

Official Transcript of Proceedings

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: Draft EIS for South Texas Project
Public Meeting: Evening Session

Docket Numbers: 52-012, 52-013

Location: Bay City, Texas

Date: Thursday, May 6, 2010

Work Order No.: NRC-201

Pages 1-72

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

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

+ + + + +

PUBLIC MEETING

+ + + + +

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE SOUTH
TEXAS PROJECT UNITS 3 AND 4 COMBINED LICENSE

APPLICATION

EVENING SESSION

+ + + + +

THURSDAY

MAY 6, 2010

+ + + + +

The meeting convened at the Bay City Civic
Center, 201 7th Street, Bay City, Texas, at 7:00 p.m.,
Francis Cameron, presiding.

PRESENT:

FRANCIS CAMERON, Facilitator

RYAN WHITED, NRC, Presenter

JESSIE MUIR, NRC, Presenter

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

A-G-E-N-D-A

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY STATEMENTS	3
OVERVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS	9
PUBLIC COMMENTS	24
CLOSING STATEMENTS	72

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

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

(7:01 p.m.)

FACILITATOR CAMERON: Good evening, everyone. Welcome to tonight's meeting. My name is Chip Cameron, and it is a pleasure to serve as your facilitator for tonight's meeting. And I'm going to be assisted by my colleague, Gene Carpenter, who is right over there, and he is part of NRC's facilitator-in-training program.

And what we are going to try to do is to help all of you to have a productive meeting tonight.

And there is money dropping on the floor up here, and that is why everybody is sort of laughing about that.

The topic for tonight's program is the NRC and the Army Corps of Engineers environmental review process on an application that we received from the Southern -- South Texas Nuclear Operating Company to build and operate two new reactors at the South Texas site.

And I wanted to just talk a little bit about some meeting process issues before we get into the substance of tonight's discussions. And I would like to tell you about the format that we are going to use for the meeting, some ground rules for the meeting, and to introduce the NRC staff who will be

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 talking to you tonight.

2 In terms of the format for the meeting, it
3 is a two-part format. In the first part of the
4 meeting, we are going to try to give you some
5 information. We are going to have some brief NRC
6 presentations on not only the NRC review process on
7 this license application but a summary of the findings
8 in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

9 The review, the environmental review by
10 the NRC and Army Corps, is documented in the Draft
11 Environmental Impact Statement or EIS. And the staff
12 will be telling you all about that.

13 After the staff presentations, we are
14 going to have some time for some questions on process
15 or other issues, if anybody has any questions. And
16 then we are going to move to the more important part
17 of the meeting, which is an opportunity to -- for the
18 NRC to listen to you, to your advice, your
19 recommendations, on the environmental issues.

20 And we had asked you to fill out a yellow
21 card, if you want to talk tonight. A lot of you have
22 already done so, but there is no requirement that you
23 do that in advance of the meeting. So if you feel
24 like you want to say something tonight, please fill
25 out a yellow card, so that we know how many people to

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 anticipate speaking.

2 And the NRC is taking written comments on
3 these environmental review issues, but we wanted to be
4 here with you personally tonight to talk to you and to
5 listen to you. And any comments you give tonight will
6 have just as much weight as the written comments that
7 are submitted later on in the process.

8 In terms of ground rules, they are just
9 real simple, and they are -- the objective of the
10 ground rules is to help all of us to have a good
11 meeting tonight. The first one is if you could just
12 please wait until all of the NRC presentations are
13 finished before you ask any questions. And that way
14 we will be able to give you a comprehensive overview
15 of the issues.

16 If you have a question, please signal me
17 and I will bring you this cordless microphone, and
18 please introduce yourself to us.

19 And we are going to try to answer as many
20 questions as we can, but we brought a lot of NRC staff
21 with us to the meeting, and our experts that we used
22 to prepare the environmental review. They are going
23 to be here after the meeting to talk with you. And
24 so, if we don't get to your question, it will be easy
25 to go to them after the meeting is over and to talk to

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 them.

2 The second ground rule is I would ask that
3 only one person at a time speak, and that is so we can
4 give our full attention to whomever has the floor at
5 the moment, but also so we can get a clean transcript
6 of the meeting. We have our Court Reporter, Jim
7 Cordes, right here. He is taking a transcript of
8 everything that will be said tonight, and that is our
9 record, or the NRC's record, of the meeting, and it is
10 also your record of the meeting. It is a publicly
11 available document.

12 Third, I would ask you to be brief in your
13 comments, so that we can make sure that we get to
14 everybody who signed up to speak. And I would ask you
15 to follow a three- to five-minute guideline. It is
16 not a real rigid guideline, but I will tell you when
17 you are coming to the end of your time, if you are
18 going well over on that.

19 And I apologize in advance to you if I
20 have to ask you to finish before you have given your
21 complete comment, because I know that you put a lot of
22 time into preparing your comments. You will have an
23 opportunity to amplify on your comments by submitting
24 a written comment. And if you have a statement, a
25 written statement of something, we will gladly attach

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 that to the transcript tonight.

2 And I just want to emphasize that the NRC
3 staff is here tonight to listen to your comments.
4 They are not going to be responding to your comments
5 tonight. They are going to go back to NRC
6 headquarters. They are going to review the comments,
7 and they are going to document all of the comments and
8 their responses to the comments. So they are just
9 going to be here listening.

10 Final comment is just to extend courtesy
11 to everyone here tonight. You may hear opinions that
12 differ from your own, and just please respect the
13 person who is giving that comment. And I would thank
14 you all for being here.

15 And I want to introduce some of the NRC
16 staff. First, the speakers, Ryan -- Ryan Whited is
17 right here, and he is the Chief of the Environmental
18 Projects Branch in the Office of New Reactors at NRC
19 headquarters. And I want to give you a little bit of
20 background on Ryan and the project manager, who I will
21 introduce in a minute.

22 Ryan got a Master's in Environmental
23 Systems Engineering from Clemson University. He has
24 an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania. He has
25 been at the NRC for seven years and has been a manager

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 on low-level waste issues, and also on budget issues,
2 and before that he worked for Dames & Moore as a
3 consultant. And he is going to give you an overview
4 of what the NRC process is.

5 We are then going to go to Jessie Muir.
6 Okay? And Jessie is the project manager for the
7 environmental review on this South Texas license
8 application. Like Ryan, Jessie also has a Master's in
9 Environmental Systems Engineering from Clemson. She
10 also has a Bachelor's Degree from Clemson in
11 Agricultural Engineering, and she has been with the
12 NRC for four years.

13 And before she was the project manager on
14 this particular license application, she served as the
15 project manager on the environmental review for some
16 license renewal, nuclear reactor license renewal
17 applications. So Jessie is going to tell you about
18 the environmental -- the Draft Environmental Impact
19 Statement.

20 Some other notables that we have with us
21 tonight. We have the -- our senior manager here is
22 Tony Hsia, and Tony is the Deputy Director of the Site
23 and Environmental Review Division in our Office of New
24 Reactors. And that is where Ryan's branch is and
25 where Jessie is located in that division.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 I mentioned that this is a joint NRC and
2 Army Corps of Engineers environmental review, and we
3 have Jayson Hudson here from the Corps of Engineers.
4 He is the project manager on this one.

5 We do have one of our resident inspectors.

6 These are the people who live in the community and
7 are at the plant. There are two operating units
8 there, as you all know. And this is Binesh. And if
9 you have questions on the operating plant issues,
10 Binesh will be here after the meeting to talk with
11 you. And if he isn't here after the meeting, we have
12 the contact information for you. And Binesh told me
13 before the meeting that the NRC's end-of-cycle
14 meetings, where they have a public meeting to discuss
15 issues at the operating plant, that is going to be,
16 what, Binesh? Early June?

17 MR. THARAKAN: Early June. There should
18 be an announcement coming out that it will be in June.

19 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.
20 Thank you, Binesh.

21 We also have Mark Tonacci here, and Mark
22 is Chief of the branch in the Office of New Reactors
23 where the safety review of this application is done.

24 And we have our top public affairs
25 officer, Scott Burnell, back there, who is involved in

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 all of the new reactor applications.

2 And we have our attorneys here, Jessica
3 and Stephanie, and several other staff and -- NRC
4 staff and experts.

5 Rich Emch over there, who has been
6 involved in these projects for a long time and is a
7 health physics expert. Barry Zalcman back there, sort
8 of the dean of the NRC staff. And who else did I
9 miss? Andy Kugler. Another long-time environmental
10 expert with the NRC staff.

11 And you met Adrianne at the desk. And we
12 have Harriet, Harriet Nash. And Harriet's expertise
13 is in fish. Fish.

14 (Laughter.)

15 Okay. But at any rate, if you have
16 questions on any of this, please -- you know, please
17 talk to the staff.

18 And one last colleague right here. And
19 why don't you -- this is Sarah Lopas. I was going to
20 have her introduce herself, but she is helping Jessie
21 with this project. Okay. Thanks, Sarah.

22 Did I miss anybody? I don't want to take
23 a lot of time with this -- I guess I already have --
24 but I just want to make sure -- and then, there's Dan.
25 I didn't mean to say it like that.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 (Laughter.)

2 Okay. But, Dan, why don't you introduce
3 yourself.

4 MR. MUSSATTI: Thanks.

5 (Laughter.)

6 My name is Dan Mussatti. I'm the
7 socioeconomist for this project.

8 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thanks, Dan.

9 So I hope I got everybody.

10 At any rate, Ryan, are you ready? Okay.
11 Ryan Whited.

12 Ron Schmitt, Emergency Planning.

13 MR. WHITED: Thank you, Chip. I am Ryan
14 Whited. I am the Environmental Branch Chief for the
15 South Texas Units 3 and 4 review. First, I would like
16 to thank you all very much for coming this evening.
17 It is very important to us that you are here and that
18 we have a chance to listen to your comments on our
19 review.

20 We hope that we can provide some useful
21 information to you this evening about our
22 environmental review process and the preliminary
23 findings in our Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

24 I would like to take a minute to introduce
25 you to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Our mission

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 is to protect public health and safety, promote common
2 defense and security, and to protect the environment.

3 And this evening we are going to focus on that third
4 aspect of our mission.

5 We are an independent regulatory agency.
6 We license and inspect civilian uses of nuclear
7 materials at places like nuclear power plants,
8 universities, hospitals, other industrial uses.

9 We are here tonight because South Texas
10 Project Nuclear Operating Company has applied for a
11 combined license or a COL to construct and operate two
12 new units at the existing STP site. And part of our
13 licensing review process includes a review under the
14 National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, and the
15 principal product that comes out of that NEPA review
16 is an Environmental Impact Statement.

17 So the Draft Environmental Impact
18 Statement, DEIS, that we are going to discuss with you
19 tonight represents over two years of work by a team of
20 about 40 scientists and engineers, many of whom are
21 here tonight. Chip introduced several of them.

22 And we certainly do encourage you, if you
23 have any questions in a particular technical
24 discipline, come and see any of us after the meeting.

25 We will direct you to the right person. These folks

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 have spent a lot of time studying this project, and
2 they would be happy to answer any questions that you
3 have.

4 So tonight, as Chip mentioned, this is
5 really a two-part meeting. The first part Jessie Muir
6 is going to come and provide an overview of our
7 environmental review process and our preliminary
8 findings in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

9 At the end of Jessie's presentation, she will talk
10 about several different means by which you can provide
11 comments, certainly here tonight, and there are
12 several other ways for you to do that, up until the
13 time the comment period ends on June 9th.

14 And then, we will really turn the meeting
15 over to you, and we will sit and listen to any
16 comments that you would like to provide on our process
17 or our preliminary Environmental Impact Statement. So
18 with that, I would like to turn it over to Jessie to
19 discuss our environmental review.

20 MS. MUIR: Good evening, everybody.
21 Again, my name is Jessie Muir, and I am the NRC's
22 project manager for the STP Units 3 and 4
23 environmental review.

24 And, again, thank you for coming out.
25 Many of you all sat through the afternoon meeting, so

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 I appreciate you coming out to listen to it again.

2 Since it has been over two years since we
3 were last here for our scoping meetings, I want to
4 take a few moments to go over why we do an
5 environmental review. In September of 2007, STP
6 submitted an application for combined licenses, and
7 combined licenses, if granted, would give STP
8 authorization to construct and operate two new nuclear
9 units at their STP site.

10 For the combined license application, the
11 NRC is conducting two reviews at the same time -- a
12 safety review and an environmental review. And
13 tonight we will be focusing on the environmental
14 review.

15 The final product, as Ryan mentioned, of
16 our environmental review is an EIS. And once we
17 received and accepted the application from STP in
18 2007, we began reviewing the application, which
19 included an environmental report. We conducted site
20 audits. We went to visit alternative sites. We met
21 with local officials in state and federal agencies.
22 We met with you guys in 2008.

23 We requested additional information from
24 STP, and all this information was used to prepare our
25 EIS, which we published in March.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 We are pleased to have the U.S. Army Corps
2 of Engineers as a cooperating agency, and as a member
3 of our team, Mr. Jayson Hudson, participated with us
4 in our site visits, our agency interactions, and
5 participated in all of our technical reviews.

6 So this slide is a high-level overview of
7 our environmental review process. This step-wise
8 approach is how we meet our responsibilities under the
9 National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.

10 So before each milestone we will publish a
11 notice in the Federal Register. Ours start in 2007
12 with the notice of intent to conduct scoping and
13 prepare an EIS. That started a 60-day comment period
14 from December of 2007 to February 2008. The scoping
15 period was for you to share your views on the issues
16 that should be within the scope of our environmental
17 review. The scoping comments and our responses to
18 those comments are included in Appendix D of the draft
19 EIS.

20 The next step in our process was to
21 publish a notice of availability of the draft EIS,
22 which went out on March 26th. That started the 75-day
23 comment period, which will run through June 9th. So
24 once the comment period is over, we will begin
25 processing all of the comments we receive, including

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 those we get here tonight, and all of those comments
2 will be included in Appendix E of the final EIS.

3 So based on the comments we receive, we
4 will go back and we will adjust our analysis, revise,
5 edit as needed, and publish the final EIS, which we
6 expect to do in March of 2011.

7 This is just a high-level table of
8 contents of our draft EIS. We start off by describing
9 the current environmental conditions in the proposed
10 project. We spend a few chapters on the analysis of
11 impacts from the various phases of the project. We
12 discussed the benefits assessment, which includes the
13 need for power, and we also discuss alternatives to
14 the project. And in the last chapter we conclude the
15 EIS with our preliminary recommendation.

16 This slide just shows some of the resource
17 areas that we considered in our review. Also included
18 were postulated accidents and transportation of fuel
19 and waste.

20 The NRC has established three significance
21 levels for impacts -- small, moderate, and large. And
22 that is to help explain the project in common terms
23 for each of the resource areas. So without reading
24 them to you, simply they are -- is the effect minor?
25 Does the effect noticeably alter the resource? Or

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 does the effect destabilize the resource? So
2 throughout our EIS, for each of the resource areas,
3 the team would do their analysis and then assign a
4 significance level -- small, moderate, or large.

5 Okay. Now we will get into some more
6 detail about some of the technical areas, first being
7 water. Our evaluation considered groundwater and
8 surface water, both the use and quality of those two
9 resources. No surface water -- Colorado River, Little
10 Robbins Slough -- would be used during construction of
11 Units 3 and 4.

12 Groundwater use for both construction and
13 operation would be within the existing permitted
14 limits that STP has now. In addition, STP would have
15 to continue to comply with their state and federal
16 permits, such as their permit for discharge into the
17 Colorado River, from the Texas Commission on
18 Environmental Quality.

19 Therefore, the team determined that the
20 impacts of construction and operation of Units 3 and 4
21 on groundwater use and quality and surface water would
22 be small.

23 Okay. Next, ecological impacts. Our team
24 evaluated the impacts on local wildlife that either
25 live on the STP site, in the surrounding area, or

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 nearby water bodies. Some of those include the
2 loggerhead turtle, the Aplomado falcon, and the
3 American alligator.

4 Our staff, along with the Corps, consulted
5 with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the U.S.
6 Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine
7 Fisheries Service. The team concluded that the
8 impacts from construction and operation of Units 3 and
9 4 on fish and wildlife would not be detectable, would
10 not noticeably alter the resource, thus, a small
11 impact.

12 Okay. As part of our team's analysis, we
13 evaluated the doses received by construction workers
14 during construction, doses to members of the public
15 and plant workers during operation, and doses received
16 by wildlife.

17 Now, radiation exposure is a very well-
18 studied health risk. And to put radiation exposure
19 into perspective, the average dose to an individual in
20 the United States from natural background sources --
21 cosmic radiation, naturally occurring radionuclides in
22 the soil -- is around 300 millirem per year, whereas
23 the NRC's regulations limits the whole body dose to a
24 member of the public to around 5 to 10 millirem per
25 year. The EPA standard is 25 millirem per year.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 So the impacts on all three groups would
2 be small, since STP must continue to comply with
3 stringent NRC and EPA regulatory limits on human
4 exposure.

5 This slide discusses two important aspects
6 of our review, socioeconomics and environmental
7 justice. The environmental justice review focuses on
8 low-income and minority populations to understand if
9 they would be unevenly affected by the proposed
10 actions. During our review, we did identify several
11 minority and low-income census blocks, but determined
12 there would be no uneven adverse impacts to those
13 groups.

14 Now, the socioeconomic review encompasses
15 many different things, from taxes and jobs,
16 transportation, housing, education, infrastructure,
17 public services. Our team determined that the adverse
18 socioeconomic impacts would range from small to
19 moderate, whereas the beneficial impact on taxes would
20 range from small to large.

21 Of the four-county region evaluated, the
22 impacts would typically be larger here in Matagorda
23 County for both the adverse and the beneficial, which
24 makes sense because the plant is located here in
25 Matagorda County.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 All right. In Chapter 6 of our EIS, the
2 staff evaluates the environmental impacts of uranium
3 fuel cycle, transportation of fuel and waste, and
4 decommissioning of the plant. The impacts from the
5 uranium fuel cycle have already been evaluated and
6 documented by the NRC, and the staff used that
7 analysis and scaled it for the two new reactors at
8 STP.

9 The same for decommissioning. Those
10 environmental impacts have already been evaluated by
11 the NRC, and, as such, was referenced in our EIS.

12 For transportation, a full and detailed
13 analysis of transportation impacts was conducted.

14 So for all three issues -- uranium fuel
15 cycle, transportation, and decommissioning -- the
16 impacts would be small.

17 An important part of our environmental
18 review under the National Environmental Policy Act, or
19 NEPA, is the evaluation of cumulative impacts. In
20 Chapter 7, the team evaluated the impacts of Units 3
21 and 4 in addition to other past, present, and
22 reasonably foreseeable actions, such as the proposed
23 White Stallion Energy Center and the Lower Colorado
24 River Authority - San Antonio Water Systems Project.

25 So I'll use an example -- we'll use fish

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 and wildlife. In Chapters 4 and 5, the team
2 determined that the impacts from construction and
3 operation of Units 3 and 4 would be small. However,
4 in Chapter 7, when those construction and operation
5 impacts are added to the impacts from other facilities
6 in future development, the impacts would be moderate.

7 So overall the cumulative adverse impacts
8 would range from small to moderate, and beneficial
9 impacts would range from small to large.

10 As part of our review, the team needs to
11 make a determination of whether or not there is a need
12 for additional power in the area of the new plant.
13 For STP, the area evaluated was the ERCOT service
14 area, which includes most of Texas. ERCOT is the
15 Energy Reliability Council of Texas.

16 The team evaluated the ERCOT forecast
17 reports and studies and determined that they met the
18 necessary criteria and provided justification that the
19 power produced by the proposed new units would be
20 needed by the time the plant is completed. You can
21 read more about need for power in Chapter 8 of the
22 EIS.

23 Alternatives is often referred to as the
24 heart of NEPA. In Chapter 9, our staff evaluated
25 alternative energy sources, sites, and systems

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 designs, as well as the no action alternative. In an
2 alternative energy analysis, the review team evaluates
3 generation of baseload power. We examined sources
4 such as coal and natural gas and combinations of
5 sources, such as coal, natural gas, wind, and hydro
6 power. The NRC determined that none of the feasible
7 baseload energies would be environmentally preferable.

8 The review team compared the STP site to
9 three alternative locations -- Red 2, Trinity 2, and
10 Allens Creek. We determined that none of the
11 alternative sites would be environmentally preferable
12 to the STP site.

13 And, lastly, the staff determined no
14 alternative cooling system would be environmentally
15 preferable to the proposed plant design.

16 In Chapter 10, the staff makes a
17 preliminary recommendation to the Commission. This
18 recommendation is based on the mostly small
19 environmental impacts and the fact that no alternative
20 site or alternative energy source would be
21 environmentally preferable.

22 So based on our environmental review, our
23 preliminary recommendation to the NRC Commission is
24 that the combined licenses for Units 3 and 4 be
25 issued.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 Okay. If you don't already have a copy,
2 and you want to take a look at it, we do have hard
3 copies. I think actually we have a few left -- and
4 CDs available out in the lobby. You can call or
5 e-mail me and I'll send you one, or you can find it
6 online, or you can go down the street to the library.
7 They also have a hard copy and a CD available.

8 And as Ryan stated earlier tonight, really
9 the purpose of tonight's meeting is to listen to your
10 comments on our environmental review. And for those
11 of you who haven't already signed up to speak, you can
12 go to the table in the back of the room, and you can
13 handwrite a comment or you can submit it
14 electronically on the laptop. If you think of
15 something later, you can e-mail them, submit them
16 online, mail them, or fax them in to us.

17 So, again, several different ways for you
18 to submit your comments tonight on the environmental
19 review. And please take note that the 75-day comment
20 period does run through June 9th.

21 And with that, I conclude my presentation.
22 And, again, thank you for sitting through the
23 presentation, some of you twice now. So thank you.
24 Chip?

25 (Applause.)

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you. Thank
2 you, Jessie. Thank you, Ryan.

3 Before we go to public comment, are there
4 questions that anybody has about the NRC process or
5 the EIS at this point? Anything that we can clear up
6 for you or answer?

7 (No response.)

8 Okay. And the staff will be here, as I
9 mentioned, after the meeting to talk with you.

10 I am going to turn this over to my
11 colleague, Gene Carpenter, who is going to handle the
12 public comment part of the meeting.

13 Gene?

14 FACILITATOR CARPENTER: Thank you, Chip.
15 And this afternoon when we had our first meeting, I
16 got in trouble for saying "Gig 'em Aggies," so in this
17 case, "Hook 'em Horns," okay?

18 (Laughter.)

19 First one up is Judge McDonald.

20 JUDGE McDONALD: Thank you for allowing me
21 up, and thank the NRC again for making the long trek
22 down here to Matagorda County. However, I would be
23 remiss in not mentioning that we have NRC personnel
24 onsite, and we are very appreciative of the
25 partnership that we have with the NRC here at the STP

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 in Matagorda County.

2 I will tell you, its heartening for me,
3 and quite gratifying, to be able to witness firsthand
4 the commitment to the culture of excellence that has
5 been promulgated and brought forth out at STP. It
6 permeates everything we do at the STP here in
7 Matagorda County. It permeates their operations, it
8 permeates their maintenance, it permeates their
9 emergency management, and it certainly permeates their
10 commitment to the environment.

11 I witness it firsthand, you know, by
12 seeing what they have onsite with regards to wonderful
13 wetlands and bird sanctuaries.

14 As I mentioned this afternoon in my
15 comments, we have a wonderful river that flows right
16 adjacent to their property knee. It touches their
17 property, and I feel very comfortable skiing there at
18 least two or three times a week.

19 And I just -- I challenge anyone to find
20 anything environmentally sensitive about what we are
21 doing here. This is truly a wonderful outfit to do
22 business with. Coupling it with NRC's expertise and
23 guiding hand, this truly is something that we can move
24 America and Texas forward with, and certainly
25 Matagorda County, if and when this new Units 3 and 4

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 build occurs.

2 I thank you all for undertaking this EIS.

3 This is something that is very important to us, so
4 that all of the populous here understands and knows
5 that this is a safe operation. I believe everybody
6 sitting here tonight is comfortable with you all's
7 evaluation of our environmental impacts this project
8 may bring forward.

9 And to wrap my comments up, I just want
10 to, again, thank you all for being present and for
11 being ever vigilant for us here at the STP and for
12 Matagorda County. So thank you all very, very much.

13 (Applause.)

14 FACILITATOR CARPENTER: Thank you very
15 much, Judge.

16 Next up Mayor Knapik.

17 MAYOR KNAPIK: Thank you, and good
18 evening. Once again, on behalf of the city of Bay
19 City, its council, its employees, and citizens, I want
20 to welcome the NRC. And I was remiss this afternoon,
21 and I apologize, for not welcoming our friends from
22 the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers. Thank you. Glad
23 that you all are here.

24 Judge McDonald mentioned about STP's
25 wetlands and commitment to nature. What he didn't

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 mention, and a lot of times people don't know, is on
2 the north side of the plant, along FM-521, many years
3 ago a lot of migrating birds would stay there for the
4 winter. And a lot of birders in the area -- and not
5 only our area, but from all over, came to, you know,
6 watch the birds.

7 Well, this became a problem, because it
8 was a traffic hazard. It was along FM-521, a small,
9 narrow, two-lane road. STP, without any prodding, but
10 because they are a great corporate citizen and are
11 partners in our community, took it upon themselves to
12 add a parking area and a viewing area to enable the
13 safety of the birders, so they can watch in enjoyment
14 all the birds that came there during the winter.

15 I mean, if that's the kind of corporate
16 citizens they are, I will take 800 more of them any
17 day, any time. I mean, they are great to live with
18 here.

19 Two years ago I stood at this podium and I
20 said, "PIMBY" -- for those of you who have forgotten
21 what PIMBY is, let me remind you. It is Please In My
22 Backyard. The economic impacts are tremendous. The
23 eyes of Texas -- and not only the eyes of Texas, the
24 eyes of America, and the eyes of the world -- are
25 watching this project. If America truly is going to

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 go into a nuclear renaissance, this is the forefront
2 of the project.

3 Thank you for coming, and I appreciate
4 your comments. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 FACILITATOR CARPENTER: Thank you very
7 much, Mayor.

8 City Council Member Brent Marceaux. And I
9 apologize if I am still mispronouncing your name.

10 PARTICIPANT: (Inaudible comment from an
11 unmiked location.)

12 FACILITATOR CARPENTER: Thank you.

13 (Laughter.)

14 I had a lot of practice earlier.

15 MR. MARCEAUX: Good evening, and I was
16 remiss, wasn't able to attend this afternoon, but
17 thoroughly appreciate the opportunity to speak.
18 Thanks to the NRC and this opportunity, in cooperation
19 with the Corps of Engineers, they have presented an
20 absolutely wonderful document.

21 I received, read thoroughly. The breath,
22 I was impressed with. The depth is absolutely
23 impressive, the coverage of protagonists and
24 antagonists in their mailing, the coverage of topics
25 in detail. One particularly near to my heart was

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 Native American Indians. Their intimate and effective
2 communication to those groups is something we should
3 all be very proud of.

4 And, Ms. Muir, thank you, and, Mr. Whited,
5 thank you also.

6 On to something very, very dear to my
7 heart, and that is Bay City and Matagorda County. We
8 are hopefully on the crux of greatness here in many
9 aspects -- one, becoming a mini power-generating mecca
10 of South Texas, doing it in a relationship with STP
11 that no other city can be more proud of the way they
12 operate, the way they respond to the necessities of
13 charitable institutions, the unending door open and
14 access to all of their staff, all of their directors.

15 It is a rare and wonderful thing to have in our
16 community.

17 I will say that having 800 jobs and many
18 more that ancillary businesses would bring, and many
19 more that the ancillary retail and quality of life
20 provisions and businesses would provide, I look at
21 Clarence Fenner, I look at Joseph Enoch, I look at Ken
22 Coates, I look at Ed Halpin, I look at people, Ken
23 Stokley, who have taken pride in being a part of our
24 community, who are absolute pillars of integrity in
25 our community.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 I will take as many of them as they can
2 bring, as many of them of our citizens that they can
3 build, and thank them, thank the NRC and the Corps of
4 Engineers, for their efforts to make this happen.

5 Thank you, all.

6 (Applause.)

7 FACILITATOR CARPENTER: Thank you very
8 much, sir.

9 Next up would be Mitch Thames.

10 MR. THAMES: Again, I want to say thank
11 you and welcome to Matagorda County. I want to talk
12 just a little bit different -- about a little bit of a
13 different topic this evening than this afternoon.
14 It's something that you need to know about when you
15 leave Matagorda County, when you leave Bay City,
16 Texas. I do love, as I said today, selling the nature
17 that we have here in Matagorda County.

18 But I am going to take you back about
19 seven years ago, and I am going to paint a picture
20 that is not as bright. I am going to paint a picture
21 of 17 percent unemployment, buildings boarded up,
22 businesses in trouble. And a lot of people looked for
23 government to help them. When is the Federal
24 Government going to come save us? When is the state
25 government going to come save us? When is somebody

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 going to do something?

2 Well, I'll tell you, they weren't. But a
3 group of leaders got together and said, "We don't like
4 the way this is," and we meant we were going to
5 improve it. And now you see the Bay City today.
6 Unemployment, though, is still high, 11 percent this
7 month.

8 I want you to know what 3 and 4 mean. I
9 got -- I'm sorry, I got called away from the room when
10 my e-mail was read. Well, let me tell you why we can
11 fill this room up with STP 3 and 4 supporters because
12 I wrote one e-mail. It's because people remember 17
13 percent unemployment. They remember what this
14 community was like. They knew we were in trouble.
15 They know we've got a future now with the expansion,
16 with really, really hard work.

17 I get really tickled when people tell us
18 that luck has brought our prosperity. And I go back
19 to a famous quote that said, "The harder we work, the
20 luckier we get." This has not been easy, and it won't
21 be easy in the future. But I will tell you this: the
22 reason we can fill this room up tonight at 7:00 with
23 hardworking people with families to look after, when
24 we can fill this room up this afternoon, is because we
25 as a community know what 3 and 4 means.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 And, again, thank you so much for coming
2 here. Thank you for being a part of our safety, and
3 thank you for being a part of our future.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 FACILITATOR CARPENTER: Thank you very
7 much.

8 I would like next to ask Ed Halpin to come
9 up and speak. Thank you, sir.

10 MR. HALPIN: Good evening, everyone. My
11 name is Ed Halpin. I'm the President and Chief
12 Executive Officer of the South Texas Project Nuclear
13 Operating Company, and I want to warmly welcome you
14 here tonight. Thank you for your attendance and your
15 input.

16 I arrived at South Texas some 22 years ago
17 as a system engineer to help out the station. Prior
18 to that, I served as a naval officer aboard a nuclear
19 power submarine. And I have had the privilege for the
20 last 22 years of working with some of the finest men
21 and women that you will ever meet. These are
22 individuals that have helped to make South Texas
23 great.

24 And let me tell you something -- a little
25 bit about our leadership team. Our supervisors and

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 managers, which account for about 280 of our
2 employees, the average service time of those
3 supervisors and managers at the South Texas Project is
4 21 years. And what does that mean? That means that
5 those leaders have dedicated their adult lives to STP
6 to make it an excellent facility. So from the
7 standpoint of being vested in excellence and this
8 community, those individuals are.

9 You know, we recognize as leaders of STP
10 that we have a very special trust that has been given
11 to us by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and also by
12 the citizens of Matagorda County. And that special
13 trust is in protection of the health and safety of the
14 general public. It is a responsibility that we take
15 very seriously every minute of every day, and we do
16 that by operating safely and putting nuclear safety
17 first in all of our decisionmaking.

18 Our team of experts, of operational
19 people, engineers, maintenance folks, as well as our
20 environmental people, who are experts in their fields,
21 work hard to improve STP every day. And that hard
22 work goes beyond the gates of South Texas into the
23 community as we collectively focus on improving
24 people's lives, which is really our vision, improving
25 people's lives through excellence in energy

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 generation.

2 You know, we are here today considering
3 this Environmental Impact Statement. The reality is
4 that there are a lot of different places to build a
5 nuclear power plant throughout the United States. The
6 reality is also that there are none better than South
7 Texas. And I'll tell you, the list on why is very
8 long, but I will mention two major reasons. Number
9 one is the safety and operational record of the people
10 who manage Units 1 and 2, which is a testimony to that
11 management team's leadership.

12 Second, and even more important, is the
13 relationship that we have with the community. It is
14 one that has been forged over the last 30 years like a
15 piece of steel. It is a relationship, a partnership,
16 a friendship, and people are envious of that
17 relationship, which is why it's great to build at STP.

18 Keep that in mind as you provide your input.

19 I am not going to go through all of the
20 reasons as to why nuclear power is good. You are
21 going to hear some statistics here tonight. I won't
22 read anything off to you. I will tell you base your
23 comments and your thoughts on your experience. You
24 have experienced nuclear power for the last 30 years.

25 Let that experience speak for itself.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 I just want to say thank you very much to
2 the community of Matagorda County for your outstanding
3 support. We would not be the team that we are today
4 without it.

5 Thank you very much.

6 (Applause.)

7 FACILITATOR CARPENTER: Thank you, sir.

8 Jim Humphries.

9 DR. HUMPHRIES: Good evening. My name is
10 Dr. Jim Humphries. I'm a local dentist here in Bay
11 City. I want to thank you all again for giving me the
12 opportunity to speak tonight in support, you know, of
13 Units 3 and 4 at STP.

14 As a third generation Matagorda County
15 resident, STP has been a part of my life for almost 40
16 years. I remember it almost as yesterday the
17 excitement and the tone of my father's voice when he,
18 as the Matagorda County tax collector at the time,
19 told me of the acquisition of land in the county for a
20 future nuclear site.

21 He told me then how important this would
22 be for our community. Oh how prophetic those words
23 were way back then, almost 40 years ago.

24 I have since been connected to STP in one
25 way or another for my entire life, whether it be my

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 brother-in-law being employed at the site during
2 construction, or me actually working at the site as a
3 landscape contractor, keeping the newly planted grass
4 alive at the training center one summer while I was in
5 dental school. So it has always been a big part of my
6 life.

7 Not a day goes by in my dental practice
8 where I don't encounter someone from STP. I always
9 look forward to the conversations that I have with
10 everybody about the site. You know, we have just
11 recently gone through an outage, and day by day I
12 would be talking to either an employee or their family
13 and I got to follow that. And it was exciting to see
14 how well it was going and just how much an impact it
15 all had on our community.

16 My generation was the first generation to
17 actually be able to finish high school here in Bay
18 City and be employed at the site, whether it be in
19 construction or actually now I have a lot of friends
20 who have made their entire career out there. So it
21 has been a huge impact in that respect to me.

22 And that brings me to the subject at hand
23 here tonight, and that is Units 3 and 4. Another part
24 of my life in community service is serving on the Bay
25 City Independent School Authority.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 You cannot realize the lightbulbs that
2 went off in the kids' eyes when they first heard about
3 an expansion at our local nuclear site. For years we
4 had children coming through our schools with hopes of
5 graduating from here, being successful in college, and
6 finding another place to live, because there were not
7 very many opportunities for them to come back to our
8 community.

9 And that has done a 180-degree turn,
10 whether it be in the process technology area, which
11 just recently graduated its first students, or whether
12 it be in engineering, or even with my daughter, who is
13 getting ready to be a senior at Bay City High School,
14 as a fourth generation Matagorda County resident, who
15 wants to go into dentistry, which I'm in, having the
16 opportunity to come back and be just like me and serve
17 her peers, you know, as they continue on at the site.

18 I wasn't really aware of the exact
19 presentation tonight, but I can speak to the
20 environmental concerns with me living 11 miles from
21 the site. I train for triathalons, and much like Nate
22 said, whether I am running by the site, whether I am
23 cycling by the site, or whether I am in that river
24 swimming by the site, I have no concerns at all. And
25 that is because of the safety record that they have

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 established.

2 And we have all been excited to celebrate
3 as they have won many national awards, being the
4 number one site in the country.

5 So, again, it is just a pleasure for me to
6 get up and tell a little bit of my story and what this
7 place, this site has meant to me, and welcome all of
8 you all from Washington back home where I know you
9 grew up. And we look forward to you being back soon
10 to continue this expansion.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 FACILITATOR CARPENTER: Thank you. And,
14 yes, I am a local boy. I grew up in Brazoria County.

15 Next up, please, Kaley Roberts.

16 MS. ROBERTS: Good evening. I am Kaley
17 Roberts. I am the Sales and Marketing Director for
18 Hampton Inn and Suites here in Bay City, and for Titan
19 Hotels Group. Titan Hotels Group is a hotel
20 management company with properties in Bay City, Texas;
21 Mount Pleasant, Texas; and future sites in Ponca City,
22 Oklahoma. We are a Hilton-approved management company
23 with over 40 years' experience in hotel operations,
24 and we have chosen to build Hampton Inn and Suites in
25 Bay City and operate it.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 A few years ago, the owners of the Hampton
2 Inn and Suites had never heard of a small town called
3 Bay City. However, watching television one night one
4 of the owners saw a news report about STP and the
5 growth that it was bringing to the area. Over the
6 next few months, owners did a lot of research and
7 decided that Bay City is where they most wanted to
8 invest their time and money.

9 However, when building a hotel, not only
10 do the owners of a hotel have to be convinced of the
11 viability and prosperity of a location, but in this
12 case Hilton Worldwide also had to be convinced.
13 Needless to say that they both decided that an
14 \$8 million project would be perfect in Bay City due to
15 STP.

16 As the person in our company that is
17 greatly involved in many of the local people and
18 businesses, I was surprised to find that there were a
19 lot of people who couldn't understand our reasons for
20 wanting to bring another hotel to Bay City. However,
21 after a while, I realized that a lot of the confusion
22 on why we are here has to do with the fact that they
23 were simply unaware of what STP is and does for their
24 own businesses and community.

25 As someone who doesn't permanently reside

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 in Bay City, or South Texas for that matter, myself
2 and all of us with Titan Hotels Group would never
3 begin to sway your beliefs on the environmental
4 aspects of STP. However, as a group of people that
5 are extremely environmentally aware and health
6 conscious, we do feel perfectly at ease in coming and
7 spending extended amounts of time in Bay City, and
8 with having our employees live and work here.

9 We believe this is a decision that needs
10 to be influenced by the citizens who live here and
11 work here and are as comfortable and excited about
12 being a part of this community as we are.

13 Titan Hotels Group and Hampton Inn and
14 Suites have chosen to put their roots down in Bay
15 City, and, therefore, we are here to support STP and
16 we ask that you do the same.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 FACILITATOR CARPENTER: Thank you.

20 Joe Yeamans.

21 MR. YEAMANS: Good evening, everybody. My
22 name is Joe Yeamans, II, and I'm currently a student
23 at Wharton County Junior College in the nuclear power
24 technology program. I am in my third semester, and I
25 will graduate in December.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 I am excited to speak here today in
2 support of the expansion of Units 3 and 4, because I
3 am passionate about the program and my future career
4 at South Texas Project.

5 My family came here to Matagorda County
6 over 180 years ago from upstate New York in 1827. So
7 I guess you could say I'm a local. I have lived
8 directly across the reservoir makeup pumping facility,
9 and just three and a half miles from STP's Unit 1, for
10 the last 20 years. In my opinion, STP and the Center
11 for Energy Development is the best thing that has ever
12 happened to Matagorda County.

13 Matagorda County citizens, as well as
14 citizens from surrounding counties, now have a place
15 right here in Bay City where we can get an education
16 in the nuclear industry and go straight to work
17 earning a very nice salary.

18 It will be a privilege to become a part of
19 a world-class organization that produces clean,
20 affordable, reliable energy. Beyond that, in all my
21 life I have never experienced anything that meets or
22 exceeds the culture of STP. Their strong commitment
23 to safety and exemplary work ethics are a model for
24 any industry.

25 This is a great time to be a part of the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 nuclear industry, and I would like to thank the NRC
2 for their nuclear education scholarship program. I
3 would like to thank South Texas Project, and Mr.
4 Clarence Fenner, for providing the means for my
5 education. And I would also like to thank Wharton
6 County Junior College, and Mr. Rudolph Henry, the
7 director of our nuclear power program, for providing a
8 top-of-the-line curriculum. And, last but not least,
9 I would like to thank my father, Joe Yeamans, for
10 always being there for me.

11 Thank you for listening.

12 (Applause.)

13 FACILITATOR CARPENTER: Thank you, Joe.

14 Mark McBurnett, please.

15 MR. MCBURNETT: Good evening. It is
16 always a pleasure to talk to the good people of
17 Matagorda County. I am Mark McBurnett. I'm the Vice
18 President of Oversight and Regulatory Affairs for STP.
19 I am the guy that's responsible for licensing of
20 Units 3 and 4, so that's my primary function right now
21 and where I am focused.

22 I have been at South Texas for 29 years.
23 I was here since 1981. I was a part of the licensing
24 team that licensed the Units 1 and 2 back in the mid-
25 1980s. I have been here ever since. I'm a native of

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 South Texas and do consider myself to be a strong
2 environmentalist and look to South Texas as strong
3 stewards of the environment.

4 And one thing I would like to point out,
5 as we go through this, if you want to know what we do
6 at South Texas as far as what our impact is on the
7 environment from Units 1 and 2, you know, we publish a
8 report every year, an annual environmental operating
9 report. We want to see what really effect is
10 happening.

11 This document is available. In fact, you
12 may see it laying on the table at the dentist's office
13 or somewhere around town, because we do distribute
14 them. And it's a public document. It's filed with
15 the NRC every year. But it goes through the detail of
16 the monitoring and the technical assessment we do of
17 what is happening in the environment around South
18 Texas due to our operations. And it shows good
19 results. It shows results we are proud of. It shows
20 -- it demonstrates that we are good stewards of the
21 environment.

22 Like I said, I am responsible for
23 licensing South Texas. I am here, I have some of my
24 staff here, and certainly we are available at any time
25 for questions related to the licensing process and to

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 what we're doing. And going forward we would be glad
2 to talk to anybody at any time and explain what we're
3 doing, show you what we're doing. Just get in touch
4 with us.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 FACILITATOR CARPENTER: Okay. Thank you.

8 D.C. Dunham, please.

9 MS. DUNHAM: Good evening. I am D.C.
10 Dunham, the Executive Director for Bay City Community
11 Development Corporation. And this is really an
12 exciting time for economic development, and especially
13 being an economic developer in Texas as well as Bay
14 City and Matagorda County.

15 In our industry, we get to see this kind
16 of economic development only once in a lifetime. So I
17 plan to take advantage of it.

18 It is important we really take advantage
19 of these opportunities that have been described in
20 this review, and, first of all, to capture the great
21 job opportunities. As most of you know, Bay City
22 Community Development Corporation purchased the Old
23 K-Mart on South 60 and renovated that and made it into
24 a beautiful facility, the STP Center for Energy
25 Development, where we house 3 and 4, but, more

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 importantly, we have Wharton County Junior College in
2 there educating our folks for all of these great new
3 jobs that STP is creating for us.

4 Next is to capture the new employees
5 coming into our community. We have been working very
6 hard to bring in developers, to bring in new
7 subdivisions, and housing, as well as apartments.
8 Earlier today you did hear about some of the
9 developers building subdivisions and housing.
10 Apartments are soon to follow. And of course next,
11 and of course really important to I know our County
12 Judge and a few others, is that some of that retail
13 development and that -- the entertainment venue to
14 have for our folks living here.

15 With the retail and the entertainment
16 venues that so many of you want, that really and truly
17 makes Bay City the gateway to growth and opportunity.

18 So thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 FACILITATOR CARPENTER: Thank you.

21 Julie Green. And after Julie I will call
22 up Mark Griffin.

23 MS. GREEN: Good evening. My name is
24 Julie Green. I am a local business owner here in Bay
25 City. I own Fit for Life, our local gym, and I want

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 to give you a little background on how I came to Bay
2 City. I have only been here three years. I know some
3 of you have said you have been here -- you are third
4 generation. I am a newbie, still considered, I think.

5 I had moved here from Florida, and I
6 researched buying a gym for years before I actually
7 made that step. So I think it really says a lot that
8 I chose Bay City. That is random, right? From
9 Florida? It was a big move.

10 But I had looked into it, the main reason
11 I chose Bay City is due to the STP company, as well as
12 the expansion that I had hoped would be coming to the
13 area. And it worked. I am proud to say that the
14 growth has been phenomenal at my business, and I
15 foresee that it will continue to grow, and hope for
16 that expansion at STP, so I can continue to offer
17 services there.

18 I think that not only will it help my own
19 business, but other small businesses in the area. And
20 a lot of that revenue that comes in through the local
21 businesses that are not franchises stays within the
22 community. And that leads to more taxes and more
23 programs that we can offer the public. So those
24 benefits are going to be huge in terms of all parts of
25 our population.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 And within my own business, I feel like I
2 can offer more services for health and fitness, to
3 promote that in the community, through the business
4 but also through the charity work that we provide
5 through Fit for life.

6 I also want to say I am a Mom. I have a
7 young child, and that was one of the draws here as
8 well is the small community that is very friendly, and
9 I felt very safety. I am health conscious, of course,
10 so if I felt like I was in danger, that it was some
11 health risk to me to be in this area, I would not be
12 here.

13 So thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 FACILITATOR CARPENTER: Mark Griffin, and
16 then next up will be Bobby Head.

17 MR. GRIFFIN: Thank you. I would first
18 like to thank the NRC again for providing the
19 opportunity for me and others in the community to
20 express our views in this format. As you said, my
21 name is Mark Griffin. I am second generation nuclear
22 worker now.

23 My father started in the nuclear power
24 plant business in the late '60s. His career took our
25 family to different nuclear power plants in Illinois,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, and my Dad was here at
2 South Texas twice. I followed in my father's
3 footsteps, beginning in 1987 at the Turkey Point
4 Nuclear Plant in Homestead, Florida.

5 I then again followed in my father's
6 footsteps and followed him out here to Bay City,
7 Texas, in 1989. And one thing that was mentioned this
8 morning that I want to touch on -- when I came to Bay
9 City in '89, I did come to Bay City. And I have lived
10 in Bay City since I have been here. I live 18 miles
11 from South Texas Project, and I have been there 20
12 years now.

13 So I was hired when I came out here as an
14 apprentice in the mechanical maintenance department at
15 STP, where I am currently a head journeyman with
16 nearly 21 years of experience at the plant. I
17 currently serve a dual role at STP, as I have for the
18 last 16 years or more, and by that what I mean is, in
19 addition to being a head journeyman for the plant, I
20 am also the unit chairman for the International
21 Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 66, out of
22 Pasadena, Texas. I also serve as the shop union
23 steward.

24 So as both a union member and a union
25 officer, I would just like to express my support for

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 this expansion project. STP's Units 3 and 4 will
2 produce approximately 4- to 6,000 construction jobs,
3 which will be staffed by the AFL-CIO, Building and
4 Construction Trades Department, who currently
5 represent over two million skilled crafts
6 professionals in both the United States and Canada.

7 The construction phase of this project
8 will also impact several billions of dollars into our
9 local economy. Once these units are completed, they
10 will also create an additional 800 well-being jobs,
11 full-time, many of which will be again skilled union
12 craftsmen and craftswomen, which I will help
13 represent.

14 In addition, the potential for as many as
15 12- to 1,300 new hires exist between 2011 and 2017 to
16 compensate for the loss of retirees at our current
17 units.

18 My family has been supported by income
19 received from nuclear power generation since I was a
20 small child. My father supported a family of five. I
21 have helped raise four children now and am the proud
22 grandfather of five grandbabies with a sixth grandbaby
23 to be born this summer.

24 Between my father and I, we have over 40
25 years of safe, healthy, gainful employment in the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 nuclear power industry. I have experienced firsthand
2 the benefits of a project of this nature on the local
3 community. This project would produce well-paying
4 jobs with solid benefit packages and stability to the
5 local area for decades to come.

6 I am extremely proud to work in a business
7 that can provide such stability and opportunity. I
8 would also be very proud to have my children and my
9 grandchildren follow in my footsteps as I followed in
10 my father's.

11 This project, and the nuclear renaissance
12 that this country is about to embark on, can make this
13 possibility a reality.

14 I thank you for your time and appreciate
15 the efforts of everyone here.

16 (Applause.)

17 FACILITATOR CARPENTER: Thank you very
18 much.

19 Next up would be Bobby Head, and then Lynn
20 Grebe.

21 MR. HEAD: First off, I would like to --
22 I'm Bobby Head. I would like to say thank you for all
23 of you coming out, NRC especially, coming down here to
24 get our views on this power plant.

25 I came here 56 years ago by way of

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Matagorda General Hospital. I have been here all my
2 life -- so has my Dad -- and my family are fourth
3 generation Matagorda County.

4 I had touched on this a little bit before,
5 but what I want to touch on is the environmental
6 impact. A lot of people don't realize that we have
7 had now -- I said 335 last year. We've had 339 wells
8 drilled in Matagorda County -- oil, gas, and a
9 combination of both of those.

10 Then, we have the number one producing
11 nuclear generator in the world last year, not in the
12 United States, number one in the world right here in
13 Matagorda County. Unit 2 was in the top five in the
14 nation last year.

15 Having worked out at the power plant, I
16 had an opportunity to do some great things. I went
17 from the very top to room number 1. If you don't know
18 where room number 1 is, that's where it is really,
19 they say, hot, you know? And I had an opportunity to
20 work out on the reservoir at night. I went out there
21 and I looked over, and the lights that are shining
22 down into the reservoir, I saw redfish swimming right
23 beside catfish.

24 We, in Matagorda County, have something
25 that no one else has in the United States of America.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 Every year the National Audubon Society comes all
2 over the United States, and they do a bird count. And
3 I'm talking from Florida to -- all over the east
4 coast, Colorado, all the way down the west coast,
5 everywhere. Matagorda County, year after year after
6 year it is number one in the nation bird count. What
7 does that prove to me? That not only can our oil
8 industry coexist, but our nuclear industry can coexist
9 with what we have here in Matagorda County. I love
10 it. It's awesome.

11 Having worked out there, if someone is
12 worried about safety, let me tell you, having worked
13 four outages out there, I have never in my life seen
14 any place in the world that takes safety as number one
15 like they do. Not just the fact that, "Let's don't
16 pollute," but also nobody -- you can't get in out
17 there. I mean, it's unbelievable.

18 We think our airports are safe? Try to go
19 out there. The first thing you do is you walk into a
20 little cubicle, and it blows your dress up. You know?

21 And it smells you to make sure you don't have
22 anything on you. And then, you have to put your lunch
23 pail or whatever and it detects anything in your lunch
24 pail, and you have to walk through, and then you --
25 like you do at the airport, the metal detector, they

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 try that. And if you think that's enough, no, no, no.

2 Then, you have to go in and you have to have your
3 badge with your picture on it, and you have to place
4 your hand in a mechanism and run the badge through at
5 the same time. So the only way for somebody else to
6 get in there is to cut your hand off and have your
7 badge. I mean, it is safe.

8 Just to finish up, I would like to tell
9 the NRC that we love our power plant. We have a lot
10 of great people, and I'm not talking about just Mr.
11 Halpin and Mr. Fenner. You go out to our ballparks,
12 and we have the guys out there and the ladies working
13 the concession stand, and we love these people. We
14 love STP, and we want Units 3 and 4.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 FACILITATOR CARPENTER: Thank you, sir.

18 And in no way are we advocating cutting
19 off anybody's hands, by the way.

20 (Laughter.)

21 Lynn Grebe.

22 And then we are going to go to John
23 Corder.

24 MR. GREBE: I'm Lynn Grebe. I'm a local
25 attorney here. I have been here since 1979, married,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 raised six children here. None of them are glowing
2 green or anything like that.

3 Unlike Judge McDonald, I have to work for
4 a living, so I can't go water skiing --

5 (Laughter.)

6 -- twice a week, but I do have these
7 little jetskis. Judge McDonald calls them my horses
8 or something. So I go out on my jetskis in the
9 Colorado River, and I don't have any concern about the
10 nuclear power plant. I have a little concern about
11 alligators and water moccasins, but not about the
12 nuclear power plant.

13 But I want to take you back to when I
14 first came here in 1979. When I first got here, you
15 know, things were booming. At that time, Brown & Root
16 was building the plant, and it was -- you know,
17 everybody was employed and things were booming. Then,
18 all of a sudden, Brown & Root had some problems, and I
19 guess they got fired. And the next thing I knew
20 everybody was getting laid off, people were moving,
21 couldn't sell their homes. People were going
22 bankrupt, and it was bad around here for about a year,
23 or maybe a year and a half.

24 Then, Basco and Bechtel came along, and
25 they built the plant, and everything was booming

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 again. And then, you got the plant built and
2 gradually I guess they found out they can operate the
3 plant with less and less people, so it has gone down
4 some, you know?

5 So I am excited that we are going to build
6 Units 3 and 4. I think it is a great thing. You
7 know, I have friends that ask me -- that live out of
8 state or out of the county that say, "Are you worried
9 about living next to a nuclear plant," you know? I
10 said, "No, man, it's the safest thing in the world,"
11 you know?

12 As an attorney, I try to deal in facts.
13 Some of the local judges say I deal in BS, but I
14 really deal in facts. But the thing that -- the fact
15 that impresses me the most is -- I learned to speed
16 read a long time ago, and so they gave me all of this
17 literature when I came in here, and I read it all.
18 But the thing that really impresses me is it says,
19 "Our current annual operations avoid the use of 33.6
20 million barrels of oil, 9.8 million tons of coal, and
21 215.6 billion cubic feet of natural gas." Boy, that
22 is an amazing fact there. Amazing fact.

23 So my only comment to the NRC would be,
24 hey, hurry up and approve this thing, and let's get
25 this thing built.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 Thank you very much.

2 (Applause.)

3 FACILITATOR CARPENTER: Thank you, sir.

4 John Corder, and then we will go to
5 Veronica Hutto.

6 MR. CORDER: My name is John Corder, and I
7 live at 313 County Road 912 in Brazoria County. I am
8 here tonight to talk about the communication of the
9 citizens in the state, in this county and other
10 counties.

11 The thing about communication is it -- no
12 question is more important than the one you want to
13 ask because you don't know. Here is a list of the
14 communications that I have engaged in it the last two
15 years -- the STP project management, the NRC groups,
16 Corps of Engineers, Texas Commission on Environmental
17 Quality, our U.S. Representative, our U.S.
18 Congressmen, and I have asked questions.

19 I have got returns, but in two years there
20 is two questions I have never had an answer to. I'm
21 sure they're out there, and I have been told today
22 that they are forthcoming.

23 What I want to say is I am intervenor.
24 Everyone is an intervenor. They can be intervenor for
25 good, they can be intervenor for bad, for or against

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 if you will. There is no question that is more
2 important than the one you have to have.

3 I hope that you will read the
4 environmental study that is out there in the front.
5 Look at it real carefully and see if you have a
6 question. I would encourage you to get names from the
7 authorities here, the NRC, the STP, and the -- and get
8 their addresses and pursue answers. You would be
9 surprised what kind of answer you get. But do you get
10 the answer answer? I challenge each one of you to try
11 it.

12 I also appreciate that the NRC here
13 tonight has two sessions, one for those that are not
14 able to be here earlier today. We live in a country
15 where we can speak freely, and I appreciate that
16 tonight.

17 I hope that each one of you will take an
18 interest in the questions that you might have, so that
19 as the environment surrounds you in your daily life
20 you will always have the satisfaction of knowing if
21 you got an answer to the question that you had.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 FACILITATOR CARPENTER: Thank you, sir.
25 And, actually, just to remind everybody in the room --

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 you have a very good point -- we have the addresses up
2 here for anybody who wants to submit comments. So
3 please feel free to do so.

4 Veronica, and then we will go to Chance
5 Chavez.

6 MS. HUTTO: Good evening. My name is
7 Veronica Hutto, and I am currently attending Wharton
8 County Junior College at the Bay City campus. I am
9 finishing my third semester and will be graduating
10 this December with a degree in nuclear power
11 technology.

12 I am speaking today in support of the
13 expansion of STP to include two new units, Reactors
14 Number 3 and 4. Nuclear energy is a safe, clean,
15 reliable way to produce electricity. One thing that
16 has been taught to us students repeatedly is safety.
17 Safety is a major part of STP's culture. And because
18 of this, I have absolutely no doubts or worries about
19 the production of nuclear power.

20 This expansion will be great for our
21 community in that it will provide even more jobs for
22 our citizens we currently have, as well as bring more
23 people into our community. Bay City has been growing
24 over the past few years, just in anticipation of this
25 new expansion. As it is coming more and more to

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 light, we are continuing to see Bay City and the
2 surrounding areas grow and thrive.

3 The Center for Energy Development has
4 given area students just graduating high school, or
5 those going back to school, a place to learn,
6 interact, and grow. I have seen many younger students
7 just out of high school come in and be serious about
8 their education. People such as myself who have long
9 since graduated have decided to make a change and also
10 have a thirst for this knowledge.

11 Our campus is unique in that we have
12 actual equipment and simulators that we can learn
13 with. We receive our education from literature, as
14 well as hands-on training. More than that, our
15 instructors come from the industry and have a real-
16 world working knowledge that they can share. This
17 enriches our education.

18 I think one of several advantages to our
19 program is that the same people that we are sitting
20 with in class every day will be the same co-workers we
21 will have in the future. We have been given
22 situations where we can solve problems and create
23 solutions in order to develop our working relationship
24 as well as learn effective communication.

25 We are the future of nuclear power

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 industry. We are the new generation of computer age
2 technicians.

3 One last point I would like to hit on is
4 the fact that I am very proud to go to a college where
5 the director of the program, Mr. Rudolph Henry, works
6 around the clock to ensure we have the best, most up-
7 to-date information and technology we could possibly
8 receive. WCJC is one of seven colleges out of 52 that
9 have completed the INPO NEI gap analysis with our
10 nuclear power program.

11 I would like to thank the NRC and STP for
12 the scholarships that have made it possible for
13 students such as myself to finish their education and
14 receive a degree in nuclear power.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 FACILITATOR CARPENTER: Thank you.

18 Chance Chavez, and then we will go to
19 Vatsu Kumar.

20 MR. CHAVEZ: Thank you. Hello, everyone.

21 My name is Chance Chavez, and I'm a member of the STP
22 EIP program. I will be graduating here May 21st, and,
23 if all goes well, hopefully become an operator come
24 June 14th.

25 I am excited to be here with you all

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 tonight and wanted to talk a little bit about my life
2 and my experience in being in the STP EIP program, as
3 well as my excitement for the expansion of Units 3 and
4 4.

5 Growing up and being raised by my
6 grandparents, I haven't had the easiest life. I have
7 struggled many times in my life to find a sense of
8 direction and have endured many of life's hardships.
9 My first two years of high school, I was living with
10 my grandfather in North Carolina. I didn't focus on
11 my education, and did not have a clue about what the
12 future held for me.

13 I knew I wanted to go to college, but I
14 had no idea what I wanted to study or how I was going
15 to pay for it, coming from a low income family.
16 Towards the end of my sophomore year, my grandfather
17 made the decision that it was best for me to move to
18 Texas to live with my family here.

19 Being the age that I was, I didn't see
20 that my grandfather only wanted what was best for me.

21 As hard as it was for him, he knew that letting me go
22 would help him -- would help me grow as a young man
23 and learn responsibility. This experience taught me
24 responsibility, how to communicate with others, and
25 helped me to develop a strong work ethic.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 For the next two years of high school, I
2 grew to believe in myself. I began to pay attention
3 in class and made really good grades. My confidence
4 grew, and I was headed in the right direction. I
5 heard about this opportunity with STP my senior year
6 and instantly grew excited about it. I did everything
7 I could to get into the program and was already taking
8 college classes that were in the degree plan.

9 I submitted everything on time and waited
10 patiently for a phone call. I soon got the phone call
11 for an interview, and after that I received a call
12 that I had been accepted into the program and that STP
13 would pay for my education. Valuing this opportunity
14 I have been given, I have reinvested in my schoolwork
15 and have seen the benefits from my efforts.

16 I feel blessed to be a part of such an
17 amazing company as STP and take pride in the core
18 values that STP stands for, these core values being
19 safety, integrity, teamwork, and excellence.

20 STP holds themselves to the highest
21 standards. They would never compromise safety in any
22 circumstance. I have been taught that safety is the
23 number one priority at STP -- safety to the
24 environment, to the public, and to the plant.

25 With the unparalleled success of STP's

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Units 1 and 2 earning more industrial honors than any
2 other plant nationwide, including producing more
3 electricity than any other two-unit nuclear power
4 facility in the nation for six consecutive years, and
5 reaching a total safety industrial accident rate of
6 0.0 in February 2009, and during that time operated
7 for 31 months, 10 million labor hours, without a
8 restricted duty or lost time injury during -- among
9 its employees and contractors.

10 STP is, without a doubt, a leader in the
11 nuclear industry. With this being said, I am very
12 excited about STP's expansion with Units 3 and 4, and
13 I am highly confident that the new advanced boiling
14 water reactors will be a huge success, complementing
15 Units 1 and 2 well into the future.

16 With the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
17 overseeing reactor safety and security, reactor
18 licensing and renewal, radioactive material safety,
19 security, and licensing, the public can be assured
20 that STP will operate within technical specifications
21 and follow every guideline that the NRC puts in place,
22 thus building upon the trust and support of the public
23 and safety -- safely operating the units.

24 With STP being a nuclear power plant, we
25 are able to produce electricity without polluting the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 air and producing greenhouse gases, which would damage
2 the atmosphere and cause harm to plants and animals.
3 We are an ecofriendly plant and offset the equivalent
4 of 35 million barrels of oil and nine million tons of
5 coal each and every year.

6 STP always -- STP also provides a
7 protected habitat for several threatened species,
8 including bald eagles, white-tailed hawks, and
9 alligators.

10 Finally, STP ships a variety of materials
11 to be reprocessed for reuse, including oil, lead, acid
12 batteries, and more than a dozen tons of paper
13 annually.

14 With this being said, it is clear that STP
15 takes pride in being an ecofriendly plant, protecting
16 threatened species, and recycling a variety of
17 materials -- all positive characteristics that make
18 STP the world class plant that it is. With nuclear
19 power on the rise, the NRC overseeing reactor safety,
20 and with nuclear plants producing energy without
21 pollution, it is apparent that nuclear power is a
22 clear-cut choice in producing electricity.

23 I am excited to start my career working at
24 STP this summer, and look forward to what the future
25 holds for me and for Units 3 and 4.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Thank you all very much.

2 (Applause.)

3 FACILITATOR CARPENTER: Thank you, Chance.

4 Vatsu Kumar, and then Billy Mann.

5 MR. KUMAR: My name is Vatsu Kumar. I
6 used to work at the nuclear South Texas Project for
7 over 26 years. I just want to share an experience
8 that I have.

9 Some 30 years ago, I visited Las Vegas for
10 the first time. It was an exciting visit and a
11 wonderful trip to Las Vegas. I flew into Las Vegas
12 last month, and when I looked at Lake Mead it shocked
13 me, and I didn't understand what's going on there. I
14 would like to read what I have found today in this
15 magazine.

16 Lake Mead, the main water source for Las
17 Vegas, is running dry, leaving eight million people at
18 risk of losing their water supply by 2021 -- not too
19 far from now. While this is not only an example of a
20 serious water shortage in North America, it is
21 certainly of great concern as Las Vegas is one of the
22 fastest-growing regions in the United states.

23 I brought this up because someone
24 expressed a concern this afternoon that pumping water
25 from the Colorado River into the lake of the STP may

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 have a negative impact. It might. We don't know.
2 But I know one thing: that the STP team will come up
3 with a solution, if that should ever happen.

4 Having said that, I would like to address
5 a couple more things. Why nuclear energy, when people
6 are looking at coal, natural gas, geothermal, wind, so
7 many things? Because there is a wonderful technology
8 available for plant design, the most recent and the
9 most advanced plant design in this industry. Large
10 amount of power that can be produced economically and
11 reliably from one location -- at one location.

12 It is a clean environment. There is no
13 fly ash, no sulphur dioxide emission, no sludge to be
14 removed, and no need to store an enormous quantity of
15 raw materials and fuels. No raw materials -- know
16 that raw materials also need to be handled in or
17 outside of the facilities.

18 Engineering -- can I do this one? Okay.
19 This is about general nuclear. Now, specifically
20 about STP, engineering continuously monitors the plant
21 performance, looking for ways and means to
22 continuously improve the plant efficiency. Cost of
23 generation has gone down continuously for over a
24 decade, due to improved plant performance, training of
25 personnel, and the positive attitude that exists at

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 STP.

2 Earlier this afternoon, Mr. Ed Halpin
3 talked about the safety of the plant and the
4 personnel. In fact, that is number one on my list.
5 Personnel safety is number one; plant/equipment safety
6 comes next. Trained personnel can always perform much
7 better than those that are not trained. STP focuses
8 on training. As a matter of fact, many of us
9 engineers who were trained here, if you will remember,
10 some 15 years ago, it was a crash course that we had
11 to go through and get trained. So training is given
12 the highest importance.

13 The emphasis on quality of work, multiple
14 points of checks and balances exist, so no design can
15 fall in the crack. So that is something that STP has
16 a culture in it. The reviews, updates, and new
17 designs are done in a very timely manner.

18 Just one other factor. Cost of generation
19 -- and I mention cost of generation. Also, I would
20 like to mention the capacity factor. This happened --
21 somebody mentioned the capacity factor at STP is 97.8
22 percent. I am sure its goal is to take it to 99.9
23 percent, and I am sure this team is capable of doing
24 it.

25 I want to leave NRC with a question. If

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 this team of STP engineers and people are not the ones
2 to build Units 3 and 4, which other team in the
3 country is capable of building these units, such
4 units? One question.

5 And secondly, also, I would like to read
6 one quick statement from this book again. Like I
7 said, I worked in this plant for over 26 years. I
8 haven't heard of any fatality. Not one person was
9 killed onsite either during construction or after
10 construction or until now. And in this country we
11 have 100 nuclear plants working safety for over five
12 decades. You all know that.

13 Talking about fatalities, I just want to
14 share this information, and then I will stop. Roadway
15 conditions are the significant factor in approximately
16 one-third of the traffic fatalities. There were
17 41,059 traffic fatalities in 2008 in the U.S.A. A
18 total of 212,423 people died on U.S. highways alone
19 from 2004 to 2008.

20 Including Chernobyl and TMI, and all of
21 the nuclear power plants, I don't think put together
22 any time can surpass this 200,000 number. So it is
23 safe, reliable, and dependable. I strongly support
24 STP's request to get their operating licenses, and I
25 would recommend that NRC should help them with it.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 FACILITATOR CARPENTER: Thank you. Thank
4 you.

5 Billy Mann.

6 MR. MANN: Boy, isn't it great to see
7 these young people over here excited about going to
8 work for STP?

9 (Applause.)

10 Isn't that great? And also, that STP for
11 the time and trouble that they go through, and the
12 expense, to make sure that they've got employees out
13 there? Doesn't that make you feel better?

14 You know, to be an employee for the
15 nuclear power -- now, I don't work for the nuclear
16 plant, I farm for a living. But to be an employee,
17 you are not going to have a drug problem, you are not
18 going to have an alcohol problem, and you're not going
19 to have to get bailed out of jail to go to work. They
20 expect more than that out of their employees. And,
21 you know, the plant is no better than the employees.

22 I know I have the privilege of -- I eat
23 early in the morning before I go to the field, and
24 sometimes some of the workers that come down here and
25 work on the outages, they like to come here. They

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 like to come to Bay City, because of the safety record
2 and the job is going to be done right. It's not going
3 to be covered up, it's going to be done so that when
4 they leave it's safe.

5 And that's what we need to know as
6 residents. And they're in my front yard. I can see
7 them from where I live. I've got to look hard, but I
8 can see them.

9 You know, you look right across the road
10 here. Would we have that hospital that we have right
11 now without a nuclear plant? Would we have the
12 emergency response that we have, teams? How about our
13 high school over here? I'm proud of our new high
14 school. Would we have that?

15 They encourage their employees to be
16 active in the community, and they are. They get
17 involved in different clubs. I know I serve with some
18 in the Lions Club, and I guess there are some other
19 clubs besides the Lions, isn't there? Nate, is there
20 any other clubs? Okay.

21 (Laughter.)

22 But they are very supportive. They work
23 in the community, and that's good, because that's what
24 it's all about.

25 And we see all of the different new motels

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 and hotels, and they hire people. They spend a lot of
2 money, and so that's good, different industry coming
3 in.

4 But I guess one of the main -- one of the
5 things that I really like about STP is they are a good
6 steward of their water. Being a rice farmer, that's
7 important to me. They only pump their water during
8 floods. That's great. There is no loss. When the
9 river is low, when the lakes are low, STP is not
10 pulling it out. They have already got their water.
11 They have already thought about that. They are a good
12 steward of their underground water also.

13 So I don't know why it took so long for
14 the good news to get out about Units 1 and 2, so that
15 we are finally building 3 and 4. It's going to
16 happen, you know that. But bad news travels fast. It
17 seems like it takes longer for good news to get
18 around, and I'll just be glad when it's up and
19 running.

20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 FACILITATOR CARPENTER: Thank you, sir.

23 And on that, we have the last speaker, or
24 at least the last speaker on my list. Were there any
25 other individuals who have not had a chance to make a

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

comment who would like to do so?

(No response.)

Okay. In that case, I am going to turn it over to Tony Hsia, and he will close out the meeting.

MR. HSIA: Good evening. I am Tony Hsia.

On behalf of the NRC and our team, I just wanted to thank you, the citizens of Matagorda County and Bay City, to give us this opportunity to come down here to brief you on our Draft Environmental Impact Statement and to receive comments and concerns from all of you.

So if there is no additional comments -- by the way, a reminder, June 9th is our due date for the comments. You can continue to submit your comments to us by different means as shown on the screen. So if there is no other comments, good night and drive carefully.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Whereupon, at 8:33 p.m., the proceedings in the foregoing matter were concluded.)

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com