

Introduction – Rich Scheer

Scheer: Is Matt Rogers in the house?

If everybody could please take their seats...

Now everybody's looking at me, expecting me to do something. So good morning everybody. My name is Rich Scheer, and I will be the moderator here today. My job is to keep the trains running on time and herd the cats and all those other clichés.

We're got quite a bit of business to transact today, a lot of information to exchange. This is a step in the process; this is not the end of it by any means, but...I don't know...I can kind of feel the electricity in this room. I don't know how "smart" it is in this room, but the electricity is there.

So before we get underway with our presentations and the questions and the business of the day, I thought it would be a good idea to give the speakers and to give all of you a little bit of a flavor of who's here today. So we're going to go through a kind of raise-your-hand exercise. So I'll start off with regions of the country. How many people are from the Northeast, including mid-Atlantic? How about from the South? How many from the Midwest? I see people raising their hands twice; what's going on? How about the West Coast? How about the Pacific Island? We've got people from Guam here today, so they get the award for coming the longest way. So thank you, and I know it's a long flight, and we'll try to keep you awake.

Another show of hands. So in your respective organizations, I want to get a sense of what your role is there. How many of you are on the engineering/technical side of the house, will actually be implementing these projects? How many of you are from the contracting/procurement side? Some of you may have to raise your hands twice on these, I know. You're not big enough organizations to have multiple departments. How about the regulatory affairs end of things? Excellent.

So the way it's going to work today... Hopefully, you were all able to get a chance to look at the presentation materials, or if you wanted to have hard copies, a chance to download them and bring them with you. But if not, you're going to get a chance to see them all. When the presentations are complete, there's going to be a lot of time for Q&A. You can see these four standing microphones. I don't want you to fight each other to get in line, but the idea is that people will get in line, ask questions.... Because we want to hear from as many of you as possible, it will be one question a person. I'll be the one to call on you, and we'll get to as many of them as we can, time permitting. And I know there are lots of questions, and hopefully our speakers will do a good job and answer as many of those in advance as they can.

We've got a half an hour break scheduled—that's a little bit more than what we usually might do in this kind of an instance, but we wanted to encourage people to get to know each other, but also to get familiar with the DOE people who they're going to be

negotiating with over this next phase. Then at the end of the day, we've got some optional informal sessions so that that can continue.

So we'll just move right along here with our agenda, and we'll get a chance to hear from Eric Lightner with the Department of Energy.