

(February 8, 2007)

1
2 My name's George Scurlock and I'm from
3 Princeton, Missouri. I sit on the City Council as well as
4 the School Administrator and I'm here to support Electric and
5 association -- Associated Electric. They're a good service,
6 a quality service. I think this Norborne coal plant will
7 benefit and it will make things better in Northwest Missouri
8 as far as service and rates. And I appreciate your service
9 over 25 years and it's been good to get the dividends and be
10 a member of this great coop. Good service to us.

11 KIM FARRELL: Good evening. I'd like to call
12 this public meeting to order. So I'd like to ask you to have
13 a seat or if you're standing just -- I want to officially
14 begin the meeting. My name is Kim Farrell and I am the
15 facilitator for the public meeting concerning the draft of
16 the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposal. The
17 purpose of this meeting is to get public -- to receive your
18 public comment on the draft of the Environmental Impact
19 Statement of the proposal. Can everybody hear me okay or
20 there feedback from the mike or anything? Are you hearing me
21 clearly? Great, thanks. Okay.

22 Public comment means any expression, any
23 thoughts, any concerns that you have specific to the draft of
24 the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposal. This is
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1 not a question and answer meeting. It is strictly a formal
2 process for public comments to be considered in the final
3 Environmental Impact Statement. My goal is to bring -- to
4 ensure that there is a certain order in the process. I am a
5 neutral facilitator that was brought in because I really have
6 no knowledge of the proposal and I have no interest in it and
7 my interest is making sure that everybody who has any comment
8 to make is heard and to make sure that they have that voice.

9 I will be keeping so much order given the size
10 we've got. I think about 94 people now signed up and the
11 vast majority of you have indicated that you would like to
12 make a verbal comment so how I'd like to work this evening is
13 that the speakers are going to give their presentations first
14 and that will take about 30 to 45 minutes at the most. When
15 they complete their presentations then I will begin taking
16 the public comments. Because of the size of the crowd,
17 which, by the way, thank you all for attending because this
18 is exactly what is sought when public comment is being
19 sought. I guess I shouldn't use sought two times in my
20 sentence.

21 But we really do appreciate your being here,
22 but in order to maximize the opportunity for everybody to
23 give their comment we will limit the time to two minutes and
24 I'll review that when we get to that segment of this
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1 evening's event. But there will not be any comments during
2 the presentation itself and Stephanie Strength is the
3 Environmental Protection Specialist with the United States
4 Department of Agriculture, Division of Utility Services. She
5 is going to speak briefly about the USDA in this process and
6 then Charles Means from AECI, who is the Senior Policy
7 analyst, will be talking about the proposal to date, the
8 progress of it and then Mary Hagerty who is the Project
9 Manager with URS will be speaking specifically about the
10 Environmental Impact Statement.

11 I do want to remind you then that if at any
12 time you would like to write comments to submit, there are
13 forms at the table by the soda machine in the back and after
14 the meeting the Court reporter will be available again to
15 take any additional comments that you might want to make. If
16 you indicated that you did want to make a comment this
17 evening you will be called upon to do so. If you did not
18 indicate that you wanted to speak, don't worry, you will
19 still have the opportunity to do that. Or, if you indicated
20 that you wanted to speak and then you choose not to, that's
21 fine too but for right now we're going to begin with
22 Stephanie Strength from the USDA.

23 STEPHANIE STRENGTH: Good evening. Can you
24 all hear me? Okay. I tend to talk pretty softly so unless
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1 this is pointed directly at me I tend to be hard to hear. My
2 name is Stephanie Strength. I am with USDA, Department of
3 Agriculture, with the Rural Development Utilities Program as
4 Kim mentioned, I am the Environmental Protection Specialist
5 that is the contact for this project. When you submit your
6 comments on this project, which can be received postmarked to
7 myself any time before March 12. You can email them to me.
8 You can mail them to me. You can leave them with us tonight.
9 You can give comments to the Court reporter afterwards or
10 speak them tonight and they will be considered in the same
11 manner.

12 USDA is involved in this project as the lead
13 agency. The Corps of Engineers is a cooperating agency for
14 this proposal. The way the USDA got involved in this
15 proposal began when Associated approached us with financing
16 assistance, they actually approached Rural Utility Service,
17 which is the agency that administers the USDA Rural
18 Development Utilities programs. And before we consider
19 financing any proposals, we need to look at it from an
20 environmental perspective. In this case, it requires
21 compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and for
22 this project that means preparing an Environmental Impact
23 Statement.

24 An Environmental Impact Statement looks at the
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1 proposal and assesses the potential environmental impacts, as
2 well as looks at what alternatives there are to the proposal.
3 There are many steps in the process. Tonight's meeting is
4 one of the steps. We have released the draft Environmental
5 Impact Statement and are hoping that the public and agencies
6 and interested people will review the document and give us
7 feedback. All the comments that we receive will be
8 incorporated into the final Environmental Impact Statement,
9 which will also have an opportunity for public review.

10 There will be a 30-day comment period on that
11 whereas this segment has a 45-day review period. Any
12 comments that we receive on the final Environmental Impact
13 Statement will be addressed in what's called a Record of
14 Decision and that's where the agency says what our decision
15 is and the Corps of Engineers will also be a party to that.
16 Our agency will make absolutely no decision regarding
17 financing this proposal until the Record of Decision is
18 published. That publication will be in the same location
19 that we announced the draft Environmental Impact Statement as
20 well as final Environmental Impact Statement.

21 It's on our website which you can see listed
22 on the comment forms and on the project handouts. We'll also
23 print in the federal register. It will also be in the same
24 local newspapers where I hope that you saw the notice for
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1 tonight's meeting. I want to talk a little bit about what we
2 have done so far and then I don't want to delay the meeting
3 tonight by having you listen to me. I want to get your
4 comments so I'll hand the conversation over at that point.

5 The process begins with evaluating the purpose
6 and need. What is the purpose? Why is it needed? Then we
7 move on to notice of intent. That's where we tell people why
8 we are -- we tell them that we're preparing an Environmental
9 Impact Statement. We then go on to the scoping process,
10 which is -- we saw many of you at the initial scoping meeting
11 that we had on this project. Then there is data collection
12 and surveys. Then we evaluate alternatives and the impact.
13 Then we put out the draft Environmental Impact Statement and
14 the notice of availability of that draft.

15 Then we get to what is tonight's meeting which
16 is the public review meeting which has a 45-day public review
17 of the draft Environmental Impact Statement and tonight's
18 public meeting. After this, as I mentioned, we'll go on to
19 the final Environmental Impact Statement and notice of
20 availability which has a 30 day comment period and then we'll
21 move on to Record of Decision which will also be published.

22 At this point I'm going to hand over the
23 conversation to Associated so they can give a brief run
24 through of what is being proposed and then as Kim mentioned,
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1 we'll go on to URS which is the independent or third party
2 environmental consulting firm that we have contracted to
3 assist us in assessing this project. I thank you all for
4 coming tonight. It's great to see this attendance.

5 CHARLES MEANS: As Kim said, my name is
6 Charles Means. I'm the Senior Regulatory Policy Analyst for
7 Associated Electric, but I've also served as the project
8 manager for Associated's activity relative to the
9 Environmental Impact Statement, and I too, would like to
10 thank you all for coming tonight. The public involvement
11 process is key to development of a quality Environmental
12 Impact Statement. The key to development and we look forward
13 to your comments. As Stephanie said they will all be
14 reviewed and will be addressed and we're looking forward to
15 going through that.

16 As most of you know, Associated is a wholesale
17 supplier of a growing system of electrical cooperatives owned
18 at the local level. These are cooperatives located in
19 Missouri and northeastern Iowa -- northeastern Oklahoma and
20 southeastern Iowa. The system is made up of Associated and
21 it's member owners. There's six generation and transmission
22 cooperatives and 51 local distribution cooperatives. These
23 58 cooperatives makeup an integrated system and are
24 responsible for generating, transmitting and distributing
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1 reliable and low-cost electric power and energy to more than
2 800,000 cooperative member owners. This includes about
3 2,000,000 people. These are families, farms, homes, and
4 businesses, and all count on reliable electric service to
5 maintain their quality of life. More than 630,000 of those
6 800,000 member consumers who receive their power supplied by
7 Associated are in Missouri.

8 Electricity demand among Associated members'
9 cooperative is growing. It has reached an all time high in
10 both 2005 and 2006. Continued growth of over 100 megawatts
11 per year has been projected to the year 2025. There are
12 several reasons for this growth. Members -- our rural
13 electric cooperative members are seeing people move into
14 their systems. There's growth -- population growth. We're
15 seeing people building larger homes. Like the rest of the
16 country we're buying more electric gadgets for our homes and
17 we're seeing more -- continuing to see greater penetration of
18 air-conditioning into our existing homes. Without the
19 proposed plant Associated forecasts capacity deficit of about
20 35 megawatts for 2011 and 243 megawatts in 2013.

21 To help meet its member's growing electricity
22 needs Associated has proposed building a new coal based
23 electric power plant and about 134 miles of high voltage
24 transmission line. The proposed plant is northwest of
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1 Norborne, Missouri and there is an alternate site in Holt
2 County near Big Lake, Missouri.

3 In planning to meet this growing demand
4 several alternatives to the proposal of both plants were
5 considered. This included taking no action, adding
6 facilities or adding a plant to one of our existing
7 facilities, partnering with another company in one of their
8 projects and using alternative technologies such as wind,
9 solar, natural gas, nuclear and integrated gasification
10 combined cycle. Ultimately, the alternatives other than that
11 proposed would be inadequate, impractical and/or far too
12 costly.

13 There are several basic criteria that were
14 considered in the site identification process. First of all,
15 the plant had to be built near an adequate water supply.
16 Second, it needed access to railroad deliveries for
17 delivering both construction material and ultimately coal to
18 fuel the plant. It needed to be located such that it could
19 be integrated to Associated's existing electric and
20 transmission system and it also had to have a physical
21 characteristic that would allow for the construction in an
22 effective manner.

23 We began this process four years ago. We
24 looked at over a dozen sites in northwest Missouri. Eight
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1 were evaluated in some detail and from those we selected two
2 for our initial environmental evaluation. The plant site
3 would occupy about 1,750 acres. The actual facilities will
4 use about 1,000 acres. The remaining 750 acres will be a
5 buffer and will probably be leased back for agricultural use.
6 The proposed plant is a 660 megawatt supercritical pulverized
7 coal unit and supporting facilities.

8 The supercritical pulverized design will
9 operate at a higher pressure -- higher steam pressure than
10 traditional power plants. This will result in increased
11 efficiency, reduced coal consumption and lower emissions per
12 unit of electric energy produced. In addition, the new plant
13 will protect air quality by using the latest technologies and
14 methods to control those emissions. We will utilize a
15 selective catalytic reduction system to control nitrogen
16 oxide emissions and utilize a desulfurization system to
17 control sulfur dioxide, a fabric filter baghouse to control
18 particulate matter and most likely an activated carbon
19 injection system to reduce mercury emission.

20 This technology will make the plant one of the
21 cleanest coal-based generation units in the United States.
22 The plant will also have continuous emission monitoring
23 systems that will measure and record the constituents in the
24 flue gas. This will help us to assure the proper operation
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1 of the control equipment and also the data from this
2 monitoring will be submitted to the U. S. Environmental
3 Protection Agency and the Missouri Department of Natural
4 Resources to document compliance with our air permit.

5 The project also includes about 134 miles of
6 345,000 kV high voltage transmission lines. There are
7 basically two segments for the proposed plant. One will
8 proceed about 60 miles to the east, excuse me, to the Thomas
9 Hill energy center in Randolph County and about 74 miles to
10 the south across the Missouri River to Sedalia and on down to
11 the Mount Hulda substation in Benton County. The
12 transmission citing process included the identification of
13 several alternate corridors about two miles wide for both the
14 proposed and alternative site.

15 After the public scoping meetings and
16 additional studies, those corridors were reduced to nominally
17 one quarter mile wide and referred to as routing corridors.
18 The route corridors were then analyzed and they were ranked
19 on the basis of several factors: length, as well as proximity
20 to homes and other sensitive facilities and areas. The final
21 width of the transmission line right-of-way would be 150 feet
22 wide and the transmission structures would be wood pole H-
23 frame, most likely.

24 The rail access to the plant, as I said, would
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1 be needed for delivery of construction materials and coal.
2 Connections -- there are three rail alternates in the area.
3 There is a BNSF line about a mile south of the plant site and
4 there is a Norfolk Southern line just south of that line and
5 there is a BNSF line about six and a half miles north of the
6 plant site. We have looked at rail alternates from each of
7 these accesses. The rail delivery of construction materials
8 will most likely be from the BNSF line to the south of the
9 plant.

10 However, that is a major high speed intermodal
11 line for BNSF and therefore slower moving coal trains will
12 not operate efficiently or that messes up the operation of
13 that line so coal deliveries will most likely come from the
14 BNSF line about six and a half miles north of the plant site.
15 We also looked at an alternate or had an alternate corridor
16 for the Norfolk Southern line, which could be a competing
17 rail line for coal deliveries in the future.

18 Similar to the transmission line routing,
19 initial rails studies for the proposed plant identified three
20 one-mile wide corridors. These corridors were too -- also
21 were reduced or narrowed to about a quarter-mile wide. The
22 reason for these -- for reducing these were again things such
23 as proximity to the homes, at-grade crossings, things of that
24 nature.
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1 Now, the actual right-of-way for the rail line
2 would be about the same as that of the transmission line, 150
3 feet. There is less flexibility in routing a rail line
4 compared to a transmission line due to constraints relative
5 to grade and to the rate of the curvature that the coal
6 trains can operate on. The final alignment for the line will
7 be coordinated with the railroads.

8 Operation of this plant will require a
9 substantial adequate supply of water. Associated is
10 proposing a system consisting of wells near the Missouri
11 River in the Missouri River bottom and a pipeline to deliver
12 the water to the plant. Initial studies indicated sufficient
13 water would be available at the plant site. However,
14 Associated chose to focus on obtaining water supply from near
15 the Missouri River to eliminate any potential impacts on the
16 local ground water supply.

17 In May of last year Associated invited local
18 residents to observe part of a well study near the Missouri
19 River about seven miles south of the plant. This study
20 included a test well for the 72-hour test to measure
21 potential yield, water quality and the effects on surrounding
22 areas. The results of this study which are -- have been made
23 available indicated no negative impacts on local ground water
24 supply for plant operations. We continue to work with
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1 neighbors as we look at water supply and impacts on ground
2 water in the earth.

3 Another facility that will be part of this
4 plant is a solid waste landfill. This landfill will be
5 permitted by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.
6 It will be designed -- it will be a design that will
7 incorporate several precautions such as a liner underneath
8 the landfill to protect surface water and ground water and
9 surrounding property. It is a solid waste landfill
10 specifically and solely for combustion waste. No other
11 material will be put in this landfill other than coal
12 combustion waste. Several additional precautions will be
13 taken to protect surface water during construction and after
14 the plant goes in operation. Run off and waste water will be
15 controlled and treated in accordance with permits issued by
16 the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

17 This is a major investment for Associated.
18 This plant is a major investment for this area and this
19 community. It is estimated that the total cost of investment
20 of this project by Associated will exceed 1.3 billion
21 dollars. At the peak of construction there will be over
22 1,200 construction workers and managers who will be needed to
23 build the plant. Once it becomes operational there will be
24 about 139 full time jobs. These are jobs with a median
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1 salary of about \$59,000 a year plus benefits. This is a
2 significant benefit to this community we believe.

3 Now, since this plant was announced in early
4 2005 Associated has been available and engaged with the
5 people in the communities in this area. To date Associated
6 has held and participated in more than 20 community meetings,
7 city group presentations, regulatory meetings and community
8 events. We've produced and distributed more than 35
9 newsletters, releases, news releases, messages to interested
10 parties and website updates to provide information and answer
11 questions about the project. Associated plans to stay
12 engaged in this area. We look forward to a long and mutually
13 beneficial relationship with the people in the communities in
14 this area. Thank you.

15 MARY HAGERTY: Okay. I am Mary Hagerty with
16 URS. Kim introduced us earlier. Kim said -- as Kim said the
17 purpose of this meeting is to receive comments on the draft
18 EIS and since it's a very large document we've got a couple
19 of copies on the back table back there. I'm going to give
20 you an overview of what's in there and help you find those
21 parts of it that you might be interested in commenting on.

22 First of all, there are three main chapters in
23 the draft Environmental Impact Statement or EIS as it's
24 called. There's the first chapter, which is the purpose and
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1 need. The second chapter is a discussion of alternatives and
2 the evaluation of alternatives and then the third chapter
3 describes the environment that's affected by the project and
4 the impact of the project on the environment.

5 In the first chapter, the purpose and need
6 part, which Charles has discussed already, the document looks
7 at all of Associated's current power resources and then it
8 looks at the projections for future needs for Associated's
9 system. It concludes that within the next few years another
10 660 or so megawatts of power will be needed.

11 The second chapter looks at what are the
12 options to meeting that need and Charles went over a lot of
13 that, I'll summarize it again very briefly. The document
14 looks at some alternatives that don't require building, like
15 purchasing power and participating in another company's
16 energy project. It looks at a large number of technology
17 alternatives. It then -- it looks at siting alternatives.
18 It starts with a map of the state of Missouri and it ends up
19 with, as Charles described, these two sites. The alternate
20 site at Big Lake in Holt County and the proposed site at
21 Norborne in Carroll County.

22 Chapter two ends with a detailed description
23 of the proposed action and that proposed action includes not
24 only the plant which is shown on the board over there, but
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1 all the things that go with the plant: the landfill, the
2 holding ponds at the coal unloading area, all those things
3 that are shown on the board, plus the transmission lines and
4 the corridors are shown on the board next to the one with the
5 plant.

6 That board also shows what the trans -- a
7 picture of what the transmission line would look like. It
8 also includes the water supply and the water line that goes
9 with that and that's on the next board and then the rail
10 lines, and as Charles explained right now those are quarter-
11 mile corridors and those are shown on that board over there.
12 That's all shown in this handout too. So at the end of
13 Chapter two there's a detailed description of that proposed
14 alternative and we end up with basically five alternatives
15 that are looked at in detail.

16 Now, those are the proposed action and
17 alternate site and the alternate site at Big Lake in Holt
18 County and the two technology alternatives. One is the
19 proposed technology which is the supercritical pulverized
20 coal and then an alternate technology which is called
21 integrated gasification combined cycle and that involves
22 first gasifying your coal and then burning the gas in a
23 combined cycle unit and then the last alternative to be
24 looked at in detail is the No Action Alternative which means
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1 not doing anything and that's a requirement of the National
2 Environmental Policy Act to look at that alternative.

3 So we take those alternatives to be looked at
4 in detail, and then in Chapter three we look at each of those
5 alternatives and the impacts they have on resources. Chapter
6 Three is split up by resource area. You can't see this so
7 I'll read it off. It helps me remember what's in there. The
8 first one is air quality so we look at those alternatives,
9 with an emphasis on the proposed alternative. We look at the
10 current impact to the environment and then we looked at the
11 impacts of those alternatives on air quality. And the same
12 thing for geology and soils, ground water, surface water,
13 agriculture, cultural resources, which would be historic
14 structures or also archeological resources, visual resources.
15 How is the plant going to affect the view for the people that
16 would be seeing it? Public lands have been having impacts on
17 parks or refuges, that kind of thing. Recreation, vegetation
18 and wild life, threatened or endangered species, noise.
19 There is a noise analysis that was done with measurements of
20 noise and an assessment of how much people living near by
21 would be impacted by the noise and that's all presented in
22 the document. Socioeconomic impacts: those would be both
23 positive and negative impacts of the plant on the economy and
24 community and the social structure of the community. Land
25

1 use and waste management. What's going to be done with the
2 waste that's generated by the alternatives?

3 So that's Chapter three and for each of those
4 resources with the action that are incorporated into the
5 proposed action to prevent or reduce impact and in some cases
6 with also mitigation there will be no significant impacts on
7 any of those resources caused by the proposed action.

8 Okay. As I said, the document is really big.
9 Those are the three main chapters. There's a few other
10 chapters to -- the best way to attack the document is to
11 probably first read the summary that's at the beginning and
12 it's several pages long and it summarizes everything that's
13 in those three main chapters. It summarizes the purpose and
14 need. It summarizes each of the alternatives that were
15 evaluated and explains why the ones that were eliminated from
16 further consideration were eliminated and then it summarizes
17 the impacts of the alternatives on each of these resources.

18 Also once you get through that there's two
19 basic ways to look up something specific that you're
20 interested in. The first one would be to go to the Table of
21 Contents in the document. It's a very detailed Table of
22 Contents so you can go there and you can find a topic that
23 you're interested and look it up. There's also an Index so
24 you can go to the back, find the Index, there's tabs in the
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1 document. Find the Index and look up, based on key word, the
2 item you're interested in and the Index will take you there.
3 There's a Glossary and in the Glossary we attempted to define
4 all technical terms that wouldn't be familiar -- that aren't
5 commonly familiar. So that's the draft Environmental Impact
6 Statement.

7 This handout, if you didn't get a copy,
8 summarizes some of the basic items and it shows the maps that
9 are over there and on the back of the hand out, there's -- it
10 tells you where you can go, it tells you the website to go to
11 if you have internet access to review the document online and
12 then it lists the very many public libraries that have a copy
13 of the Environmental Impact Statement that's available for
14 review. And, then there's the part how to comment or get
15 more information that tells you how to contact Stephanie.
16 And a little summary of what happens next: when
17 approximately the -- when the comment period is ended, when
18 the final document will be available, when the Record of
19 Decision is expected. We have lots of extra copies of this
20 and we also have extra comment forms so feel free to take
21 some with you tonight and distribute them to your friends and
22 co-workers that weren't able to come to the meeting. Thank
23 you.

24 KIM FARRELL: I don't know how many of you all
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1 remember a few months ago that there was a woman who was
2 talking on a microphone in the ladies' room in Texas and
3 everybody heard it so I know everybody on this side of the
4 room heard me talking to Stephanie and I apologize for
5 interrupting Mary but I want -- I was asking Stephanie about
6 the Environmental Impact Statement and if it was online so
7 obviously those of you who are here tonight are not going to
8 be able to rush back. And so I did want to make sure that
9 you knew that the website address is on the comment form and
10 I do apologize to those of you who heard -- I'm just glad it
11 was the right kind of conversation I was having into the
12 microphone. Anyway, I do apologize for that and hope it
13 didn't interrupt or intrude upon Mary too much. So on that
14 note, what we're going to do now -- I'm going to -- first of
15 all I'm going to move this, Stephanie can I ask you to help
16 me? I want to make sure that you can see people who are
17 speaking.

18 As I mentioned earlier there will be a limit
19 on the time of the -- those of you who have signed up to
20 comment. Let's see, we have 96 people and of the 96 so far
21 we've got -- there are 53 of the 96 wanting to make a
22 comment. So, I wanted to, you know we can stay here. I do
23 think there are some cots if we really wanted to, but in all
24 seriousness, the reason that we limit it to talk two minutes
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1 is not to be rigid at all. It is to make sure that we
2 maximize the opportunity for everybody to be heard and what
3 this means is that those of you who do make a comment and who
4 wish to speak, it's going to basically be critical that
5 you're respectful of everybody else's interest in speaking as
6 well.

7 What I specifically do is if you have more to
8 say that exceeds the two minute limit then I will come back
9 to you at the end of the evening and so far I've been able to
10 come back to everybody when we've done this. This is a large
11 group and it just requires a lot of mutual respect in terms
12 of making sure everybody can be heard.

13 I mentioned earlier that the purpose of the
14 meeting and you've heard it several times, is to comment on
15 the draft Environmental Impact Statement. I'm going to guess
16 not knowing a whole lot about the proposal other than what
17 I've heard past, at tonight's meeting that many of you might
18 have opinions either just to say I really like this proposal
19 or I really don't like this proposal but the purpose of this
20 meeting is to comment specifically about the Environmental
21 Impact Statement and what concerns you might have, any
22 beliefs that you have, that is what Stephanie is really
23 interested in eliciting from all of you and I'm going to call
24 your name in the order that you signed up. That's
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1 specifically the way that we begin getting comment but again,
2 I want to make sure that all perspectives are heard so at a
3 certain point I might ask somebody to volunteer a different
4 perspective if I see the same perspective in a row. Does
5 that make sense?

6 Okay. So we will begin and we have the
7 microphone up here. I'm going to turn it on now and when I
8 call your name, if you would come up and speak in the
9 microphone so that everybody can hear your comment as well as
10 the recorder can record it. I can also bring the microphone
11 back to you. I'm happy to do that if it's easier on you, for
12 me to do that. And again, you will have two minutes and I
13 have a great timer with me and I press a button and it really
14 works great.

15 If when it gets to be one minute and thirty
16 seconds I will speak into my microphone and say 30 seconds
17 and it can be annoying at times, but it is the only way we
18 will be able to get through everybody who wants to speak and
19 again I will be happy to come back to you. There are times
20 that I won't intervene, because it doesn't make sense to do
21 it, but generally speaking, I will do that.

22 Okay. The first names that I have are Rick
23 Westbrook, Cheryl Barnes and Mike Kenagy. So, Rick, if you
24 could please come up and I will start the timer.
25

1 RICK WESTBROOK: Thank you. My name is Rick
2 Westbrook and I live in Richmond, Missouri. I also have a
3 farm that's located four miles north and slightly just to the
4 west of the location. In fact, it sits on the Burlington
5 Northern Railroad just about half mile west of where the
6 proposed hook up site is. I'm a CPA that serves a lot of
7 business throughout Platte, Clay, Ray and Carroll counties
8 and I am very interested in this project because I believe
9 it's going to have a substantial economic impact. It's going
10 to have a substantial economic impact on the Norborne School
11 District. I think that will be very beneficial.

12 Most people don't realize that something like
13 this is only assessed only during the construction period for
14 the benefit of the local school, but that assessment, and
15 I've worked with school districts that have tremendously
16 benefited from that. After that time, it's going to be a
17 state assessed utility which then get spread among all the
18 school districts. But also after that three or four year
19 construction project, the economic impact that the community
20 is going to see from 139 jobs and a payroll that, I think, is
21 projected around \$10 million will be substantial.

22 Another thing that I'm involved in is economic
23 development throughout the area that I serve. I get involved
24 with a lot of entities doing projections on production costs
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1 and so forth and utilities are huge when you're looking at
2 bringing new businesses in, that's a huge, huge issue.

3 KIM FARRELL: Thirty seconds.

4 RICK WESTBROOK: There's a substantial
5 negative impact that can be seen here that was mentioned.
6 Its about six years from now and the electric cooperatives
7 are going to be running out of energy. They're going to be
8 looking for alternative sources. Missouri currently, I
9 think, ranks bottom from the 11th. In other words, that's
10 good, they are the 11th lowest in their cost and that's
11 largely due to coal fire plants within the state of Missouri
12 and this is going to contribute to that savings. Bottom
13 line, I think this is going to be a positive economic impact
14 for the Missouri River basin, not just northern but all the
15 way up and down the river basin and I'm for the project.

16 KIM FARRELL: Thank you very much. Sheryl?
17 One other comment, actually, if I could make before Sheryl
18 starts, and it has to do with having handwritten comments
19 some of you might have prepared comments and it's fine for
20 you to read those as well. Again, I will let you know when
21 time is up. You are more than welcome to submit those to
22 Stephanie, and there are -- there's a couple of people also
23 who filled out comment forms --

24 STEPHANIE STRENGTH: There's a box right over
25

1 by the Court reporter that they can put them in there or hand
2 them to me.

3 KIM FARRELL: Sorry about that. Put them in
4 the box by the reporter, and also I think a couple people had
5 filled out forms, that might be elsewhere, and I think that's
6 it. Thank you for your patience.

7 SHERYL BARNES: My name is Sheryl Barnes and I
8 work for Platte Electric Coop in Kearney. I want to speak to
9 three things this evening. First, I want to commend
10 Associated for buying all the power from three wind farms
11 being built near St. Joe. It's a great way to introduce
12 renewable energy to Missouri. It's also a great new business
13 for those rural communities. I'm just worried there's not
14 enough megawatts to meet our needs now.

15 Second, I want to thank Associated for
16 planning ahead to provide Missouri with the electric power
17 that rural families and rural businesses need. Third,
18 Associated is a non-profit cooperative. As a consumer, I
19 appreciate that they are responsible and responsive to their
20 members.

21 KIM FARRELL: That was record time, Sheryl.
22 Okay. Mike?

23 MIKE KENAGY: Mike Kenagy, COMO electric
24 member. I'm down at the Lake of the Ozarks, which is one of
25

1 the fastest growing areas in Missouri. From 1990 to 2000,
2 Camden County, which COMO served, grew at better than 30
3 percent in population. Morgan County which they served
4 closer to that grew at 20 plus percent. Our projections now
5 for 2000 to 2005, we're looking at maintaining a 15 percent
6 growth rate at the west side of the Lake of the Ozarks that
7 COMO serves.

8 COMO has been a very great business partner
9 for the Lake of the Ozarks. Recently in our ice storm that
10 we had down there where many of the areas were without power,
11 COMO maintained power. I don't know of a single outage in
12 the COMO service area, so they're a reliable partner. We
13 need to maintain that growth with safe, reliable electricity,
14 not for residents but also the service and commercial
15 businesses that are coming to support them.

16 As we see our baby boomers coming to the Lake
17 and we're seeing numerous of them, becoming second homeowners
18 a population and the strain on the electric services is going
19 to be higher and higher and I applaud Associated and COMO and
20 all the other coops. I'm looking forward in making great
21 steps in alleviating our problem we're going to see in 2011
22 and 13. As we see our growth down there at the Lake we need
23 the power. We need to help turn the lights on and keep the
24 economic engine of our area in the state going and we have a
25

1 year round population of 80,000 around the Lake.

2 It has been estimated that during the summer
3 time and during season we'll have four and a half -- three
4 and a half to four million visitors to the Lake of the
5 Ozarks. Many of those are staying in second homes and
6 depending on electricities and so forth and COMO services
7 that area and we want to have them be able to turn on their
8 lights when they come in and have a good time. Good job and
9 I do support the program from quite a ways a way from where
10 the plants going to be.

11 KIM FARRELL: Thank you, Mike. Okay, the next
12 three names I have are Abe Verbock, Brock Foust, and Gary
13 Eiser.

14 ABE VERBOCK: I am Abe Verbock from down in
15 California, Missouri. I have been a farmer and COMO Electric
16 coop member for 45 years. During these 45 years the time
17 that I've worked with COMO a great deal and experienced their
18 attitude on things and I can't imagine them being a part of
19 anything that they didn't feel like was perfectly good for
20 the community that they're in, the state, even the country.
21 I have a lot of faith in them and I've gotten that faith by
22 working with them for a long time.

23 In the 1980s my farm used about 1,000
24 kilowatts a per month. Last July which was one of the -- one
25

1 our higher months probably, we used 16,000 kilowatts. A lot
2 of this increase is in our turkey operation. If we would
3 lose electricity on a 100 degree heat day, lose our fan, our
4 foggers and our water, we'd have a terrible mess. In the 20
5 years that we have been -- had turkey farms on COMO we have
6 never lost power long enough to even give us a scare.

7 So they've done a wonderful job and I think
8 this will help them do a good job in the future and that's my
9 story.

10 KIM FARRELL: Thank you, Abe.

11 BROCK FOUST: Well, in the interest of
12 brevity, what Abe said goes. Anyway, my name is Brock Foust.
13 I'm an engineer and contractor from Maryville, Missouri and
14 our family has been United Electric Cooperative members for
15 45, 50 years and we have been involved in design and
16 construction of water and sewer and storm sewer systems
17 around the state, including down here in Norborne and I'm
18 here to speak on behalf of the project.

19 I guess since my field is environmental work,
20 I will stay with that subject and when they built the peaking
21 plant up near Maryville, Associated was a fantastic corporate
22 sponsor and a member of the community. They helped the water
23 district tremendously. They helped run a new water line down
24 there and they were fantastic.
25

1 I guess, to summarize, two things. One, since
2 I work with the environmental regulatory agency, DNR, and for
3 all these people day to day, I trust the regulatory bodies to
4 make sure that Associated does what it's supposed to do on an
5 environmental basis. I would never say that the DNR doesn't
6 do a good job of being a watch dog. And number two, I would
7 trust Associated to be a good corporate sponsor and a good
8 environmental steward and a good economic benefit to our
9 country. Thank you.

10 KIM FARRELL: Thank you very much. I'm
11 interested if there are other perspectives. We've heard from
12 five -- we've heard five comments, are there any other
13 perspectives other than what's been said so far? I could
14 continue going in order but I just want to make sure I get an
15 opportunity to those who might have a different perspective
16 if anyone wants to volunteer? Come on up. Can I ask you to
17 state your name, please?

18 GEORGE EISER: I'm George Eiser and I'll tell
19 you when I get up there.

20 KIM FARRELL: Okay, and you signed up to
21 speak?

22 GEORGE EISER: Yes.

23 KIM FARRELL: Okay. Thank you, George.

24 GEORGE EISER: I'm George Eiser, this is
25

1 Melissa Eiser, but she's not my wife. We're going to pursue
2 this from an educational perspective and the benefits we
3 think it can bring to all our school and all the area schools
4 in our community. The tax dollars it brings into our
5 community and the area community schools supports our
6 education of our children. It allows for up to date
7 technology, which, if you've been in school systems you can
8 never keep up. That money will help us keep up with that
9 technology.

10 It allows for us to provide quality training
11 to our children and our students. It brings community wide
12 prosperity in the sense of residential construction. It
13 supports a lot of different businesses there. It impacts all
14 community business in a positive way. We feel it's an
15 educational institution. It stimulates population growth and
16 promotes community pride. Our students at our school are
17 very, very proud of this project and I really hope that it
18 comes to our community and this is Melissa Eiser, she's going
19 to continue from here on our perspective of training.

20 KIM FARRELL: Melissa, I'm going to start you
21 on a different timer because you're a different person.

22 MELISSA EISER: Associated came to Carrollton
23 a couple of years ago and looked at us from the educational
24 standpoint. The career center here in Carrollton, we run
25

1 through approximately 120-125 seniors every year and every
2 year I'm asked to do follow up on every single one of those
3 students and I just finished that and got the report on my
4 desk. I have 53 percent of our graduates and we serve three
5 public schools besides Carrollton: Stet, Keytesville and
6 Brunswick and of those students that we put through and
7 graduate, 53 percent of those are continuing their education
8 in four year institutions. That's not a very high number if
9 you compare that across the state.

10 Our students are leaving at \$6.77 per hour,
11 those that are leaving our school and going straight into the
12 work force, the military and so forth. With the kind of
13 benefits that Associated are telling us that they're going to
14 bring to our community, our children are going to be able to
15 graduate from our area schools, get the training they need at
16 the Carrollton Area Career Center, not only through our
17 welding and building trades programs but we are also now a
18 satellite campus for State Fair Community College and are
19 offering classes there at night. We have just jointly
20 visited with State Fair Community College and Moberly Area
21 Community College who is directly associated with Associated
22 Electric --

23 KIM FARRELL: -- 30 seconds.

24 MELISSA EISER: And at that particular time
25

1 they were able to come to an agreement that we would also be
2 able to offer the industrial power plant degree at the
3 Carrollton Area Career Center to provide training for AECI
4 employees and our families and when our children come back to
5 Carroll County and live with their families, even on the
6 family farm.

7 I'm a former ag teacher and I've got
8 agriculture at heart and AECI seems to be a friendly company
9 that seems to help out in the agricultural aspect as well as
10 put forth the economics that are needed in our schools and
11 educational facilities and help the community to grow.

12 KIM FARRELL: Thank you, Cheryl -- Melissa,
13 I'm sorry. Dorothy Frock, Judith White, and Brian Moorhead.

14 DOROTHY FROCK: My name is Dorothy Frock and I
15 live between Kearney and Liberty, which is kind of close to
16 the Liberty Hospital. We are a 42 year member of Platte Coop
17 in Kearney. I am also a Pathfinder for almost 40 years. This
18 Pathfinder group of 50 women serves as a liaison to the Board
19 of Directors. Whenever they need extra help we are called
20 upon to help with annual meetings, open house, blood drives
21 or focus groups. We own a 200 acre farm in Hale, Missouri,
22 which is just north of here about 30 miles. We are serviced
23 from Farmers' Coop in Chillicothe.

24 No body likes change, including myself but
25

1 change means progress. We must move forward to prepare for
2 the rapid growth all of the coops are faced with. I strongly
3 support the new power plant in Norborne. As a farmer, the
4 electric service is very important to our farming operation.
5 We had a cow/calf operation and sow operation. We must have
6 the electric power to heat the water tanks and heat the lamps
7 for the new born baby pigs.

8 I have had the opportunity to lobby in
9 Jefferson City on many coop issues. I found that Associated
10 Electric from Springfield has a history of looking ahead to
11 the future. As a Pathfinder I have toured the Thomas Hill
12 and New Madrid power plants. As a farmer I support this
13 power plant in Norborne as everyone needs electricity to
14 survive.

15 KIM FARRELL: Thank you very much, Dorothy.
16 Judith?

17 JUDITH WHITE: Good evening. I'm Judith
18 White. I am also a member of Platte-Clay Electric. I've been
19 a member for over 43 years. I'm also -- and I've been a
20 Pathfinder for 20 years or better and through the Pathfinder
21 association I have been able to tour several Associated
22 plants and I have had nothing but positive experience with
23 their operations. They are clean. They are very well kept.
24 They seem to be very good stewards of our land and our
25

1 environment. They spend millions of dollars to keep up with
2 all the modern technology that keeps the emission controls on
3 everything. They just work very well, I think, with the
4 areas they're in.

5 The coal plants probably are the cleanest form
6 of energy that can be given to us today. I personally would
7 much rather have a coal plant near me than a nuclear power
8 plant any day. They work really hard to have the best coal
9 brought in that's low sulfur emission and I think they are a
10 good operation to have if we have to have one.

11 And, I'll tell you the truth, I'm in a older
12 home at the edge of West Ray County and that area has just
13 snowballed in growth and over the 43 years I've been in my
14 home, my home was outdated when I moved into it. I had what
15 they called the Green Acres home. Remember the TV show,
16 Green Acres, where you couldn't plug everything in at the
17 same time? I couldn't run electric dryer and a microwave.
18 My home was built with 30 amps of power and we had to upgrade
19 to at least 100 amps to just accommodate our home and that's
20 not without in the farming area so I know what it's like to
21 be without power and our new homes they require lots of
22 power.

23 KIM FARRELL: Thank you. Brian?

24 BRIAN MOORHEAD: Good evening, I'm Brian
25

1 Moorhead. I live in Platte City, just outside of Platte City
2 and I work at the Harley Davidson Manufacturing Plant near
3 KCI and I'm a member, I'll say, customer-owner of Platte-Clay
4 Cooperative. Near Platte City we're seeing substantial
5 growth south of the city. There are several subdivisions
6 going in. Rainworth and Seven Bridges are a couple examples.
7 At full build out they're expecting there to be 2,911 homes
8 there. Platte-Clay is expecting in the next 10 years that
9 10,000 more homes will be built in that time and they're
10 growing about 8 percent per year in electrical usage.
11 Obviously, the need for electricity is great.

12 Along with these are supporting businesses to
13 support these homes and businesses. I feel after looking at
14 the Environmental Impact Study which if you don't have
15 broadband, I suggest you read it instead of downloading it,
16 you'll read it faster than you'll download it, but
17 Associated's definitely done their homework in looking at all
18 the possibilities and doing a process of elimination in every
19 aspect of this project.

20 Now, being a physicist, I have an education in
21 physics. Contrary to the former speaker, I'm a little more
22 pro-nuclear. However, that technology is something that's
23 going to become more prevalent in probably 15 or 20 years.
24 Now, obviously, the time is not right for that type of
25

1 technology right now. Again, looking at the Environmental
2 Impact Study, Associated' definitely done their homework and
3 I think this is obviously, or definitely the way to go, so I
4 appreciate your viewpoint.

5 KIM FARRELL: Thank you, Brian. Jack Woods,
6 Jim Eldridge, and Joel Bullert.

7 JACK WOODS: Thank you, my name is Jack Woods.
8 I live in Smithville. I am a member of the Platte-Clay
9 Electric Cooperative and my family and myself have been
10 associated with cooperatives for over 50 years so I have a
11 certain level of comfort in anything that a cooperative
12 education proposes. My particular area we're rapidly moving
13 from an agricultural diversion to an urban atmosphere and
14 that kind of explosive growth calls for all kinds of
15 increased services, especially because we're still rural
16 enough to need it, especially electric energy.

17 We see in this plant that's proposed a step
18 certainly in the right direction. We need this plant. We
19 need it as quickly as we can bring it on because the longer
20 we delay, the more critical the need will be. It's the right
21 kind of a plant. I, like many of the others, have done
22 research in the various methods of generating electric power.
23 The coal plant makes sense.

24 Number one, the technology is there. The
25

1 engineering expertise is there. Certainly the need is there
2 and I would remind you of one additional fact. Coal is a
3 domestically produced fuel. It would not become subject, nor
4 is it now subject to international pressures brought about by
5 political or economic sanctions that may take place around
6 the world. I feel much more comfortable with a coal fired
7 plant than some. Thank you. We need this plant.

8 KIM FARRELL: Thank you Jack. Jim?

9 JIM ELDRIDGE: My name is Jim Eldridge. I'm a
10 City Administrator with the City of Kearney. I'm also a
11 member of the Platte County Electric Cooperative. We are
12 home to Platte County Electric Cooperative's headquarters.
13 Platte-Clay is Kearney's predominate supplier of electricity,
14 serving virtually all of Kearney's new growth. I speak in
15 support of Norborne -- the Norborne power plant proposal.
16 Since the 2000 census, over 850 new homes have been
17 constructed in Kearney. Plats have been approved for over
18 4500 residential housing units. Commercial growth has also
19 been active in Kearney.

20 An abundant economically priced electric
21 energy source plays a critical part in Kearney's future.
22 Platte-Clay Electric has provided key assistance to Kearney
23 in its economic development efforts and construction of this
24 plant benefits the interests of our city.
25

1 Personally, it was exciting to read the news
2 about this new power plant, proposed to be constructed in
3 this area. The fact is that it is a clean, state of the art
4 coal powered plant and knowing that the power generated from
5 the plant will be used by it's membership.

6 KIM FARRELL: Thank you, Jim. Okay, Joel?

7 JOEL BULLERT: My name is Joel Bullert. I'm a
8 farmer and I live in Ashland, Missouri and I'm a member of
9 Boone Electric Cooperative. And as a farmer, I think we take
10 great pride in keeping the soil and air and water clean in
11 our farm because it is the life's bread of our operation.
12 The coop system is a good system. It's owned by you and me,
13 the users, and that's what makes it different and special.

14 To the best of my knowledge, the research that
15 I've done on the AECI, they have a tremendous track record
16 for the environment. They just recently sold SO2 credits
17 that are issued by the federal government and to me that
18 tells me that they have done an exemplary job in protecting
19 our environment and being awarded those credits. I see no
20 reason from this past history that they would not continue
21 that same track record. The coop is not building this plant.

22 In my estimation, as we've heard from other
23 people earlier talk about to build profits for some investor
24 in New York or Boston or somewhere else. It's building this
25

1 plant to serve the people in Missouri and northern Oklahoma.
2 It's owned by the people that they serve and not by some
3 shareholder in some other city. Thank you.

4 KIM FARRELL: Thank you. We've now heard from
5 13 people. Of the 13 everybody has favored this proposal.
6 We haven't heard anybody who opposes so I want to ask anybody
7 who would like to volunteer a comment? Would you like me to
8 bring the microphone or do you want to come on up here? Can
9 you state your name, sir?

10 GERHARDT LIST: My name is Gerhardt List.
11 Unlike the -- my predecessors at the forum, my comments have
12 to do with the Impact Statement. And as for CFR1794.15
13 EIS -- at the minimum should accurately and correctly in term
14 describe the impact of the proposed activities and the
15 overall environment in which it is located. Such environment
16 shall include physical, biological, chemical, sociological,
17 psychological, economic factors. This document is none of
18 the above.

19 Section 1794.61 Environmental Impact Statement
20 allows that a third party consultant selected, but RUS and
21 funded by the applicant may prepare the EIS. It assumes that
22 such an entity is a non-biased consultant and not the
23 applicant itself. This does not appear to be the case here.
24 After review, this draft is almost entirely (indiscernible)
25

1 by the AECI. The specific of the calamity that we progressed
2 through it. What is also evident is the data submitted by
3 AECI to this EIS result (indiscernible) greatly from
4 information AECI submitted to Missouri Department of Natural
5 Resources. For air quality permit info on AECI submitted to
6 Carroll County Planning and Zoning Commission to receive a
7 zoning change. Quite obviously AECI provides the regulatory
8 agencies with whatever information they want in order to win
9 their approval.

10 Little of this information comes close to
11 (indiscernible) propoganda and/or reality. It should be
12 self-explanatory that and in order and impact and anything,
13 one must know two things. A: the nature of what is being
14 impacted, and B: the nature of the activity doing the
15 impacting. Neither of these two requirements are met in this
16 draft EIS. The purpose of the forum requirement is to be
17 obvious. To accurately assess environmental changes at any
18 time and to correctly attribute such changes today to the
19 causes responsible for them.

20 There are no chemical baselines studies
21 presented from existing -- for water and soil. I even
22 invited both RUS and the consultant to use my property as a
23 sampling station in addition to sampling my pristine pond,
24 constructed in the year 2000.
25

1 KIM FARRELL: We'll come back. We're over by a
2 minute and a half. But thank you very much. Is there
3 anybody else who would like to speak specific to those
4 issues? Come on up. Did you sign up too? Again, for those
5 of you who I do interrupt, which I've got two others right
6 now, I will come back at the end after everybody else has
7 been afforded their opportunity.

8 GRACE WEST: My name is Grace West. I think
9 my voice is changing. I feel like I'm still 16 and giving my
10 first speech before speech class. I was beginning to think
11 that I had written a speech for the wrong subject. I
12 actually intended to talk about the information that's in
13 this draft Environmental Impact Statement and the first 13
14 speakers, was it, I thought, kind of missed the mark. I kind
15 of wondered if Associated Electric had brought them all in on
16 the same bus.

17 KIM FARRELL: Let me just ask if we could
18 please hold the applause. I know, the temptation is there,
19 but I'd honestly appreciate if you could comment specific to
20 the draft, so let's get started here. I stopped your time,
21 so I'm restarting it. We've got a minute and thirty seconds.

22 GRACE WEST: I made every effort to read all
23 these 1,308 pages in the few days we had and contrary to
24 RUS's definition of an Environmental Impact Statement, I
25

1 didn't find it clear and concise and to the point at all. I
2 found discrepancies, omissions, and just a lot of confusion.
3 A lot of subjects were scattered throughout the EIS and it
4 was really rather hard to make any definite conclusions
5 because it was just so -- the way it is put together so
6 confusingly.

7 One of the things that I was a little upset
8 about and maybe someone else will address this. There's a
9 procedure called de-watering, which will take place during
10 the construction, and about nine or so of us who live near
11 the site will have our water supply impacted. And we had
12 expected that there might be something in the EIS to explain
13 exactly what this procedure is and just how it would be
14 mitigated, and all I found was that that would be the
15 contractor's decision. And I thought that was really not
16 addressed very well.

17 Another thing was just the mercury emissions.
18 That was just sort of blown off, oh, well there isn't going
19 to be any impact, it's just negligible and insignificant, but
20 there was no consideration of what the cumulative effect of
21 all the mercury from, for instance, Hawthorne and the plant
22 Sibley and other industries upwind from us, and there's no
23 consideration of what the effect of mercury emissions would
24 have on people downwind from this power plant.
25

1 What's this going to do for the people of
2 Thomas Hill, for instance?

3 KIM FARRELL: Grace, I'm sorry, but I'm going
4 to call you back up. Thank you. I'm going to return to the
5 order and again, when I see consistent number of people with
6 the same view then I'll switch back again. I do want to
7 remind everybody now that there are three people that I will
8 be calling back at the end so if I do have to cut you off it
9 is truly because we want everybody to be heard. We're not
10 trying to cut anybody off so much as we maximize opportunity
11 for those who are expecting to speak. Brent Voorheig, Jay
12 Turner and Walter Gregory?

13 BRENT VOORHEIS: I also use a microphone as
14 an auctioneer. What you did a while ago is not nearly as bad
15 as the time I went to the bathroom with mine turned on.

16 KIM FARRELL: But now you've got 11 seconds
17 off.

18 BRENT VOORHEIS: My name is Brent Voorheis,
19 and I live on a family farm just south of Harrisburg,
20 Missouri in Boone County. I like many people wear many hats.
21 I'm a husband, father, auctioneer, farmer, a Boone Electric
22 Coop member and several others, but the one I want to talk
23 about tonight is the one of 21 years school member and school
24 board president.
25

1 In a rural school district electricity is very
2 important. We had a couple moving to the country from
3 Columbia, building their dream homes and raising their
4 families. Increased enrollment required us to look into a
5 building program. This growth requires additional electricity
6 at all levels. We need to be assured that our future
7 electrical needs can be met.

8 The other item I wish to address is the
9 integrity of the electrical coops. The coops are owned by
10 those they serve. We've heard that before. Not by some
11 private corporation interested in making a profit at any or
12 all costs. I know my coop board members and trust them with
13 my life.

14 KIM FARRELL: Thank you, and you did that with
15 one minute and 20 seconds. All right. Jay Turner?

16 JAY TURNER: My name is Jay Turner, and I'm
17 from Columbia, Missouri, and I'm a member of Boone Electric.
18 I farm and I'm here to speak in support of the project and
19 I'm going to give you a very simple and basic reason for the
20 this. I can give you a history lesson about what we call
21 turner farms to be able to make a full circle.

22 My father started in a bank, his first job in
23 Columbia, as a bookkeeper. He, in 1929, he left the bank and
24 started Turner Farms. My father just since passed away and
25

1 recently I acquired a journal that he had from 1934, 35 and
2 36 and I find it very amusing to look at the journals and see
3 the expenses and the checks he wrote and the deposits. While
4 I was admiring his penmanship and his ability to write good,
5 clear journals, I noticed something interesting and it was
6 about a \$3.50 to \$4 a month electric bill to Boone Electric.
7 It was consistent for those three years.

8 Today, Turner Farms pays over \$500 a month for
9 the electric bill. This tells you that I get more out of my
10 \$500. It's far more important to me today that it was seven
11 years ago to my father. And that tells me that we need to
12 keep up with the needs of our membership and if they hadn't
13 done that seven years ago we wouldn't be where we are today
14 and we have to look ahead and so that's my elementary basic
15 reason for supporting the project. Thank you.

16 KIM FARRELL: Walter?

17 WALTER GREGORY: My name is Walter Gregory and
18 I'm a member of (indiscernible) Electric Cooperative. I live
19 on a farm about 45 miles north of St. Charles County, which
20 is one of the fastest growing areas in the state. I farm
21 with my dad and three brothers on a grain and livestock farm.
22 We also own and operate a fertilizer business, which is a
23 reliable and portable source of electricity so I'm in support
24 of this plant. Thank you.
25

1 KIM FARRELL: I've interrupted because I can't
2 tell from the words, obviously, who has different statements
3 directly about the Environmental Impact Statement, but I'm
4 looking back at this group because there seems to be a
5 cluster of you. Is there anybody who would volunteer to make
6 a comment about the -- or would like to volunteer?

7 (UNIDENTIFIED PERSON): I would make a
8 comment. You've only had two people who have talked about
9 the Environmental Impact Statement.

10 KIM FARRELL: Yes, sir, and that's why I'm
11 trying to give the opportunity right now. So would somebody
12 else like to volunteer?

13 (UNIDENTIFIED PERSON): I think it's very nice
14 and all that people come to visit us in Carrollton but they
15 can all stand up and give a cheer for the association and
16 then goes home and that's not the kind of thing we're here
17 about.

18 KIM FARRELL: I understand, but when we hold
19 public comment hearings regardless what agency, the nature of
20 the public hearings are so that people can make comments and
21 they are --

22 (UNIDENTIFIED PERSON): -- you said you hold
23 this thing as a facilitator and we're to talk about the
24 Environmental Impact Statement and only person -
25

1 KIM FARRELL: I respect what you're saying.
2 Sir, my question, would you like to have your opportunity to
3 finish your comment? Is there anybody else who would like to
4 comment about the Environmental Impact Statement? Come on up
5 please. And you are correct that the purpose of the hearing
6 is to comment on the Environmental Impact Statement.
7 However, people have the right when they sign up to speak to
8 comment as they wish and as they desire. Sir, people have
9 the right to say what their belief is.

10 (UNIDENTIFIED PERSON): Well, can I come up
11 there and sing and dance?

12 KIM FARRELL: If you would like to do that for
13 two minutes. Could I have your name, please?

14 RENALTA ALBRECK: My name is Renalta Albreck,
15 and I also think it's a really nice to meet all those
16 representatives of electric cooperatives, but I also think
17 that what they're doing is they're advertising here and
18 saying and has nothing to do with the EIS.

19 So my husband and I have a farm which is about
20 half a mile west of the proposed power plant and I think it
21 is very interesting that anybody can say that this has
22 nothing -- no impact on ground water or agriculture, because
23 two months ago, eight residents that lived about half a mile
24 surroundings of this land got a letter and AECI told them
25

1 that unfortunately during construction, the wells would be
2 affected, which means they are going to run us out of water.
3 And it's probably going to be only six months, but everybody
4 knows that when a well has been dry for six months chances
5 are that it will never run again.

6 So how on earth are we supposed to run a
7 cattle operation? How are we supposed to run a farming
8 operation? How are we supposed to live without water? Water
9 is life. So they might as well run us out of there because
10 we cannot go on living there without water. And, that is
11 what I would call significant impact. Thank you.

12 KIM FARRELL: Thank you very much. Is there
13 someone else who would like to speak in opposition of the
14 proposal? Are you ready? Come on back up. And the reason I
15 am doing this is I do want to make the point and the
16 gentleman who has offered to sing and dance for us does have
17 a very valid point and I'm just giving back to you. We are
18 seeking comment on the Environmental Impact Statement for
19 sure.

20 As a facilitator I have no way of knowing what
21 anybody has to say when they get up here. I know it
22 sometimes angers people that people don't always speak the
23 way we want them to or the way that they should but everybody
24 who wishes to speak does have that right and people have
25

1 different perceptions and different ways of conveying their
2 thoughts. I may disagree with it if I was in your shoes but
3 those aren't the shoes that I am in so now I am going to
4 start the clock on you again. I'm giving you a little bit of
5 extra time.

6 GERHARDT LIST: Speaking from experience
7 because it's fairly pristine and again a very good baseline
8 chemistry if someone would analyze it. I'll skip a lot of
9 this and get right over to the meat. I agree with all these
10 neighbors of Platte County that we need electricity. AECI is
11 failing to meet the criteria that there is need for more
12 electrical generator in the impact area and if there would be
13 attributors outside the impact area.

14 In fact, RUS was informed of the
15 (indiscernible) scope of need out in Norborne in 2005. SERC
16 prediction of this area is at the current owned generation
17 effected to the SERC system exceeds projections for SERC
18 region alone in the year 2015 by over 27,000 megawatts. This
19 AECI 688, not 660, (indiscernible) generation is all
20 circling, which will result on the open market. A slick
21 (indiscernible) wants to pull it off. Now I'm going to go to
22 alternatives. AECI goes on to state in paragraph 2.2.4.3
23 alcohol fuels. (Indiscernible) to use it to oxygenate the
24 gasoline. It is not used to produce electricity.
25

1 First (indiscernible). A great deal of
2 agricultural science (indiscernible) can be successfully used
3 to (indiscernible). Sugar cane, sugar cane (indiscernible),
4 et cetera. More research has continuously yielded nothing at
5 major universities worldwide. All (indiscernible). There
6 are already a number of industry and manufacturing and
7 marketing ethanol fuel cells, specifically to produce
8 electricity.

9 In fact, our own U.S. Representative, Ike
10 Skelton, a democrat in Missouri and chairman of the
11 (indiscernible) is interested in (indiscernible) for possible
12 use by the military. Here we've arrived at an interested
13 question. This draft EIS is 800 some pages mostly incorrect
14 (indiscernible) presumable energy choices were rejected and I
15 might add, simply overlooking extent for all systems. Could
16 it be that RUS only guarantees financing for oil, gas and
17 coal? Is RUS renewable fuel alternative? Hopefully this
18 question will be answered in the next phase. I'm trying to
19 cut short a lot of this.

20 KIM FARRELL: I'm going to give you an
21 additional minute, but you can also submit that in the
22 written document. I'd be happy to --

23 GERHARDT LIST: There is little discussion, in
24 fact none, of the other company (indiscernible) in the
25

1 impact zone. Most importantly are radioactive developments,
2 specifically uranium and thorium. For the year 1982,
3 assuming coal contained uranium and thorium in concentrations
4 of 1.3 and 3.2 mercury respectively, each typical plant
5 releases 5.2 tons of uranium and 12.8 tons of thorium each
6 year. Since coal hasn't changed its characteristics we can
7 expect the same.

8 KIM FARRELL: We can come back or -- you can,
9 that's fine with me. All right. I'm going to go back to
10 people and again, if I have the same continuity and comments
11 then I will deviate and ask for volunteers who have different
12 opinions and comments. So, I have Chris Ryan, Keith Schnarre
13 and Clint Smith?

14 CHRIS RYAN: Hi, my name is Chris Ryan and I
15 am with Three River Cooperative out of Troy. And this may --
16 these nice people I can only comment on how this plant will
17 effect Missouri cooperatives. The cooperatives pride
18 themselves in providing the best possible electric service at
19 the lowest possible cost to their members and without this
20 and without this plant I don't see how they can continue to
21 provide this type to it's members.

22 KIM FARRELL: Sir, I know you would like for
23 me to interrupt people when they're speaking, but it is their
24 right to say what they want to and sometimes people's
25

1 perceptions differ on what is commenting on an Environmental
2 Impact Statement -- so I appreciate your respecting that part
3 of this.

4 KEITH SCHNARRE: I'm Keith Schnarre from
5 Centralia, Missouri, and I farm. I want to talk about the
6 governance, the coop governance and which its member owned
7 and member governed and non-profit. We are lucky here in the
8 state of Missouri to have a three-tier system and we've got
9 the local distribution system which bring electric to our
10 doorstep with a transmission system they can put this to the
11 distribution system and then we've Associated which produces
12 our electric and making sure that we all have electricity at
13 our door.

14 I am also the past presiding commissioner for
15 Boone County in which we have worked very cooperatively with
16 the local coop not only with our citizens but with the growth
17 rate they're having down there, the need for electric and
18 construction of lines. I feel that this is a member owned
19 cooperative control and I feel Associated has done a
20 tremendous job in meeting the needs of and being a good
21 environmental citizen. Thank you.

22 KIM FARRELL: Clint?

23 STEPHANIE STRENGTH: It seems like we're
24 losing some people so I just wanted to make an announcement
25

1 before more people leave. I've heard that there's been
2 difficulty downloading the draft off the website. I
3 understand it's very large so what we're going to do is have
4 a sign in sheet. If you want to leave your name and address
5 to receive a copy of the CD or we can send you the huge
6 document if you don't have a computer. So the sign in table
7 where you came in by the form if you'd like to receive a copy
8 of the CD for your computer or a hard copy, please put that
9 in there.

10 KIM FARRELL: Stephanie, would there be a
11 difference in time if they requested to be mailed a hard copy
12 and the time that would be?

13 STEPHANIE STRENGTH: Yes, there'd be a delay
14 in printing time to make sure we have enough. If we get more
15 than five requests then we need to send it out to the printer
16 but we'll get it to them as soon as possible.

17 CLINT SMITH: Hello. My name is Clint Smith
18 and I'm a member of Callaway Electric. I'm 30 years old and
19 have lived on a farm outside of Fulton my entire life.
20 Whether it be watering cattle or drawing grain, our family
21 knows the importance of reliable, inexpensive electricity.
22 Callaway Electric has served our community throughout the
23 years. Costs have been low and reliability has been high.
24 This would not have been possible without the help of a power
25

1 supplier, Associated Electric. Good management and future
2 planning have played key points in offering this service to
3 their members.

4 The most significant thing about our farm and
5 the reason I'm here tonight is that we're located 3 miles
6 from the nuclear power plant in Callaway County. Some may
7 look at this as a negative, but the truth is the Callaway
8 Plant is the most important facility in our community. The
9 job opportunities, the economic development, the positives
10 the plant has brought to our community is endless. The
11 schools, businesses and surrounding towns all have prospered
12 from this facility.

13 Learning about Associated and the stability in
14 their business, one can only hope a chance of this company
15 entering their community. To the community of Carrollton,
16 don't let this opportunity slip away. The people of Callaway
17 County sat in the same chairs you sit in tonight, wondering
18 if this was the right thing to do. After being a landowner
19 and a neighbor to the Callaway plant, we realize our lives
20 would be much different today without this facility, and not
21 for the better. Good luck with your decision and always
22 remember the opportunities Associated would give this
23 community. Thank you.

24 KIM FARRELL: Okay, I'm going to ask would
25

1 anybody like to volunteer a different perspective, a
2 different view point? Would you? Okay, come on up.

3 NATHAN WHITE: My name is Nathan White. I
4 grew up in Norborne just a few miles north of where this
5 power plant is going to be built. I'm a fifth generation
6 farmer and I went to college and got a job with the coop, so
7 I know all about the coop and how they're run.

8 About this power plant, what concerns me from
9 what we see here today is something that will, not really
10 affect you guys, because I'm afraid the effects of what will
11 happen to this power plant, you will probably be gone and in
12 the grave by the time we see all of these hazards pop up and
13 when the landfill goes from 80 acres and they have to take
14 your land, through eminent domain, to expand their landfill
15 from 80, like they did in New Madrid, and expand it even
16 larger.

17 I'm afraid, you know, it may not be such a
18 good steward for this community. Why are the people here so
19 mad and all the folks that live around it and near it are
20 going to be affected. Why did they come out and seize the
21 Craigs' land? Why did they scare people? Why are people
22 afraid to file just because their motions are so wild and
23 round up about this? This kind of portrays the happy picture
24 of what they want everyone to look at. I'm just concerned of
25

1 what I will see when I'm your age and what my kids will see
2 when they're your age and we've built this large tombstone
3 out in the middle of our good, prime farm land.

4 The people of Carrollton and Carroll County
5 and the adjoining communities, they see this as a dream and I
6 see different problems that might come up. It's just that
7 and I know I'm a young person and I'm pretty emotional about
8 this. I'm kind of just concerned on AECI probably isn't
9 doing the best they can to treat everyone fair in the
10 community, letting them know what is going on and will they
11 actually spend the extra cents since they're trying to save
12 so much on your power to actually help the environment, help
13 the community.

14 I'm glad I moved back to this town and you
15 know, seems like this project can't be stopped and it
16 probably won't, but it's a good thing we address these issues
17 ahead of time and I hope they take -- ERS takes a good look
18 at the young people who do want jobs and do want this done
19 safely and just have a good look at this project. Thanks for
20 your time.

21 KIM FARRELL: Thank you, Nathan. Okay,
22 anybody else? Grace, would you like to come back up and
23 finish? I'll give you two minutes and then if we need to
24 come back up, I'll just call you back up again.
25

1 GRACE WEST: Nathan brought up something that
2 I hadn't even decided to speak about, and that's the
3 landfill. And I haven't gone through, as I said before, the
4 whole 1,308 pages, but I didn't see anything in the EIS that
5 addressed the first line or the under liner or the clay under
6 liner of the landfill as to whether or not that's the right
7 kind of soil to put a landfill. There's a lot of sand in
8 that clay. Is that -- does that meet requirements? It
9 wasn't even mentioned in the EIS.

10 One other -- one sort of insignificant
11 discrepancy that I found had to do with Walk-A-Dog Creek and
12 maybe it's not terribly significant in the overall scheme of
13 things but it kind of shows me maybe the culvert wasn't done
14 as well as it could have been. I'll read you what was in the
15 EIS. It says, this is referring to the proposed railway
16 route. It says, because, in reference to Walk-A-Dog Creek,
17 which the rail route is supposed to go along and it says
18 because of intermittent flow, intermittent streams typically
19 do not support aquatic communities. Therefore, real impacts
20 to aquatic communities are instigated.

21 Well, in July of 2005 the Missouri Department
22 of Conservation came out to my farm and on a 246 reach area
23 of the Walk-A-Dog Creek they found 513 fish and 13 different
24 species and those intermittent streams do support aquatic
25

1 life, contrary to what they say in the EIS.

2 Another thing that concerns me is a waterway
3 called Booker Slough that runs through the property that AECI
4 owns and also some of the neighbor's drainages depend on
5 Booker Slough. And it's not addressed at all as to what will
6 happen to Booker Slough once AECI builds their plan and their
7 rail route right where Booker Slough is. What happens to the
8 people that are up from that area and what happens also with
9 the people down from it, as far as drainage goes. It's not
10 addressed at all and to me that's a pretty important thing.
11 I'd like to see that -- you know, something said about that.

12 KIM FARRELL: Grace, I'll call you back up.
13 Thank you. No, they can go on and on and again, just want to
14 make sure all get an opportunity. I've got 35 more people
15 signed up to give comments so I'm going to use this as an
16 opportunity to quickly say that again, if you would like to
17 write on a form, many of you do have similar or same comments
18 which is fine to come up and verbalize them but as we see
19 people leave because of priorities and competing priorities
20 they have I just want to remind you that if you write your
21 comments down and put them in the box or if you take the form
22 and email Stephanie or otherwise send them to her, it will be
23 treated in the same manner as those comments that are spoken.

24 Stephanie, do you want to comment on that real
25

1 quick, just so that you all know if you have to leave that's
2 fine but we didn't want to --

3 STEPHANIE STRENGTH: -- Especially for those
4 who are writing specific comments on the draft. It's really
5 helpful to have it in writing because it gives us the
6 background that we need to look into it further and to
7 address it in the final EIS. So we'd appreciate it.

8 KIM FARRELL: I just wanted to remind you if
9 you want to do that. So, again, I'm going to go back to the
10 list and if I do call you and you're not here, you either
11 want to submit in writing or you no longer want to make a
12 comment, that's fine too but I just didn't want people to
13 think that they had to stay and make a verbal comment and
14 that was the only way that they would be heard.

15 Next I've got Roger Clark, Tom Howard, and it
16 looks like Corey, well, I don't want to try to pronounce it.

17 ROGER CLARK: Okay. My name is Roger Clark.
18 I'm a member of Boone Electric Cooperative, which is Boone
19 County, City of Ashland, just south of Columbia. And I speak
20 this evening in support of this project in part because of
21 what the transmission component means.

22 There's been a lot of comments about
23 reliability. And I think everyone in this room would
24 acknowledge that electricity has long surpassed a luxury,
25

1 it's a necessity of life today. Too often when we think
2 about reliability tend to look at the lines that are in front
3 of our house and the lines in front of our business or our
4 farms. Reliability starts with a good transmission system.
5 Over the past number of years there have been five documented
6 significant blackouts in this country. Probably the most
7 well-known in the northeast and in everyone of those cases
8 the culprit was traced back to a lack of transmission. This
9 country has done a poor job of building a transmission grid
10 to support it's load.

11 Now, I support the plant for what it brings in
12 the capacity that it's needed, but the transmission lines
13 that are built in conjunction to this are very responsible.
14 I have reviewed the EIS and I am convinced that Associated
15 has looked at a number of options. They've done everything
16 they can to address the impact of that transmission line.
17 And while there is an impact to that the impact I see is
18 building a transmission area that's going to keep Missouri
19 and the central United States from being susceptible to the
20 blackouts that we read about in the paper. That's a
21 situation I don't want to be a part of.

22 I think the transmission system is a
23 significant part of this entire project and one of the many
24 reasons why I support Associated.
25

1 KIM FARRELL: Thank you, Roger. Tom?

2 TOM HOWARD: Good evening. My name is Tom
3 Howard. I am a member of the Callaway Electric Cooperative
4 located in Fulton, Missouri. I speak to you tonight also as
5 an employee of Callaway Electric Cooperative of over 20
6 years, the former 10 years as a general manager. In my 20
7 years I have seen my employees, but not (indiscernible) our
8 membership. I've seen our electric load and demand more than
9 double. The new plant is going to affect the entire Midwest
10 and state of Missouri and that the need for new electric
11 generation is real. I think it's my suggestion, it's cost
12 efficient and an environmentally friendly way to provide new
13 electric needs is through central state electric plants, such
14 as the Norborne plant.

15 A couple of speakers ago talked about the
16 Callaway Nuclear Plant. It's AmerenUE's. It's in my
17 backyard and I see it everyday. Twenty-five years ago in
18 1973 my community was having these meetings. I look out the
19 other window in the other direction from my backyard and I
20 see a base load coal plant, and (indiscernible) because it's
21 clean. These plants have done wonderful things to our
22 community and to our school system, most importantly to the
23 economic health and the well-being and opportunity of our
24 citizens.
25

1 In the next generations, a few years down the
2 road when this is in place, if it's in place and a more
3 important question, what happens to each of you and your kids
4 if that opportunity is not sought? Thank you.

5 KIM FARRELL: Thank you, Tom. Corey?

6 COREY: I'd like to pass at this time.

7 KIM FARRELL: Okay. Thank you very much. I
8 have Ray Maring, and then I can't -- Dale Page, and then
9 Ralph Die after that. Okay, please start.

10 RAY MARING: Thank you. I'm Ray Maring from
11 Warrensburg, Missouri. I live ten miles north of Warrensburg
12 and a member of West Central Electric Coop and in my
13 neighborhood there's a lot of new construction. In the last
14 four years there's been three farms sold and split up and
15 there's 30 new homes out there and it takes a lot of
16 electricity. I was talking to another fellow last week and
17 he had bought another 20 and is going to put 60 homes on it
18 and that's taking place all over Johnson County and people in
19 the know says that the 2010 census in Johnson County will
20 probably be 50,000 people and we'll be having a need for it.

21 KIM FARRELL: Thank you. Dale Page?

22 DALE PAGE: I'm Dale Page, a former employee
23 of West Central Electric. And in dealing with Associated
24 over a period of time, about four years, I think that in the
25

1 environmental department I think they will do their best in
2 trying to work with you. It's going to take time and it
3 takes forever to get these things completed and I think if
4 you wait, you know, if this is postponed then the cost is
5 going to be twice what it will be at this time so I am for it
6 and also for the impact of the environmental part for them to
7 try to work with you. Thank you.

8 KIM FARRELL: Thank you. I do want to comment
9 quickly that -- I want to remind everybody that it is a
10 public comment so several of you now are for and against and
11 I know that it's easy to fall into that, and as I asked
12 earlier if there was anybody who was called to make sure that
13 we had comments from those who believed differently. And
14 those who are expressing their views, but this isn't about
15 being for and against its about offering comments on the
16 Environmental Impact Statement.

17 So I'm hearing, I'm for and I oppose and I
18 just want to remind everybody that the real interest here
19 that Stephanie mentioned was about any concerns that you have
20 about the Environmental Impact Statement. So please try to
21 limit your comments to that and also try to avoid comments
22 about others who they may disagree with or have thoughts
23 about because the purpose really is the comment.

24 As I told the gentleman here, I can't have any
25

1 way of predicting what your comments are going to be and I
2 totally respect, as do everybody who's involved in this
3 process you would like to make the comment and to comment as
4 you foresee appropriate for your perceptions of the
5 Environmental Impact Statement. It doesn't matter what
6 anybody else thinks. But just understand that this isn't
7 about whether you're for or against so much as it is what
8 you're concerns, your beliefs, your thoughts, your feelings
9 are about the Environmental Impact Statement. I just want to
10 remind everybody, so I will please call Stephanie --

11 (UNIDENTIFIED PERSON): Can I (indiscernible)
12 neutral (indiscernible)

13 KIM FARRELL: Can I call you back when it's --
14 Okay? I'll give you ten seconds, real quick.

15 (UNIDENTIFIED PERSON): In the draft EIS, they
16 discovered a rattle snake and it was identified and I just
17 know that they caught it and then they put it back so it
18 doesn't go around my property.

19 KIM FARRELL: All right. 14 seconds.
20 Stephanie?

21 STEPHANIE STRENGTH: I just want to remind
22 everybody that it's hard to publicly speak, and so for each
23 of you to come out here and be willing to come up here and
24 give your comments, we appreciate that and we understand it's
25

1 hard and we really need to respect each other for doing so.
2 We want to make it as comfortable for you as possible so if
3 you want us to bring the microphone back to you we'd be more
4 than happy to do that. We have two wireless that we can walk
5 around with. So make sure that you let us know what you
6 need, if we need to bring the microphone back to you and we
7 really do want to hear all of your comments and we really do
8 appreciate what you have to say.

9 KIM FARRELL: Ralph, would you come up now or
10 would you like me to come to you?

11 RALPH DIE: I'm Ralph Die and I live about two
12 and a half miles from Higginsville, and I'm served by West
13 Central Electric. I don't know how I'd run my farm without
14 it. As a hobby I belong to Mason Shriners. I have an
15 airplane, and I haul those purple children to the various
16 hospitals. Galveston, Texas, Cincinnati, Ohio, Chicago, St.
17 Louis. In flying, you look down on territory and we very
18 seldom ever fly over 18,000 feet and you can see a whole lot
19 what's going on. Now, I guarantee (indiscernible).

20 What I really can't figure out is how the
21 electric companies are holding up now. How they're supplying
22 enough. I don't think anybody that's building those
23 buildings without figuring on holding up electricity. The
24 only way I know of is maybe stopping the population. Anybody
25

1 want to volunteer? The other solution might be to go home
2 and unhook your electricity and I don't know maybe someone
3 would volunteer that. I think the electric companies are
4 already doing about all they can do and they're doing a darn
5 good job. We really appreciate that. Thank you.

6 KIM FARRELL: Thank you, Ralph. Okay, I've
7 got Crystal Thomas.

8 CRYSTAL THOMAS: Hi, my name is Crystal Thomas
9 and I live in Centerview, Missouri. I've been a member of a
10 coop for about ten years. I'm the mother of two young
11 children and where we live we have so much growth going on
12 that when my kids get into high school and get into college
13 then is there's still going to be enough electricity, and
14 will we have the means to be able to afford it when we get
15 older.

16 KIM FARRELL: Thank you, Crystal. And it
17 looks like Charles Teter. Okay, come on up.

18 CHARLES TETER: My name is Charles Teter. I
19 live in Warrensburg, Missouri, and I am a member of the West
20 Central Electric. I grew up in northeast Missouri, and my
21 dad's farm is under water at this time with the Thomas Hill
22 reservoir. That is a great recreation area there that they
23 have created. I enjoy going back and fishing over the place
24 that we farmed, and we had a lot of farm neighbors with that.
25

1 But that's beside the point of why I'm here.

2 I am a member of the Warrensburg Industrial
3 Corporation. We build buildings for industrial customers and
4 this is one of the main things that we look at that there is
5 a supply of electricity for these industrial companies in the
6 area. If the electricity supply isn't there, the
7 manufacturers aren't interested in bringing their plant or
8 their people to this community. Thank you very much and
9 that's all I have to say.

10 KIM FARRELL: Thank you. Okay, again I think.
11 Fred Wolf?

12 FRED WOLF: Hi, I'm Fred Wolf from Warrensburg,
13 Missouri. I am a member of West Central Electric
14 Cooperative. 28 years ago we built a home out in the
15 country. I tried to make it very super energy efficient, a
16 ground source heat pump, pumping water from a well and
17 pumping in a small lake. While there are those that might
18 say that I'm tight, I'd like to think that I'm trying to be
19 conservative with energy and so forth. And I believe that
20 West Central Electric is conservative in their approach.

21 I was paying about -- my electric bill I was
22 concerned was going to get a lot more expensive. While
23 inflation has affected everything else a lot, my electric
24 bill is not much more than it was 28 years ago and that's
25

1 attributed to good management of West Central and I just
2 can't believe of any better source for more electricity than
3 building a coal plant considering the world's situation.

4 Thank you.

5 KIM FARRELL: Thank you very much. I'm going
6 to turn here again. Is there anybody who'd like to? Come on
7 up.

8 DIANA COUGERT: My name is Diane Cougert and I
9 actually do live in Norborne near where this place is going
10 to be built. I have a farm that has been in my family's
11 heritage for over 150 years, which, if this plant would go
12 in, transmission lines would go over, if it's not taken for
13 railway or whatever.

14 One of my main concerns with AECI is they have
15 not been forthcoming with information on this plant to any of
16 us and hiding information is not correct. If anyone in here
17 thinks that they can just bulldoze any of us in the Norborne
18 community or surrounding community, they're wrong. We have
19 asked for Sunshine requests which in the past -- well, I
20 believe it was today we received an email that was rejected.
21 There will be lawsuits for it.

22 Also, in some of the previous meetings we
23 asked questions on education which, I believe, George Eiser
24 had come up here and was talking about the education, and we
25

1 asked if there was going to be any available training for
2 this plant and we were told no. So I'm glad you got
3 something out of them because we sure couldn't.

4 I also believe it would be better for us to
5 eat rather than have electricity, for us to have water,
6 because if we can't eat and drink, we're dead. So if you all
7 think that electricity is much better than eating and
8 drinking, I'm sad for you.

9 I do realize that we do need some electricity,
10 but I don't believe it's needed around here. I don't believe
11 it's been proven that it's needed around here and I'm very
12 concerned about the water and how this dewatering is going to
13 take place. I'm afraid that the town of Norborne is going
14 to -- not be available to have water for all of their
15 residents. I also have an uncle who worked for Kansas City
16 Power and Light and he actually bought coal, and to your
17 all's amazement, he is definitely against this coal fired
18 power plant. Thank you.

19 KIM FARRELL: Diana, thank you. I'd also like
20 to also comment real quickly that when sometimes some people
21 have comments that we have any temptation to respond to them,
22 please don't because this is a public comment period, only to
23 get those comments forward, not to respond to people that you
24 feel you have some kind of answer or response to their
25

1 comment. I'm going to go back to Grace. Do you want to? I
2 just want to -- as long as you were comfortable with it.

3 GRACE WEST: I was talking about Booker Slough
4 earlier, and one of the concerns with that in particular is
5 still and we were told previously by Associated that part of
6 the plant site would be raised to the 500 year flood level.
7 But that is in the Missouri River flood plain, and the EIS it
8 states -- the only thing I could find would be in the 500
9 year flood level was the landfill and that it wasn't the
10 plant site itself. I'm concerned that even filled to the 100
11 year flood level it's going to create some problems if we do
12 have another floor.

13 The water in 1993 lapped at the edge of
14 Norborne, and if there isn't structure to a bowl of water or
15 drainage from the plant site fill or the railroad being built
16 up or any levies that AECI might construct it could flood the
17 town of Norborne this time.

18 KIM FARRELL: Thank you, Grace. Okay, I've
19 got Rhett, oh, I'm sorry, Rhett has not asked to speak. W.
20 D. Richards? Is W.D. Richards here? And again, Stephanie,
21 I'm happy to bring it back if it's easier, just so everybody
22 knows.

23 W.D. RICHARDS: My comments are not going to
24 be made as they were originally. I sympathize with the
25

1 people sitting out here. I very well may be sitting with you
2 in the same situation. I just want to tell you that I
3 sympathize with you, because we have a farm my son and I
4 bought and we have a cattle operation on it.

5 The next two years I'm going to build two more
6 42-inch high pressure natural gas and another
7 (indiscernible), and how do we know there'll be enough of
8 this electricity from Chicago. I can't do both if it -- so
9 we're all in this together, and I probably would be sitting
10 with you except our property is not part of the proposed
11 site. What is the answer? We all have to give and if it's
12 not here it's going to be somewhere else.

13 KIM FARRELL: Do you have a comment about the
14 Environmental Impact Statement?

15 W.D. RICHARDS: I'm telling you I don't think
16 we can do anything about it. Thank you.

17 KIM FARRELL: Okay. Thank you. O.B. Clark?

18 O.B. CLARK: I apologize for my voice. I have
19 a cold. I live 80 miles in the southern part of Morgan
20 County. I am an electric cooperative member. I was going to
21 speak about as I attend meetings with the distribution
22 cooperatives of the 100s of millions of dollars that
23 Associated has already spent to clean the air, take care of
24 the water, but I've changed my direction. One thing we all
25

1 have in common, we have a need, a need for electricity.

2 In this state there are now -- just now there
3 will be 3 industrial utilities. There is one cooperative
4 generator. There are several municipal systems and we lean
5 on each other. Associated has a combination of interchanges
6 and interconnections over 100 different points where we can
7 help our investor owned utilities, our cities. We are
8 integrated in this project or any other project that some
9 utility might need to build and is not allowed to do it, then
10 the whole state, the whole Midwest suffers. And I assume
11 regardless of where it's located there will be those that
12 challenge the Environmental Impact Statement, and I
13 understand their reason why, but we need this project.

14 KIM FARRELL: Okay. Thank you. Ken Johnson?

15 KEN JOHNSON: I'm Ken Johnson and I'm the
16 general manager of COMO Electric, and I moved here about a
17 year and two months ago to Missouri to take advantage of an
18 opportunity to come to a state where you had a three-tier
19 cooperative system. Associated Electric is known throughout
20 the United States as one of the best run cooperatives in the
21 United States, and that's largely due to the member owner
22 memberships that we have. It's owned by the grassroots
23 people who are consumers, and that makes this system much
24 better than many of the other cooperative systems throughout
25

1 the United States.

2 Associated has been very responsible in
3 environmental expenses that they've made in the past few
4 years. They spent millions of dollars on cleaning up
5 existing plants. This new plant will be state of the art
6 technology and I know as member owners they have great
7 concern for the environment and they want to make sure that
8 everything is done in a way that will meet all of the federal
9 requirements and take care of the environment. They care
10 about the people. They are the people that live here in the
11 communities.

12 COMO has grown four to five percent every year
13 for the last 30 years. We set an all-time peak January 31,
14 last week. We use more electricity than we've ever used
15 before, and we see this continuing throughout the next 30
16 years. We serve a high-low growth area around the Lake of
17 the Ozarks. We connected more than 800 new homes last year
18 for new service and we see no end to this. We definitely
19 need to have a new coal fire base load power plant for
20 Missourians.

21 KIM FARRELL: Thank you, Ken. I have Glen
22 Alsup, and he is followed by Steve Moore.

23 GLEN ALSUP: Good evening. I am Glen Alsup
24 and I'm with West Central Cooperative. I have been for
25

1 several years. I'm from a small town named Wellington, and I
2 am the general manager of West Central. And in looking at
3 this Environmental Impact Statement, one of the key focuses
4 that I think our membership all over the state is bringing to
5 us tonight is the need for this power plant. And that is
6 part of the Environmental Impact study is to evaluate the
7 need, and that seems to be where many of the coop members are
8 focusing tonight. And I think one reason you're seeing such
9 a focus or emphasis for the need is because of the competence
10 we have developed in Associated's electric to be good
11 stewards of the environment to handle those issues.

12 We don't feel like we need to stress that, but
13 Associated has always been out in front in taking care of
14 those issues. We also have a strong interest in the
15 Department of Natural Resources protecting our water supply,
16 our land, our rivers and waterways, the air quality, and so I
17 think that's one reason we're seeing such a focus in the
18 meeting because that need is so great. So, basically, we're
19 a rural electric coop.

20 Associated has always been there for us in
21 trying to get out in front. We definitely need a new coal
22 powered supply. We can use natural gas and charge our
23 members a lot more money that we could if we used coal, but
24 coal technology allows us to produce good clean electricity
25

1 and environmentally sound methods. And I really appreciate
2 the comments I'm hearing from everyone tonight and everyone's
3 concerns and look forward to moving forward.

4 KIM FARRELL: Okay. For those of you who
5 would like to take some time to -- there's refreshments in
6 the back. You're certainly welcome to do that, but in the
7 interest of making sure we can get through the comments, we
8 are not able to take a full official break, but I do want to
9 remind everybody that there are refreshments and things in
10 the back. You are welcome to step out. You're welcome to
11 come back. Right now we have 26 more people, so again, when
12 I call your name if you prefer another way to submit that's
13 fine. Steve Moore?

14 STEVE MOORE: My name is Steve Moore. I'm a
15 member of West Central Electric Coop in Knob Noster,
16 Missouri. We've all heard a lot of things about the
17 Environmental Impact Statement and how Associated has been an
18 extremely good steward of the environment. They've been
19 active in community affairs, social affairs. They do realize
20 their responsibility and neighbors and they've been a good
21 neighbor. It's obvious the need for the increased
22 generation.

23 Plants take a long time to design and build
24 and get in operation. If they don't plan ahead, then we will
25

1 have shortages. And my experience with Associated has been
2 that they've either met or exceeded regulations in the past,
3 and I think it will continue. There's not much question
4 about the need for the plant, and I'm very comfortable with
5 how Associated will take care of their neighbors in the
6 Norborne area and across the state. That's all I have to
7 say. Thank you.

8 KIM FARRELL: Okay. Jason Helton and LeRoy
9 Crumb.

10 JASON HELTON: My name is Jason Helton. I'm a
11 member of the cooperative system and specifically in
12 Livingston County Electric. For the second time I certainly
13 respected and appreciate the benefits this plant will bring
14 and I would like to comment for the need for reliable and
15 affordable electricity in our area. I will state, though,
16 the cooperative system is really based on member owners who
17 employ and depend upon experts and professionals in the
18 business operation of plants and engineering and scientific
19 fields to make such decisions as the needs for the plant.
20 Therefore, the decisions for the implementation of this plant
21 directly impact the member owners of this cooperative system,
22 at least financially.

23 I believe that AECI responds to the overall
24 planning with a total cooperative energy portfolio, and has
25

1 evaluated a number of options to meet the increasing needs of
2 the future. AECI is a catalyst of the customer in order to
3 bring -- excuse me, in order to bring energy production to
4 northern Missouri.

5 While some might say it's taken too long to
6 incorporate renewable energy in the overall portfolio, the
7 reality is a combination of the developers and cost effective
8 technology is not coming together. It is also my
9 understanding that AECI has recently joined a Chicago
10 exchange, which demonstrates the awareness and commitment to
11 costs reduction with respect to market based training system.

12 I feel that AECI showed a comprehensive
13 concern to increased member's demand by (indiscernible), and
14 that AECI's member owners are all conscious of having
15 corporate alternative energy sources and emissions training
16 and plan to meet those needs. Thank you.

17 KIM FARRELL: Thank you. Leroy Crumb.

18 LEROY CRUMB: I'm a member owner as many of
19 you are in here. We are the old Associated. We are very
20 conscious of how we want it to be and we want it to be
21 environmentally friendly. If we look over the years as they
22 have met or exceeded and been ahead of the curve. Millions
23 and millions have been spent and just recently they have
24 purchased all the power from the three generation plants that
25

1 will be going in in northwest Missouri. Their concern for
2 the environment, I think, is beyond reproach. They're a good
3 company. They'll be a good neighbor.

4 KIM FARRELL: Thank you. Okay. Again, I want
5 to remind people that if you want to please take forms with
6 you, fill out comments that can be submitted in a different
7 forum if you are not able to do so tonight because you can't
8 stay. Sherry Williams?

9 SHERRY WILLIAMS: I'm Sherry Williams and I'm
10 the Economic Developer here in Carroll County. I have read
11 the summary of the EIS and I don't have any specific concerns
12 to address tonight. My concern is the study was conducted
13 and this forum is being held and the concerns are being
14 addressed in support also.

15 I have had the opportunity to visit Thomas
16 Hill in Randolph County and the headquarters in Springfield
17 of Associated and the thing that impressed me is this is an
18 employer that has a remarkable record of longevity with their
19 employees which is a result, I think, of job satisfaction.
20 Their payroll, their benefits and the opportunity for career
21 advancement is exactly what the developer in the communities
22 in Missouri strives to attract. Thank you very much.

23 KIM FARRELL: Ray Shields?

24 RAY SHIELDS: My name is Ray Shields. I live
25

1 on a farm north of Meadville and am a member of Farmers
2 Electric Cooperative. As a kid once in a while, about once a
3 year we went to Kansas City, came in from the north, I don't
4 remember on what road, but I remember the stench in the air
5 from the Blackwater processing plants. A friend of mine that
6 lived in Kansas City said they dumped all the blood right
7 into the river.

8 I went to MU, graduated, and got a degree in
9 Civil Engineering with a minor in Environmental Sanitation.
10 My first job was in Chicago, country kid who moved into a big
11 town. And one road took me up over the southern edge of Lake
12 Michigan up to Gary, Indiana, and I remember seeing plumes of
13 every color smoke you can think of and cars two or three
14 years old that the paint was rusted off the tops of them.

15 KIM FARRELL: Ray, can you go toward the
16 Environmental Impact Statement?

17 RAY SHIELDS: I'm concerned about the
18 environment, but I also know the EPA and DNR do a tremendous
19 job. We have cleaner air and water today than we did have
20 when I got out of school for sure back in 1969. And I know
21 that Associated is a good operator, and that the best
22 indicator of future performance is the past, and they don't
23 have skeletons in their closet.

24 KIM FARRELL: Thank you. Okay. Rex Wood?
25

1 Steve Schutte is next.

2 REX WOOD: I'm Rex Wood from Meadville. I've
3 been a farmer for 35 years and my remarks will be a little
4 bit more specific. I've had some experience with DNR over
5 the last 10 years. First of all, it was a log jam in Locust
6 Creek loading through DNR property. The second was with a
7 waste manure spill in the neighborhood, and the third was
8 with a levy through some wetlands and state agencies are made
9 up of individuals.

10 These people are professionals. They're good.
11 They do their job. This manure spill, the DNR guy was there
12 on a Wednesday, prior to Thanksgiving Day. He was there that
13 night and all Thanksgiving Day making sure that tributary was
14 all cleaned up. These people are serious, and they do a good
15 job. So I think if you have any concerns about state
16 agencies and their willingness to stick to the rules, that
17 shouldn't be a concern.

18 KIM FARRELL: Thank you. Richard? I mean
19 Steve?

20 STEVE SCHUTTE: I'm Steve Schutte and from
21 northwest of Chillicothe, member owner of Farmers Electric
22 Coop. I'm going to go back a little bit about talk about the
23 environment. I know the late 1970s when I first moved into
24 this area I was taken to Thomas Hill Lake where the power
25

1 plant is to go fishing. At that time you could see dark
2 clouds of smoke, emissions from the smoke stacks, you kind of
3 wondered what was going on and what was coming out of there.
4 Last summer I went back over there again to fish again. All
5 three units were running. All you could see is a little wisp
6 of steam.

7 I know Associated Electric has spent hundreds
8 of millions of dollars not only at Thomas Hill and New
9 Madrid. They announced in a rural Missouri magazine last
10 year that they're spending hundreds of millions of dollars
11 again to improve the quality at those plants. I know that
12 the new plant that they're proposing, that they have to
13 follow specific guidelines involving air and water quality
14 and they will have the proper equipment to do so.

15 One thing I'm very concerned about is that we
16 end up like the state of California. Several years ago they
17 didn't just have brownouts out there, they had complete black
18 outs, because it's a scenario in which power plants weren't
19 allowed to be built out there. It went from not out in my
20 backyard to not on planet earth. I wouldn't want us to be in
21 that situation.

22 I want it to be built properly with the proper
23 equipment, which I really believe Associated is going to do.
24 But we need the power plant, and we need to do that not just
25

1 from an economic development standpoint, but we need to have
2 the power and the studies show we need to have the power to
3 do the key jobs in the state. Thank you.

4 KIM FARRELL: Okay. Thank you. Robert
5 Cowhurd? Terry Rumery and then Jim Houser.

6 ROBERT COWHURD: I'm Robert Cowhurd and I'm
7 not a member of an electric cooperative. I live in
8 Chillicothe and have municipal utilities. I didn't ride the
9 bus. I had to drag myself down because I thought it was that
10 important. I'm involved in economic development in
11 Chillicothe. I do it as a volunteer basis and help bring
12 about 400 to 500 jobs through Chillicothe. Most of those are
13 sighted in the industrial park that gets served by Farmers
14 Electric. Without those -- without electric power and
15 without the ability to have cheap and reliable and stable
16 power we cannot bring those jobs to north Missouri.

17 I've looked at -- I didn't grow up in north
18 Missouri, I grew up in south Missouri but a few people
19 migrated north, and one of the things I noticed up here is
20 we've had a loss of population since about 1900. And the
21 only way we can turn around that loss of population is to
22 bring jobs and good jobs to this community. These are good
23 jobs for this community.

24 I realize it will have some impact both
25

1 positively and negatively, but if it means that the impacts
2 really underestimates the impact of those types of jobs in
3 this community and those types of jobs in north Missouri. So
4 I believe the Environmental Impact Study, if anything,
5 understates the impact of those jobs and the importance to
6 this community. I'm a business owner in this community. I
7 think it understates its impact in letting other communities
8 in north Missouri bring jobs in the areas where we need jobs.
9 So thank you very much.

10 KIM FARRELL: Thank you. Okay, Terry Rumery?

11 TERRY RUMERY: My name is Terry Rumery and I
12 own an economic development firm located in Chillicothe. I
13 represent the City of Chillicothe as well as others; other
14 communities, other businesses and other clients. I'm here
15 for the Environmental Impact and part of that is the economic
16 impact. And let me tell you, someone who deals in economic
17 development all day long, the questions that I had and
18 companies that want to come in and provide jobs for our
19 children, that provide the jobs for you and for your
20 neighbors.

21 One of the first questions in the top three is
22 do you have adequate electricity? If we don't have adequate
23 electricity, we don't have the jobs. And as Robert stated,
24 our population in north Missouri has gone down since 1900, it
25

1 has not gone up. It's gone down. The only way we're going
2 to continue to be able to have a chance to bring it back up
3 is to be able to provide the jobs.

4 I can also tell you that Associated Electric
5 does not have a problem with the environment part of the
6 environment. They are a top-notch quality company. Period.
7 They are recognized throughout the United States for that.
8 But the only thing I want to say real quick, and I'm sorry
9 they left, I saw them leave a while, there was one couple
10 back there that had a brand new baby, a precious young baby.
11 And if they know what this meeting is really about, it's
12 about those kids because those kids are the ones we need to
13 stay here to help continue to continue to build this
14 community up. If we don't do that, I can tell you this.
15 What happens in other communities? They go down in
16 population. Your taxes go up, your services go down, and
17 that's what it amounts to. This is a total economic package
18 for you and it is phenomenal. This is like a brand new
19 Boeing plant. Thank you.

20 KIM FARRELL: Thank you. Jim Houser? I'm
21 just letting everybody know I'm actually coming towards the
22 end of those who marked that they'd like to speak and then I
23 will be asking for any comments openly -- if anybody else
24 wants to, and then I'll come back to those who I've called
25

1 time on before.

2 JIM HOUSLER: I'm Jim Housler ,and I'm a
3 business owner and land owner in Carroll County and
4 Livingston County. I've lived here all my life. I've always
5 been concerned about the environment. The Associated
6 Electric folks have taken care of me numerous times over 40
7 some years, and they've done that in a very professional and
8 caring manner. When we've had a problem, DNR has come in and
9 looked at it, spent whatever time necessary to make sure that
10 it got cleaned up in a very professional and good way. We're
11 going to have power shortages.

12 If you read the newspapers or listen to the
13 consultants that have come to our community, and they do on a
14 regular basis every time we start talking to a business about
15 coming here those people start talking to us about what kind
16 of electric service we have and whether we can take care of
17 and work can be located. And unfortunately, some of us have
18 to have a plant in our backyards, and we're all concerned
19 about that. Those of us who have land and watch the
20 pipelines that come across the land and what they do. We're
21 all concerned about the impact of that.

22 And it would be much better in my opinion to
23 have it in our backyard and have our people in this community
24 benefit from the plant by jobs and taxes and services than it
25

1 would be to have the plant in Illinois or southern Missouri
2 and have to listen to those people talk us out of doing it.
3 I'm in support of it. Associated Electric is a good company
4 and we appreciate them.

5 KIM FARRELL: Thank you. Charlie Bigler?
6 Okay, I may not be reading the handwriting right.

7 CHARLIE BIGLER: I'm Charles Bigler from
8 Chillicothe, Missouri. I'm not a member of FEC. I've been
9 fortunate enough to be around a group who are members of FEC
10 and they hire quality people. They do their best work in
11 communities and I realize it's a difficult thing to look at
12 when someone's talking or land or building next to your land
13 but the thing is we have to make responsible decisions to
14 generate power to our communities or we can't grow. And if
15 we choose not to grow it won't be in these communities, it
16 will be somewhere else.

17 My son lives in San Diego, California and my
18 daughter in Oklahoma, and what's happening to our towns is
19 they're spread all over Missouri, and we can't keep our
20 economy because we can't have our own power here. Now, I see
21 in this proposal that we're building a plant right here in
22 Missouri that will employ Missouri people that will give
23 power to people here in Missouri to make decisions. I think
24 it's a responsible thing to do.
25

1 Now, there's always impacts and we have to
2 suffer impacts. But we also have to get things to grow or we
3 won't be here and we can't keep our land and fight over local
4 power.

5 KIM FARRELL: Thank you. Grace, I've got you
6 on here, but since we've kind of skipped around already I
7 don't want to keep having you come back and forth, but I'm
8 going to get back to you at the end. I'm going to call
9 Darlene Whitsell? Oh, I'm sorry, Dale Whiteside. I
10 apologize. I was looking at the wrong line.

11 DALE WHITESIDE: Thank you. Lots has been
12 said tonight and today about various issues, but I think it
13 still needs to be said because the support is very important
14 when it comes to meeting our needs, our electrical needs for
15 these communities. I personally have been excited about this
16 project since I first heard about it. I've always been a
17 farmer. I did spend nine years in the state legislature, but
18 I'm still a farmer and our major enterprise is raising hogs.

19 Now, back in 1939 when I was nine years old,
20 electricity came to our farm, and I know it's almost certain
21 the monthly bill was less than \$10. I don't know for sure
22 what it is, but I know now we spend \$1,000 a month for
23 electricity. We use a lot of electricity. We're primarily
24 in the hog production business. What our needs are -- once a
25

1 generation of electricity by water, once they surpassed all
2 they could do there, the affordable source of power, then we
3 come to coal. That's why there are lots of coal power plants
4 being built in our nation.

5 With 30 seconds to go I'll summarize. We need
6 a new power plant for the greater good of rural Missouri. We
7 not only -- we need not only more power but we need
8 affordable power. The key word is affordable. Be grateful
9 to Associated Electric and our local coop for their continued
10 good service and in the future. What better place is there
11 to build a new power plan than Carroll County? I sure don't
12 want to wake up or lie awake at night worrying about if I'll
13 have power in the morning or power five years from now.
14 Thank you.

15 KIM FARRELL: Thank you. I've got Mary
16 Lichte. Is that right? Did I pronounce that right?

17 MARY LICHTHE: No, it's Lichte. The only
18 concern I have about the proposed power plant coming to
19 Carroll County is what's taking so long to get started. My
20 husband and I have lived in Norborne for 27 years. We own
21 and operate the grocery store and Town and Country Service
22 and Supply. We're here to offer our support for AECI's
23 proposed coal fired power plant in Carroll County. If our
24 County and Norborne community is to grow and prosper we need
25

1 new industry. This project will revise -- needed rural
2 electricity to support that industry.

3 Even in our area we are seeing growth from
4 people and businesses moving to our community. In the future
5 we will need a plant such as the one that AECI is proposing
6 to meet the growing electrical demands of an expanding rural
7 area. After reading the draft Environmental Impact Statement
8 and with continuous contacts with executives with AECI about
9 our concerns with local water and air quality, we know that
10 with government regulations and with AECI's commitment to
11 modern technology to generate low cost reliable electricity
12 while emissions in the environment will be protected.

13 I will submit the rest of my statement as
14 written and in conclusion. I have only one concern about the
15 proposed power plant in Carroll County. What's taking so
16 long to get started?

17 KIM FARRELL: Thank you. Okay, before I go
18 back to those who I cut time on earlier, is anybody wanting
19 to speak and I know Nelson, I know you wanted to speak and I
20 can give you two minutes or so. Is there anybody else? Yes,
21 sir. Did you sign up and I didn't call your name or? I may
22 not have. Did I maybe not read your name? Okay. Just wanted
23 to make sure. Is this you? Oh, okay.

24 THOMAS WHITE: I can't believe what's happened
25

1 here tonight. I honestly can't. Really, I'm appalled. What
2 we're here for tonight is right here. Isn't that correct?
3 This is exactly and only what we're here tonight. All we've
4 heard from tonight is a lot of nonsense. People from other
5 cooperatives who aren't even -- aren't even concerned about
6 any of this. All they're concerned about is cheap
7 electricity, that's it.

8 AECI on one hand has resorted to a smokescreen
9 for this meeting. It's all it is, a smokescreen. In
10 Congress you call it a filibuster, don't you, to keep the
11 other people who have good concerns from talking. I'm
12 concerned about that. I think we'd be interested to stop a
13 while ago but if you give me a few minutes maybe I can do a
14 little bit of the same in getting --

15 KIM FARRELL: -- You have the floor.

16 THOMAS WHITE: The first thing I want to talk
17 about is -- I'll talk about the environmental issues. Who
18 here wants a toxic landfill in their backyard? That's what
19 we're going to get. Who here would like to have their
20 drinking water under a toxic landfill? With a wad of cash
21 for this toxic landfill, not (indiscernible) wells are
22 (indiscernible). Sure, I'm sure they can engineer it so
23 there might not be a problem, but what if there is a problem?
24 When you talk about your drinking water there's zero room for
25

1 an error and they have not addressed that. On the air with
2 the landfill I read some problems about oh that's a long way
3 from it. The topography of the land is the same. It dumps
4 right into the river bottom on a hill.

5 I wanted to build a structure there so I got
6 NRCS to stake out a pond. They came out and said we will not
7 build you a little pond because the soil here is not where it
8 will hold water. It's sand, and I mean, everybody who lives
9 in the area knows that that hill is sand. It will not hold
10 water. It's a poor place for a landfill. They have said,
11 they implied it, but, you know, what if there is water?
12 Toxic waste will get in our land water.

13 KIM FARRELL: What you're saying is you're
14 concerned about toxic waste.

15 THOMAS WHITE: Now I want to talk about the
16 integrity of AECI. A lot of people have talked about that
17 tonight and really don't have any experience with any of it.
18 They have not --

19 KIM FARRELL: Okay, excuse me two things. One
20 is, state your name.

21 THOMAS WHITE: Do you want me to sit down and
22 get back up again?

23 KIM FARRELL: No, I just want to make sure
24 that they have an opportunity to speak a bit about that, but
25

1 I do want a balance for sure, but I don't think you said your
2 name first.

3 THOMAS WHITE: Thomas White. Now, about a
4 year and a half ago or so at a local school board I went,
5 this is on the agenda at that time. We were advised to go to
6 a meeting at the courthouse about tax entities. At that
7 meeting, they were wanting to waive the property taxes and
8 have a payment in lieu of taxes. All the citizens said it
9 wasn't good enough. They figured that the County commission
10 and AECI had set up was not enough, but the Commission and
11 AECI went ahead and made an agreement and this agreement was
12 three payments made to the County starting in 2006. This
13 didn't happen. Did AECI do the honest thing? That last week
14 in December we see an article in the paper this agreement has
15 been cancelled. Can you believe that? \$500,000 to the
16 county and the agreement is cancelled.

17 KIM FARRELL: Five more seconds, please.

18 THOMAS WHITE: And that's not honesty. I
19 think you need to know about that. The county wished to
20 receive \$500,000, and the last week of the month, the last
21 week of December, it was cancelled. They paid nothing to the
22 counties. And the next thing I want to do is a statement a
23 man made here before is we all know that's not AECI's way in
24 business. They have not been fair to people in this area.
25

1 When they came in here and bought the land they didn't say --
2 the original tract, they didn't say we're going to build a
3 power plant, we're AECI. They hired a separate entity to
4 come in and lie to the people and bought the land.

5 KIM FARRELL: Tom, I've given you four minutes
6 and thirty seconds, and I will call you back up to finish
7 that statement. I just want to make sure that any of you who
8 signed up or who -- okay, state your name for the reporter.

9 ROB KORFF: I live near here and have property
10 on both sides that AECI is proposing. I think there's a
11 problem with as far as Tom has left off. I'm not a competent
12 board member and knowledge here. Thank you for everyone who
13 did here. I appreciate your concern. AECI -- they're
14 sneaky, they've lied to us, they scare people, they're
15 anything but roses. I don't disagree with Mr. Whiteside very
16 often, but they are excited about this plant and I think
17 Hillary Clinton as president. I just want to remind
18 everybody tonight that it's not all rosy and not all popular.
19 This will cost my family dearly. So I'm glad everybody here
20 is benefited from their pocketbooks, but not everybody's in
21 that same situation.

22 KIM FARRELL: I need to state your name
23 again, but I know she didn't get your name.

24 ROB KORFF: Korff, with a K. And about the
25

1 de-watering project. I believe I heard about that project to
2 receive a letter about that, January 4, I believe, it's about
3 how surrounding the excavation site and the wells
4 (indiscernible) up to 2.4 gallons a minute out on the ground
5 and let it go to my draining system for up to six months.
6 Then they're going to steal our water from underneath and
7 then flood us out on top.

8 I've contacted DNR, my state rep, our
9 senators. I've contacted a lot of people on this issue and
10 we're not going to let it happen. We're going to argue this
11 and everybody else shouldn't let it happen. We've been
12 neighbors here all our lives. That's all I have to say.

13 KIM FARRELL: Thank you. Okay. Is there
14 anybody else who signed up to make a comment who was not
15 called? Okay, Nelson I have you. Nelson Heil. And then I
16 will call those I cut time on earlier and give them another
17 opportunity and remind everybody that the written comment
18 card forms submitted to the USDA via email or regular mail
19 are considered in the same manner. I'll begin your time.

20 NELSON HEIL: Thank you. My name is Nelson
21 Heil. I'm the Commissioner of Carroll County and what I'm
22 going to speak on tonight has already been introduced to the
23 record and I will touch the highlights of it. I have read
24 the Environmental Impact Statement. The Carroll County
25

1 Commission does hereby go on record in being support of the
2 proposed AECI power plant near Norborne in Carroll County.
3 As elected representative for Carroll County we decided
4 Associated Electric's proposed power plant project would
5 benefit Carroll County and for several reasons and of which I
6 will list a few. AECI's a good responsible corporate
7 citizen, something that we have concluded in our discussions
8 here today and a working relationship we have developed with
9 them over a period of a few years.

10 We have visited their facilities and seen
11 first hand their operations in other communities as well as
12 speaking to other people in those communities who have agreed
13 that AECI is a responsible business and one that has been a
14 real been a real benefit to their communities. AECI's
15 proposing to bring approximately 139 full time jobs to
16 Carroll County at a paying average of \$59,000 for a total
17 payroll of \$8.2 million plus benefits.

18 We have determined that we have well educated
19 county residents who would have an excellent chance of being
20 hired at the plant. Most employees at AECI's existing plants
21 come from the county where the plant is located with the
22 remainder coming from surrounding counties.

23 It is the opinion of the Carroll County
24 Commission that this project will benefit our county while
25

1 bringing in a responsible corporate citizen. Additional
2 revenue for schools and good paying jobs for our residents.

3 We furthermore have confidence in the
4 environmental regulated by DNR and EPA and will be employed
5 at the plant to protect the environment and all the steps and
6 procedures have been followed during the permitting phase.
7 We therefore request that this project proceed forward as
8 planned and we have all signed this.

9 KIM FARRELL: Thank you. Any comments before
10 I call or re-call? There was a comment earlier, I believe
11 you made Tom, that people weren't allowed to come up and I
12 want to remind everybody that I've given the opportunity
13 before to balance because when there is a public comment
14 meeting obviously going to be taking as many comments as they
15 could with balance, and again I want to remind everybody of
16 the comment I made earlier. What people perceive as a public
17 comment they are welcome to make and they have a right to
18 make that comment, so in their way we don't want anybody to
19 feel like they were not allowed to say what they wanted. So
20 I just wanted to be really clear with that which is why
21 several times I tried to get people to volunteer so it's very
22 important and these comments. And Stephanie will be taking
23 them, those of you who might want to write something tonight,
24 putting it in the box is fine, emailing it, even after you
25

1 make any comments verbally tonight, whatever you say tonight
2 if you think of things later that you would like to add you
3 can send to USDA and all the information on that is on the
4 form. So I just want to make sure everybody does know that
5 because those comments really are valued. And I very much
6 respect that some of you sometimes don't feel that you've
7 been heard as you should have been but I can only ask so many
8 times and thank you for volunteering to speak when we needed.

9 So now what I'm going to do is return to those
10 who I have cut off and Grace you are first on that list so
11 this is your last opportunity and you will have two minutes
12 and then I will call on Gerhardt and then Tom I'll be back to
13 you and then if we need to go back at another cycle we can do
14 that again but this is your time. Begin.

15 GRACE WEST: I want to talk about the EIS and
16 the socioeconomic benefits. As an example of what I think is
17 a non-benefit would be the town surrounding Thomas Hill's
18 power plant. The town of Clifton Hill and the little town of
19 Thomas Hill and College Mound are -- I don't know the words
20 to use to describe -- the buildings are dilapidated. The
21 town's run down. If that's what having a power plant in our
22 area is going to bring to Norborne, I don't think anybody
23 wants that.

24 Another aspect is an economic situation of all
25

1 these neighbors of the coop that are going to be seeing huge,
2 huge rate increases to pay for this power plant and I think
3 that some of the information has already been sent out -- I'm
4 sure Farmer's Electric has already been notified that they're
5 rates are going up something like 8 percent - 8 to 10
6 percent, and I'm not sure how many years that's going to
7 continue.

8 From the standpoint of true economics it seems
9 to me that Associated used at least even a part of the \$1.3
10 billion dollars that they need to build this plant for energy
11 efficiency and conservation. Educate the public on how to
12 stop wasting electricity. There are many things that can be
13 done to stop wasting electricity and perhaps even enough to
14 prevent this plant from having to be built.

15 KIM FARRELL: Thank you, Grace. This is the
16 last opportunity to comment on the Environmental Impact
17 Statement. Thank you.

18 GERHARDT LIST: In case nobody knows that I'm
19 qualified disabled person and I want to thank RUS for
20 allowing us to have a first open hearing since the last one.
21 The County of Carroll has not been so lax. Let me return
22 back to the clean AECI reputation that you keep hearing from
23 people who don't live here. I have a copy of the latest
24 revised air permit application of the Department of Natural
25

1 Resources in which they blatantly state however on March 15,
2 2005, EPA revised and reversed its December 2000 finding and
3 concluded that it was not appropriate or necessary to
4 regulate coal and oil-fired electrical generating units.
5 Coal fire electrical generating units were effectively
6 removed as a source category. In other words, there would be
7 no mercury controlling act unless the AECI is generous enough
8 to clear the air without being paid for it.

9 My other thing here basically is tactical. I
10 have no problem with the metal analysis submitted to the
11 Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The approximate
12 level indicates that coal is 30 percent moisture, which
13 doesn't say whether the subsequent parameters were reported
14 on the dry basis or as perceived. Naturally, the AECI is not
15 going to think to use burning water, but it sure makes the
16 coal look 30 percent cleaner.

17 The other one is the metal analysis of the
18 coal samples on the (indiscernible). The ASDA method for
19 ashing is at 600 degrees centigrade. Elemental mercury's
20 boiling point is 357 degrees centigrade. All the mercury
21 analysis on the coal was not accurately operated. So the
22 coal has residual salts content in the coal.

23 In closing I'm just wondering why there's not
24 maintenance plans. I think that's the only way to ever
25

1 determine what, if any, impact will or will not work. A
2 chemistry baseline study of water, air and pond, that's about
3 it except that I still haven't had the county officials
4 explain where 139 jobs is going to go in a non-union county.
5 Thank you very much.

6 KIM FARRELL: Thank you very much. Tom?

7 THOMAS WHITE: I think I've said enough.

8 KIM FARRELL: You had more that you had
9 prepared that you had written, any other comments?

10 GRACE WEST: Can I just speak for a moment?

11 KIM FARRELL: You sure can. You have the
12 floor.

13 GRACE WEST: I just want to say one thing.
14 Relative to the emissions and pollutions, even Associated
15 Electric does not claim that there are not pollutants coming
16 out of their smokestacks. They're so small they cannot be
17 seen with the naked eye. It's -- there's a lot of chemistry
18 that goes into the effects that these emissions have on the
19 human body and I certainly can't go into that because there
20 are plenty of articles on the internet about particular
21 matters that you can read and see what the effects are. The
22 *New England Journal of Medicine* just this last week had a big
23 article that was even talked about on the national news
24 showing how women who live in the areas of coal fired power
25

1 plants have more heart disease than those that don't.

2 I guess my final statement and then I'll shut
3 up. I just want to say this one thing. Coal does not burn
4 cleanly. There is no such thing as a clean coal-fired power
5 plant.

6 KIM FARRELL: Thank you, Grace. I just want to
7 say a real quick thing with the comments. They will be
8 addressed in the final draft of the Environmental Impact
9 Statement. Is there anything you want to add to that?

10 STEPHANIE STRENGTH: We close the public
11 comment period on the draft Environmental Impact Statement on
12 March 12. There will be another period where you can review
13 the response and the final Environmental Impact Statement
14 after that for a 30 day period so this isn't your only
15 opportunity to comment and really, the more specific you can
16 be on the comments you submit to us the better it is for us
17 to have a detailed analysis of the impacts and alternatives.

18 So when you submit comments and you reference
19 something that you know with the draft Environmental Impact
20 Statement or if something that you think you're being told is
21 different than what's being presented, give us that
22 information so we can evaluate it and make our assessment
23 process more accurate and a lot easier so we don't have to go
24 and hunt down and try to figure out what it is that you're
25

1 meaning so it really just helps if you can be specific and
2 just thank you very much for coming.

3 As I mentioned, if you want to get a CD
4 version of our draft Environmental Impact Statement sent to
5 you, sign at the table near the entrance and let us know. If
6 you don't have a computer at home to access the CD we can
7 send you out a hard copy. I'm want to make sure you all have
8 access to the information so that we can get the best
9 comments that we can.

10 Thank you very much for coming.

11 KIM FARRELL: And please be sure to take forms
12 and the hand outs to those you know who may not have been
13 able to attend.

14 STEPHANIE STRENGTH: The comment forms from
15 the last two meetings have helped, so however many of you
16 want to take and distribute them, please do.

17 KIM FARRELL: Thank you for coming and the
18 meeting is adjourned.

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