thank
15 you, Jennifer.

16 All right, if there are no other comments,
17 I'm going to ask Larry Camper to close us out.

18 MR. CAMPER: Thank you, and thank all of
19 you again for coming out this afternoon, and I
20 especially thank those of you who offered questions or
21 comments.

22 In listening to some of the comments and
23 questions, a couple of things struck me in terms of
24 take-home assignments for us, as an organization, as
25 the staff.

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1 | Clearly, Jennifer was just pointing out
2 | this issue of the Titan Cement project, and the
3 | related traffic, and any synergistic implications
4 | there, in terms of cumulative impacts.

5 | Ellie, your point was well—made.
6 | Jennifer gave you an answer for the moment, but that
7 | will be clearly addressed as part of the Final
8 | Environmental Impact Statement.

9 | So we heard that point and that concern.
10 | I don't blame you, I wouldn't necessarily read the
11 | report, either. But your friend is going to do that,
12 | so you have a good source to turn to.

13 | You mentioned the waste. You are right,
14 | the waste does not remain here. The waste that comes
15 | out of this type of facility is known as depleted
16 | uranium.

17 | —At some point it ceases to be an asset,
18 | because it can't be reprocessed further for additional
19 | enrichment recovery. At some point it does become a
20 | waste. That waste has been dispositioned to a
21 | commercial disposal facility, or through the
22 | Department of Energy, through a commercial disposal
23 | facility at the Nevada Test Site.

24 | So the waste is not destined to stay here,
25 | that is correct. You mentioned safety and your

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1 | concerns about safety. Hopefully, you believe us when
2 | we tell you that is our most paramount concern.

3 | Construction of this facility will not
4 | take place until such time as all of our regulatory
5 | requirements have been met. There has been an
6 | exemption granted to allow certain pre-licensing
7 | activities to take place which is, predominantly,
8 | clearing of land to facilitate certain construction
9 | later.

10 | But once our ~~S~~safety ~~R~~review is complete,
11 | there will be another public meeting that we will
12 | conduct, that will explain the outcome of the Safety
13 | Evaluation Review findings, as well as our Final
14 | Environmental Impact Statement, and the relationship
15 | between the two.

16 | Similarly, once you have construction you
17 | proceed toward actually to build. We will also have a
18 | public meeting to discuss the inspection process that
19 | will be in place during the construction of the
20 | building.

21 | And then subsequently, of course, any
22 | nuclear facility, whether it be this one, or any one
23 | that we regulate, all have ongoing regular inspection
24 | activities during the course of operations.

25 | So I think those were some of the things

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1 that I heard in terms of our responsibility relative
2 to either the Safety Evaluation Report, or the
3 ~~E~~environmental ~~R~~review.

4 Again, we thank you for those comments,
5 and we thank you for your time and attention in coming
6 out today. Thank you very much.

7 (Whereupon, at 3:54 p.m., the above-
8 entitled matter was concluded.)

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