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UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING FOR THE
SHALLOW LAND DISPOSAL AREA
PROJECT PARKS TOWNSHIP
PARKS TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
DALMATIAN DRIVE
VANDERGRIFT, PA
TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2012
6:00 p.m.
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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REPORTED BY:
 LINDA WALKER
 WALKER REPORTING SERVICE
 2500 HOWES RUN ROAD
 TARENTUM, PA 15084

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

2 (6:18 p.m.)

3 MR. HAWK: Good evening, folks. If you
4 could take your seats, we'll get ready to go
5 here.

6 All right. Thank you all for coming.
7 My name is Jeff Hawk. I'm the public affairs
8 officer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
9 here in Pittsburgh. We're here tonight for a
10 public comment meeting for the shallow land
11 disposal area project. This would be a good
12 time to turn off your cell phones and put them
13 to vibrate. It's always fun to watch
14 everybody reach for the phones at this point.

15 At this time several public meetings
16 here in the past few years. This is going to
17 be a little different tonight. The format is
18 typically to give you a presentation or
19 provide new information. Tonight our sole
20 purpose here is to collect your comments. We
21 won't be answering any questions. We won't
22 have a discussion. Our sole purpose here
23 tonight is to collect your comments to give
24 you a voice as the federal government is
25 reviewing this project and considering the

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1 future of this project.

2 We have a stenographer here tonight who
3 will be providing a transcript of the meeting
4 and we're also videotaping this meeting. Both
5 the video and transcripts will be available to
6 you if you would like them. I just need to
7 put in a Freedom of Information Act. You can
8 find that on our website or you can give our
9 office a call and we'll direct you how to do
10 it. It's a simple process. But if you want
11 either one of those products, let us know and
12 we'll get those to you through the Freedom of
13 Information Act.

14 And our phone number and address and
15 e-mail are up in that comment card at the
16 front if you would like to do that.

17 The stenographer has asked me to remind
18 you that when you come to the mic, if you're
19 going to make a comment to speak clearly and
20 provide your name so she can hear it.

21 At this time, I'm going to turn it over
22 to -- where did my colonel go? There he his.
23 Colonel Butch Graham.

24 COL. GRAHAM: Jeff is going to go over
25 the rules in just a minute so we could get to

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1 everybody's comments so I'm going to be pretty
2 brief. I'm going to give you a quick update
3 on where the project sits. Mary Ann? Where
4 are you at Mary Ann? You're in here
5 somewhere. Stand up. You get to stand up.

6 She did a good job putting out today a
7 good synopsis of where we're at in the Valley
8 News Dispatch with the project. And that's
9 important that we've got the press telling you
10 what your government is doing. That's kind of
11 how this works. I'm going kind of go over
12 what was reported there today.

13 All right. The first piece is the
14 intent of the federal government to ensure
15 that the radiological contamination out there
16 in that field, the shallow lands disposal
17 area, is safely removed from your community.
18 That's the government's intent. That's what
19 it's been for a while.

20 There's been some concern out there
21 lately about what we've been doing. I should
22 have probably had this meeting about two
23 months ago. I offer my apologies. I wanted
24 to make sure that I kept you all informed on
25 what was going on. That's the government's

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1 intent.

2 Right now at the district level, and
3 again, I'm the district commander. We're
4 doing what we told you back in the March
5 meeting. And that is, the current contractor,
6 we're winding them down. They're not digging
7 anymore. And we're going -- we are -- we've
8 never stopped. We're in the process of
9 sourcing out, looking for a new contractor to
10 continue that project because you've given me
11 authority. Congress gave me authority and
12 funding to do that. That's where the district
13 currently sits.

14 Concurrently, with the district's
15 efforts, the Corps is looking to see, okay,
16 now we have a better understanding of what's
17 been buried in that field. We've got
18 10 percent of that material out of there and
19 we know for certainty what 10 percent of that
20 material is. So with that knowledge, we're
21 looking to see if there's a better answer to
22 the problem of that field. If there is a
23 better organization or a better manner which
24 we can go about cleaning up that field and
25 moving the radiological contamination from it.

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1 But that's going on concurrent with what I'm
2 doing right now at the district level.

3 The answer to that is going to be, is
4 there a better answer than what the Pittsburgh
5 District and our partners from the Buffalo
6 District of the Corps of Engineers is doing is
7 to be determined. That process is underway.
8 It's ongoing.

9 I'm not going to break the camera, am I?
10 Just checking. You never know.

11 I want to make sure I'm covering this.
12 Somebody didn't turn your cell phones off. If
13 you were all in the Army, I would be having
14 you do push-ups right now. But these World
15 War II vets would probably embarrass me.

16 We stated this before, I want to
17 reemphasize that to you tonight as you come up
18 and make your comments that our primary
19 concern is safeguarding your community.
20 Safeguarding our workers out there. That's
21 our primary concern.

22 There's probably been, as we've been
23 looking to see what the way forward is, if
24 there's going to be a better answer out there
25 a lot of angst amongst the community. I think

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1 that's pretty obvious by the turn out we've
2 had here tonight, which is probably three
3 times what we had at the March meeting.

4 We want to hear from you. We want you
5 to be involved in what your government's
6 doing.

7 Now, we've also, there's multiple ways
8 for you to let your government know what it's
9 doing. Press helps. Speak directly to us.
10 We also got a whole bunch of your elected
11 officials here tonight. Let me go to my list
12 of the elected officials who want to hear what
13 you've got to say. I want to start with right
14 here, Parks Township. We got Bud Shannon.
15 I'll botch his name, Paul Vranchek (phonetic).
16 Did I get that close to being right? And
17 Robert Lineheim (phonetic).

18 You three folks, would you stand up,
19 please. Good deal. There's one, two, three.
20 Okay.

21 (Applause.)

22 COL. GRAHAM: We know how important this
23 is to you three gentlemen.

24 At the county level we've got I believe
25 three of the commissioners here. Mr. Richard

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1 Fink, Robert Bower and David Petaglia. If I
2 didn't botch that. If you three gentlemen
3 will also stand up, please. Did I get that
4 right?

5 (Applause.)

6 COL. GRAHAM: Thank you. For two of us.
7 Okay.

8 We got from, Senator Toomey's office
9 we've got Mrs. Katelyn King.

10 (Applause.)

11 COL. GRAHAM: From representative
12 Critz's office, Dan Elwine (phonetic).

13 (Applause.)

14 COL. GRAHAM: And I think he gets my
15 vote for best dressed of the night, if nothing
16 else.

17 And from Senator Casey's office, Chris
18 Rosset. Did I say that right?

19 (Applause.)

20 COL. GRAHAM: And we also have -- I'm
21 sorry. I didn't want to skip over any of the
22 state folks, state representative and no
23 stranger to this crew, Joe Petraclia. Is that
24 a C -- Petraclia. Sorry. Good deal.

25 And your first name is?

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1 MS. GLENN: My name is Elise Glenn. And
2 Joe is battling the battle of the budget.

3 COL. GRAHAM: That's a good battle to be
4 waged. And we wish him well.

5 So as Jeff talked about tonight,
6 tonight's about listening from you and hearing
7 from you. We're going to capture these
8 concerns. Your representatives, your elected
9 representative are going to capture these
10 concerns, the press is going to capture these
11 concerns and our videographer and stenographer
12 are going to capture those concerns and I'm
13 going to send that up through my chain of
14 command.

15 We're going to go over ground rules here
16 when I turn this back over to Jeff and I ask
17 you to be courteous to your fellow citizens.
18 We want everybody to get a chance to speak
19 here tonight and I'll stay as long as there's
20 folks willing to talk. We want to hear what
21 your concerns are.

22 Jeff?

23 MR. HAWK: Thank you, sir. I am going
24 to go over some ground rules. I'm going to
25 ask your forgiveness right up front. These

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1 are pretty strict and they are put into play
2 so we are all on same page, we are all in
3 agreement how to conduct this meeting.

4 So before we start collecting comments,
5 let me go over these ground rules. We've had
6 several successful public comment meetings
7 with this district. The key to success is
8 following the rules I'll outline here.

9 First, I want to emphasize that no one
10 will receive preferential treatment. We'll
11 treat each person with respect and we ask that
12 everyone to do the same.

13 This meeting is an opportunity for you
14 to provide comments, but it is not an
15 opportunity to for you to counter what others
16 say at the microphone. So there will be no
17 cross-examination of the speakers. There will
18 be no rebuttals or debate.

19 If you are a contractor or someone
20 seeking work, be aware that this is not an
21 opportunity for you to promote your services.
22 It's not an opportunity for you to provide
23 your resumé.

24 If you must take a phone call or engage
25 in a conversation with someone here, please

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1 take it outside so that people can make their
2 comments with minimal distraction.

3 I will stop you and I will cut off the
4 mic if I feel that your comments are
5 disruptive to what we're trying to do here.

6 We have two microphones that are up here
7 in the front for you to provide your comments.
8 I will call people to the microphone to
9 just -- I'm just going to start calling by
10 numbers. So we'll go one, two, three, four,
11 five, in sequential order. We ask you to just
12 continue to keep the mics -- someone backed up
13 on the mics so we can keep this rolling.

14 If you have not registered or indicated
15 your intention to provide comments, please see
16 Karen or Judy up at the front table. Up
17 there. Wave. The colonel wants you to wave.

18 The camera is focused on these two
19 microphones. If you don't want to provide
20 your comments on camera, that's fine. We have
21 a roving microphone and we can take your
22 comments off camera.

23 We have some other options for you also.
24 You can also provide your comments by filling
25 out a comment card that we have available at

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1 the registration table. You can hand it back
2 to us tonight or you can mail that in. You
3 can also e-mail us. Our e-mails are on the
4 public comment cards, as well as our mailing
5 address.

6 Your comments are best presented in the
7 form of a statement not a question. We will
8 not be providing responses to individual
9 comments. We will share with you the
10 determination regarding the future of this
11 project when it is made.

12 You will have three minutes to provide
13 your comments. Everyone who wants to will
14 have an opportunity to speak on camera.

15 We have a timekeeper and a time card
16 person here who will hold up a card to inform
17 you when you have one minute left and again
18 when you have 30 seconds. We really have to
19 keep this straight, so we ask you to follow
20 their direction. And when you see that 30
21 second one, be thinking about how you're going
22 to wrap up, when you see that stop sign,
23 finish the sentence that you're on. Thank
24 you.

25 Is there anyone who does not understand

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1 these rules?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. HAWK: Okay. Good. We're all on
4 the same page. I expect this to be a very
5 productive meeting. I'm glad that so many
6 people showed up so you can have voice to the
7 people that are considering the future of this
8 project.

9 We are going to take written statements
10 until 5:00 p.m., July 6, 2012. At that time,
11 that's -- those are all the rules and
12 procedures that I have to go over. So I'm
13 going to ask, you should, all the comments
14 people who were given, who indicated they
15 wanted to give comments should have been given
16 a number. I'm just going to call the first
17 two and we'll start rolling through this. So
18 if I could have the number one and two
19 speakers please come to the mic.

20 Please remember to speak clearly and
21 provide your name. Also there is a podium up
22 here if you have documents that you need to
23 set down, please use this mic. If not, we
24 would ask you to use this mic over here.

25 Thank you.

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1 MS. AMENO: Testing. Good evening.
2 Thank you to everybody who came out tonight.
3 I want to thank the Corps of Engineers before
4 I get started on my statement for having this
5 meeting. Thank you very much.

6 I will tell you that the statement I'm
7 about to read is signed by me. It was signed
8 by the Mayor of Leechburg, Tony Roppolo; Bob
9 Kossak, manager of the Kiski Valley Water
10 Pollution Control Authority; Kathy Starr,
11 Supervisor, Allegheny Township; Dan Logero,
12 Councilman, Leechburg; Reverend Gary Lyon,
13 Leechburg; Janet Ryan, owner, Century 21;
14 Dennis Wolfe, Supervisor, Gilpin Township;
15 Paul Duriancik, Supervisor, Parks Township;
16 James Budzilek, Superintendent, Leechburg Area
17 School District; Tom Haley, consultant;
18 Anthony J. DeFilippi, President Leechburg
19 Council; and Linda Alworth, business owner of
20 Lingrow Farm & Twisted Thistle.

21 On behalf of the citizenry and the local
22 governments of the Kiski Valley past, present
23 and future, and on behalf of the citizenry of
24 Pennsylvania, in an attempt to have equal
25 access to justice and for the protection of

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1 our health and safety as a necessity, for the
2 survival of our economic structures, present
3 and future as a necessity, I make and enter
4 for the record the following requests as a
5 necessity regarding the fate of the clean-up
6 of the shallow land disposal area.

7 Number one, that the Pittsburgh District
8 of the Army Corps of Engineers maintain total
9 jurisdiction, control and cleanup authority of
10 the SLDA, under the formerly utilized sites
11 remedial action program for a safe and
12 comprehensive cleanup of all contaminated
13 wastes without threat of giving the license
14 back to the NRC and BWXT. And that the
15 cleanup process resume as expediently as
16 possible.

17 Two, that we understand that as a
18 provision of the FUSRAP program, the Corps
19 will recoup from the responsible parties, ARCO
20 and BWXT, the cleanup costs to reimburse the
21 taxpayer's coffers thus eliminating the
22 budgetary issues.

23 Three, that given the history of
24 misrepresentations made regarding the SLDA by
25 ARCO and BWXT and by the AEC and the NRC

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1 agencies previously involved, that the Corps
2 set out to evaluate the totality of the
3 original deeded property outside the fence
4 line for possible burials to include areas
5 within the abandoned coal mine.

6 Four, that because there needs to be an
7 evaluation for the potential of state and
8 federal violations of environmental laws, the
9 responsible parties, ARCO and BWXT, must be
10 removed as stakeholders regarding any input or
11 involvement in the detailing with the fate and
12 cleanup of the SLDA and replaced by
13 representation --

14 MR. HAWK: Your time is up. I think we
15 have a second speaker. You could submit it.
16 Your comments can be submitted to us in
17 writing also.

18 MR. WOLFE: My name is Dennis L. Wolfe.
19 I'm 65 years old. A life-long resident of
20 Gilpin Township. My community is located
21 directly west of Parks Township. The nuclear
22 waste dump is located approximately a half
23 mile east of our contiguous border. I've been
24 appointed/elected supervisor of Gilpin
25 Township since 1992. Approximately 10 years

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1 ago, our board of supervisors approved a
2 resolution which was passed by a vote of five
3 yes, zero nays to support federal legislation
4 being proposed at that time by the late, great
5 Congressman John Murtha to cleanup the toxic
6 site. Congressman Murtha was successful in
7 getting this bill to both the U.S. House of
8 Representatives and the U.S. Senate and signed
9 into law with the president.

10 The unique feature of this landmark
11 legislation was that the U.S. Army Corps of
12 Engineers was designated as a federal agent in
13 charge of supervising the project. I
14 personally was very pleased this agency was
15 chosen to supervise this very important
16 activity.

17 I want to go on record at this time
18 reinforcing my support of the U.S. Corps of
19 Engineers, as the federal agency delegated to
20 supervise the cleanup activities. I do not
21 want to see the Corps of Engineers removed
22 from this project and responsibility for
23 supervision of the cleanup operations placed
24 in the hands of another federal agency.

25 This would only set back the timeline

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1 established for the completion of this
2 project. Thank you for your time.

3 MR. KOSSAK: Hi, my name is Bob Kossak,
4 K-O-S-S-A-K. I'm the president of the Kiski
5 Water Center Association. And also manager of
6 the Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control
7 Authority.

8 The watershed association, we've been
9 working hard to cleanup the Kiski River. All
10 the people here have known over the last
11 20 years Kiski has come a long way. We're in
12 our 11th year of stocking trout. Kayaks are
13 out there on the weekends. We're concerned.
14 We don't want any migration from the SLDA
15 going into the Kiski River.

16 We made a lot of progress using it as a
17 resource. We hope that resource could help
18 vitalize the communities.

19 Now, as the manager of the Kiski Valley,
20 I've had 13 years. I worked with the NRC on a
21 low level contamination at my facility. And
22 personally, I would feel a lot more
23 comfortable if the Corps handled it. That's
24 all I got to say. You got to do better than
25 what they did.

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1 MR. HAWK: We have the fourth speaker.
2 The fourth speaker and the fifth speaker come
3 up.

4 We could get you a mic.

5 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: I had all questions.
6 So I have to change them a little bit. So the
7 one question I can't ask. So the other one
8 is, my comment is --

9 MR. HAWK: You can ask a question if you
10 would like. You could say it any way you
11 want. It's your time. That was just a
12 suggestion to put it in the form.

13 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Okay. What is the
14 worst thing that could happen if you dump the
15 dump that hasn't already happened in the last
16 25 or 30 years? What's the worst thing that
17 could happen if you left it there?

18 MR. HAWK: We're going to take your
19 comments but we're not going to answer
20 questions.

21 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Okay. Wouldn't it
22 be cheaper to buy everyone's property at
23 Kiskimere and make that and the nuclear dump a
24 graveyard; or is it too dangerous even for
25 that?

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1 Plus, everyone within a two-mile radius
2 from the dump should have very low state taxes
3 or none. The government owes us. They can
4 never pay for heartache and pain they've
5 caused so many. I feel sorry for the workers
6 that have to cleanup the dump. They know not
7 what they are doing to themselves.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. HAWK: Number six, please. And
10 number seven, can you come up to the mic.
11 Five, we didn't have I guess. They left.

12 MR. KRAMER: Will you take seven first?

13 MR. HAWK: We've got number six and
14 seven. We'll take seven first and then we'll
15 continue.

16 MR. KRAMER: My name is Ray Kramer. I
17 live in Allegheny Township. And I'm a Ph.D.
18 analytical chemist. I worked for Alcoa and
19 I've been retired many years. But in that
20 time I was involved with radiochemistry lab.
21 And x-ray and other types of equipment that
22 Alcoa used throughout the world.

23 I've been opposed to this project for
24 many years. And basically, this site has not
25 exposed anyone to radiation much background

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1 for over 60 years.

2 The site has not been demonstrated to
3 release any of the radioactivity or the
4 surrounding ground water for many years. Why
5 is that? Uranium, thorium and transuranium
6 elements are buried inside of it. As far as I
7 know, it's never been demonstrated that that
8 material has migrated to the water table.

9 I contend that if left undisturbed, it
10 will remain as it is for thousands of years.
11 Cleaning up this type will expose the
12 residents, the area to radioactivity and dust
13 generated. It will certainly expose the
14 workmen on the project.

15 There's also the hazard of transport of
16 this material to a new burial site. And the
17 project certainly is not cost effective. The
18 \$500 million you propose could repair the
19 locks on the Allegheny and Monongahela River
20 and probably a few others.

21 It would allow us to do refurbishing of
22 our bridges. Ten bridges, like the Freeport
23 bridge. I think there are more deserving
24 projects. There are more serious radiations
25 and radioactive exposure threats to our

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1 health, such as radon in the natural
2 environment, medical x-ray exposure and flying
3 at high altitudes. For these reasons, I
4 recommend that this project not be continued
5 but the burial left here where it will expose
6 no one and has not for many years.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. HAWK: We're going to take
9 Mr. DeFilippi and then we'll do number eight.
10 If number eight, could come to the mic.

11 MR. DEFILIPPI: My name is Tony
12 DeFilippi. I'm president of borough council
13 and borough of Leechburg. This is imperative
14 as a total project from beginning to end
15 remain under the complete and total
16 jurisdiction of the Pittsburgh division of the
17 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

18 And furthermore, that the total removal,
19 transportation and eventual storage of the
20 contaminated materials be done in such a
21 manner to ensure the maximum safety to all
22 individuals concerned and to the environment.
23 Thank you.

24 I'll turn this in.

25 MR. SHANNON: My name is Bud Shannon.

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1 Parks Township supervisor. I have been since
2 1990.

3 I've been involved with all, practically
4 all the agencies that have dealt with this
5 issue down there. I can honestly say I feel
6 good about the dealing with the Corps. And
7 its our intent to do everything we can to keep
8 you here. I'm going to defer some comments to
9 my colleague, Bob Calfona (phonetic) when he's
10 up, he's going to speak a little further on
11 what we've done. But thank you to the Corps.
12 We appreciate your efforts.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. HAWK: Tom and then I think we have
15 speaker ten next.

16 I think nine is up, too. Do we have
17 nine?

18 MR. HALEY: Nine is here.

19 MR. HAWK: Then we have ten up at the
20 mic here.

21 MR. HALEY: My name is Tom Haley. I've
22 been in the nuclear industry for 40 years --
23 and Westinghouse. For 11 and a half years
24 at NUMEC --

25 MR. HAWK: If you folks want to, you can

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1 take that out. It's a wireless mic. You can
2 also take it that way.

3 MR. HALEY: Do I have a grace period?
4 Thank you. My name is Tom Haley. I have 43
5 years in the nuclear industry. Eleven and a
6 half of those at NUMEC between 1970 -- 1960
7 and 1971. I want to thank you for this
8 opportunity to speak on this matter and the
9 cleanup of Parks.

10 First I wish to express concerns and my
11 concurrence in endorsement of all submitted by
12 Patty Ameno.

13 As with all those who have endorsed this
14 document and the one who has directly involved
15 as a consultant on this project, I am pleased
16 to add my vote of confidence to the Pittsburgh
17 District of Army Corps of Engineers, and
18 Colonel Graham specifically. Complete the
19 safe and comprehensive removal of a nuclear
20 waste and the materials present in the SLDA.
21 From the time he assumed command, Colonel
22 Graham has kept our community informed about
23 this project through a continuing series of
24 public meetings and has answered questions
25 about our concerns. More importantly, at

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1 every meeting he emphasizes that his highest
2 priority is safety for the workers and for the
3 community and indeed for all involved, plus
4 his commitment to achieve complete removal of
5 all material of concern.

6 He has demonstrated his dedication to
7 safety by stopping the project at the first
8 sign of a safety violation. And has
9 personally assured us that work will not begin
10 until the problem's understood and corrected.

11 We thank him and feel confident he will
12 continue to put safety first. My comments
13 below primarily address issues of safety.

14 One, that ACE authorizes the
15 continuation of research effort to further
16 identify nuclear materials of concern. The
17 latest research contract was canceled, another
18 prime contractor, after excavation work was
19 terminated and before research could begin.
20 Since safe handling and transportation
21 procedures vary according to the identity and
22 amounts of expected isotopes, additional
23 knowledge should provide additional safety.

24 Two, the communication links between the
25 contractors of the Corps to ensure constant

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1 and seamless to identify and anticipate any
2 further unsafe complexities.

3 Three, that qualified former NUMEC
4 personnel be used to identify excavated
5 materials before safely moving it from the
6 burial site.

7 Four, that the selection criteria for
8 contractor not only include examples of
9 previous successful management and conduct of
10 the similar remedial projects, but also
11 include information demonstrating a prior
12 commitment to safety for those projects that
13 they've completed.

14 Five, finally, the contracts with the
15 contractors should be other than the fixed
16 price to discourage the use of short cuts and
17 other --

18 MR. HAWK: The time is up.

19 MR. HALEY: -- and other unauthorized
20 means to reduce cost at the expense of safety.

21 I thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. HAWK: Next speaker, please.

24 MS. STARR: Ladies and gentlemen, my
25 name is Kathy Starr. And I submit this

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1 testimony this evening representing the
2 Allegheny Township Board of Supervisors of
3 which I am the current chairperson. I'm a
4 life-long resident of Allegheny Township and
5 we border Parks Township along the
6 Kiskiminitas River and Route 66 where this
7 44-acre site is located.

8 Allegheny Township has had experience
9 with the Army Corps of Engineers working in
10 our community. In 2005 the cleanup of the
11 Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority
12 Lagoon was completed with the Army Corps at
13 the helm. We were able to see firsthand the
14 level of skill, expertise and care that was
15 used to finish that project, all the while
16 maintaining the community as the focus of the
17 project. They kept residents well-informed,
18 exercised great safety and care in utilizing
19 our roads and expeditiously completing the
20 project for the betterment of all.

21 The Corps has been managing the Parks
22 project in a similar manner. With the
23 comprehensive Environmental Response,
24 Compensation and Liability Act process, the
25 remedial investigation, feasibility study,

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1 proposed plan and record of decision all being
2 completed to date, removal of their expertise
3 from this project at this point would be a
4 devastating blow to our community likely
5 resulting in many additional years to complete
6 this remediation. If we are ever to hope that
7 this property once again becomes a viable
8 piece of the economic puzzle, we need to keep
9 moving forward on the path that has currently
10 been in place.

11 Parks Township's ability to have this
12 property's needs addressed is critical to all
13 local elected officials. We all work to make
14 our communities thrive, residentially and
15 commercially. So being in direct proximity to
16 this site absolutely affects the economic
17 well-being of Allegheny Township. With their
18 success comes our success.

19 The economy of our area is strictly and
20 directly tied to environmental impacts by the
21 way in which we manage our water resources in
22 improving the quality of our citizens' lives.
23 It has affected where and how people live and
24 influenced the development of this country,
25 including the Kiski Valley.

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1 Our country today seeks economic
2 development, as well as the protection of
3 environmental issues. They are key partners
4 in the economic development initiatives.
5 Nothing should happen on this property that
6 would further jeopardize the tax base with
7 stagnant remediation or backwards remediation.

8 Allegheny Township would like to see the
9 Corps of Engineers be committed to staying at
10 the leading edge in service to this project.
11 In support of that, we are working with other
12 local officials to transform our regional
13 communities into destination spots to further
14 commerce, enhance residential neighborhoods
15 and provide quality infrastructure.

16 We're committed to a process that leads
17 to open and transparent modernization as well
18 as a performance-based projects that only the
19 Corps of Army Engineers can provide.

20 This concludes my statement. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. HAWK: She had four seconds left.

23 MR. MONHEIM: Hi, I'm Bob Monheim. I'm
24 the newest and the youngest of the Parks
25 Township Supervisors.

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1 Yesterday at the public meeting, we, the
2 Parks Township Board of Supervisors, voted to
3 draft a resolution to keep the Army Corps as
4 the site managers. We have a good working
5 relationship and are confident in their
6 abilities to do the job safely.

7 Once adopted, we will be sending a
8 letter to all government officials to the
9 effect. Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. HAWK: Number 12 and 13.

12 MR. SUMMERHILL: My name is Nate
13 Summerhill. I share approximately 2,200-foot
14 common border with your site. I've dealt with
15 your real estate department and been very
16 pleased. And I would certainly like to see
17 the Corps of Engineers continue on this
18 project.

19 I do have a few comments that aren't
20 comments. They are questions. I don't expect
21 you to answer tonight, but I would like
22 answers some time in the future.

23 First of all, I would like to say I
24 don't in any way want to see the NRC take
25 control of this because they were in control

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1 of it when it became the disaster that it is.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. SUMMERHILL: I don't think they
4 should be involved in policing their own
5 disaster.

6 Secondly, I'm going to move onto the
7 question. Is there any hot materials on the
8 site and is there a contingency plan for
9 removing them?

10 I would like to know if there's any
11 monitoring out at the fence to know if there's
12 any radiation escaping the building, because I
13 obviously have property nearby and I grow
14 crops there.

15 Is the material worse than expected?
16 And what is the contingency plan to deal with
17 this material and what is the time frame if
18 that is changed at all?

19 I know you didn't expect questions. I
20 don't expect answers. But these are all
21 concerns that not only myself, but many of the
22 citizens in the community have.

23 And I would very much like to show my
24 appreciation for everybody that has shown up
25 for this meeting and I hope we continue to

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1 have this level of interest and cooperation.
2 Thank you.

3 REV. LYON: Good evening. My name is
4 Reverend Gary Lyon. I've lived in the
5 Leechburg area for the last 23 years. I'm
6 here because I believe very deeply that as a
7 citizen of God's kingdom and a citizen of the
8 United States of America we have a
9 responsibility to each other and we have a
10 responsibility to the very living creation
11 that we're a part of.

12 I've been driving and kayaking by the
13 site in Parks Township. I've witnessed
14 justice for the Kiski Valley residents and
15 creation being tossed aside by corporations
16 and governmental entities until the Army Corps
17 of Engineers has given us a chance.

18 You have a very deep history with an
19 active environmental program, both in your
20 military and in your civil programs. Your
21 civil programs have four functions.
22 Compliance, restoration, preservation and
23 conservation.

24 We need compliance. And it needs to go
25 beyond what the law of the land says. Both

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1 human lives and living, breathing creation,
2 all around in the earth and in the waters.

3 The military program that you're a part
4 of has been known worldwide for cleanup
5 activities, especially for sites contaminated
6 with hazardous waste, radioactive wastes and
7 ordnances. The military side places a heavy
8 emphasis also on maintaining the natural and
9 cultural resources already here. We don't
10 want to lose those resources. Those resources
11 will be lost if the reigns of the cleanup are
12 turned back into the hands of companies and
13 governmental agencies that have their own
14 interests as a priority, rather than the
15 injustice that continues to go on here.

16 Part of the Army Corps' mission is to
17 reduce the risk of disasters. We have a big
18 one. And I think you're beginning to realize
19 how big it is. I went today looking for the
20 Army Corps of Engineers' motto. It depends on
21 who you believe. One source said the motto by
22 one of your favorite generals was: The
23 difficult I'll do right now and the impossible
24 will take a while.

25 The other said: Relevant, ready,

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1 responsible and reliable. I'll take either
2 one of those tonight.

3 I believe you're the best ones to get it
4 done. Don't put our fate and creation's
5 future back into the hands of corporations and
6 backroom politics.

7 Please also know this evening as I
8 finish, you're in our prayers. Not only my
9 prayers, but the prayers of many in the Kiski
10 Valley. Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. HAWK: I think No. 14, 15.

13 MR. MILICITS: Thank you. Joe Milicits.
14 I live in West Vandergrift. Sometimes
15 downwind of both dumps, about a quarter-mile
16 from the Kiski storage plant and about half
17 mile from the this dump. I feel that there
18 should be some instruments placed around the
19 communities to pick up any radiation that
20 might be leaking. Because if the contractor
21 was stopped, from one of the articles I read
22 that was -- they were weren't handling
23 something properly. Because it's always worse
24 than what we're told.

25 And maybe I watch too many movies from

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1 the '70s, but it's just like with what
2 happened in Japan. It only took that dust a
3 week to get to Pittsburgh. And then we're
4 told it was only a speck. A speck. As about
5 much as you would get in a banana. If anybody
6 wants to believe that...

7 I don't know what to say, but like this
8 lady said here, our home values are probably
9 zero now. Who is going to look at this area
10 after you tell them there's two nuclear dumps
11 and one surrounded by federal guards with
12 automatic weapons.

13 I would have never moved to this area.
14 I moved up here from Arnold/New Ken because I
15 have kids up here. I wanted to turn my house
16 over to my son. I want to downsize and so on.
17 That's canceled now.

18 I can see one dump from my front yard.
19 That's all on hold until I find out if
20 anything has leaked or it's way worse than
21 what we're being told.

22 I feel there should be some instruments
23 and testing in the surrounding areas.

24 Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

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1 MR. HAWK: Fifteen, 16? We have up to
2 18 speakers tonight, so there should be a
3 couple more.

4 MS. GLENN: I don't know what happened
5 to 15. Can you hear me now? My name is Elise
6 Glenn. I'm here to represent Representative
7 Petraca this evening. He's in Harrisburg and
8 couldn't be here, but his heart is here.

9 He has sent a letter to the Assistant
10 Secretary of the Army, Jo-Ellen Darcy
11 outlining some of the highlights of I think
12 what is being covered here tonight. I'm very
13 happy to see how -- to see how united our
14 thoughts seem to be.

15 But these are his comments summarized.
16 There have been many coverups and
17 disappointments in the long road to determine
18 the extent of the problem here. And to make
19 appropriate judgments about the best way to
20 handle the cleanup of these deadly materials.

21 This community and its elected officials
22 have found the Pittsburgh District of the Army
23 Corps of Engineers to be honest with us about
24 the cleanup effort. And we want this Corps to
25 maintain total jurisdiction and control of the

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1 SLDA under the program known as FUSRAP.

2 We do not want to give control of this
3 project back to NRC and the BWXT.

4 We also request that the Army Corps
5 extend the tours of duty of Colonel William
6 Graham and Major Robert Elliot so that the
7 cleanup can proceed with the benefit of their
8 valued knowledge in the hope that we can avoid
9 further regulatory mishaps.

10 Because of the misrepresentations by
11 former companies and agencies, the Corps has
12 set out to evaluate the true extent of
13 contamination. It is imperative that the
14 responsible parties be held at arm's length
15 for the purposes of this evaluation but that
16 they be held accountable for the costs of
17 remediation.

18 Did everybody get that?

19 (Chorus of ayes.)

20 MS. GLENN: Our homes have been
21 devalued. The very existence of our
22 businesses threatened. This site must be
23 cleaned up in such a way to safeguard our
24 people and restore our economic health.

25 If this cannot be accomplished, then the

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1 parties responsible must make us whole. These
2 companies made their money at the expense of
3 the health and even the very lives of the
4 people we loved who came before us. We should
5 not still be footing the bill, nor should our
6 children. I don't think anybody could have
7 said that any better than the gentleman right
8 before me.

9 In final consideration for the
10 well-being of the community, we request that
11 the federal protection service and homeland
12 security remain until the cleanup project is
13 complete. And we ask that the EPA and the PA
14 Department of Environmental Protection have
15 voices in this matter. Transparency is a must
16 and a right of the people.

17 Test our air, ground water, springs,
18 aquifers, river and vegetation on a regular
19 basis. We have paid such a heavy price.
20 Everybody in this room can attest to that.

21 We must demand our rights to live in our
22 community without the threat that radioactive
23 exposure brings to us and to our children.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. HAWK: Your time is up.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MR. HAWK: That was it for the numbers.
3 Is there anyone else out there that has
4 comments, numbers? I think we're up to 17 or
5 18; 16, 17, 18?

6 Go ahead and come up and give your
7 comments.

8 MS. THOMPSON: Okay. My name is Kira
9 Thompson. My family lives directly behind the
10 facility and our kids walk by the site daily
11 to get to the school bus. And they have to do
12 so for the next six years. I'm concerned
13 about any leakage that hasn't been monitored
14 and I need to know that there's a responsible
15 company taking the proper precautions like the
16 Army Corps of Engineers has done so far.

17 I need to know that this project will
18 continue with the Army Corps of Engineers
19 without delay for the protection of the
20 community.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. NAVARRO: My name is Anita Navarro.
23 And I'm a citizen of the area here as well as
24 all these other folks. Also my father worked
25 for the NUMEC facility 31 and a half years,

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1 along with a lot of his fellow coworkers that
2 unfortunately aren't here to see this coming
3 about and to testify. But my plea to the Army
4 Corps of Engineers is to try to fight for us
5 and please stay in there. Because I
6 personally do not want the NRC, and I think
7 numerous people in this valley do not want the
8 NRC to oversee the cleanup efforts of this
9 site, along in conjunction with the companies.

10 To me, the NRC, Nuclear Trade Commission
11 was to be overseeing the operations of these
12 companies in questions, NUMEC, ARCO, B & W for
13 the years they were in operation in Apollo and
14 as well as the Parks Township facility.

15 With the knowledge of what they have
16 left happen at both sites, Apollo and Parks,
17 having them in charge of this massive
18 undertaking would be a grave mistake. They
19 have the responsibility back then while in
20 operation to make sure that there was
21 oversight and that the situation we currently
22 are dealing with is proof that there was a
23 huge lack of oversight and not a concern for
24 the well-being of the workers of those plants,
25 as well as the citizens of the surrounding

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1 communities property values or the community
2 as a whole.

3 What is to make a person think now that
4 they would care, considering it may be a
5 costly cleanup effort? And to me, all I feel
6 is it would be a coverup effort more than a
7 cleanup effort. I feel neither the companies
8 or NRC would have our best interest at heart.
9 We need an unbiased party such as yourself,
10 the Army Corps of Engineers, to be taking on
11 this huge responsibility to make sure it's
12 done efficiently, thoroughly and most
13 importantly in a safe manner. And I
14 respectfully submit this as my concerns.
15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. HAWK: I would ask if you are having
18 a conversation to please take that
19 conversation outside so that it doesn't
20 distract the people providing comments.

21 Do we have any other speakers who have
22 signed up to register that we missed? Let's,
23 first of all, let me ask if there's somebody
24 who had not signed up and hasn't given a
25 comment that wants to give a comment, we would

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1 invite you to the mic. Is there anyone at
2 this time that would like to provide a
3 comment?

4 MR. TREDOSKI: My name is Patrick
5 Tredoski. I've lived in Parks Township for
6 about 30 years. I got questions that maybe
7 can be answered down the road. If there's an
8 incident during the cleaning, is there an
9 evacuation plan for the township and the towns
10 around?

11 And secondly, is there a plan through
12 the government or the Corps of Engineers for
13 iodine tablets? I know around Shippingport I
14 think is a seven-mile radius that the people
15 do get iodine tablets.

16 Back in the '70s I was going to school
17 out in Indiantown Gap when they had the
18 trouble on Three Mile Island. We were
19 volunteered to help evacuate the town, but it
20 never come to be.

21 I just want to know if there's an
22 evacuation plan or any other plan. If there
23 is an incident, how big the incident is, how
24 the winds are blowing, things like that.

25 Thank you, gentlemen.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MR. HAWK: Anyone else in the audience
3 who hasn't had an opportunity to comment that
4 would like to, please indicate it now. Anyone
5 else who wants to make a comment?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. HAWK: Okay. We're going to offer
8 the people who have written comments if they
9 would like to come back up to the mic, we'll
10 give them up to an additional five minutes to
11 provide their comments. If Patty wants to
12 finish her comments.

13 MS. AMENO: I'm not going to be
14 redundant so I'm going to pick up where I left
15 off. And I'm not going to be repetitious to
16 anybody else's comments as these are being put
17 in writing. However, I think we're all on the
18 same page. So I'm going to pick up on some
19 very important points. I will make note that
20 I'm going to be submitting a very detailed
21 report not only to the Army command, but to
22 the president of the United States as well.

23 Let me go on. Number five, that the
24 Department of Justice and the Environmental
25 Protection Agency's investigative branches be

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1 included and implemented each as stakeholders
2 to ensure all legal avenues within the laws
3 are investigated, met, negotiated and
4 represented.

5 That there be no activity that would
6 undermine our entire sustaining economic
7 structures and tax-based revenue in addition
8 to property value depreciation.

9 Transparency is a must. Disclosure is a
10 must and it is a right of the people.

11 That the site be cleaned up to the
12 ability of being a future revenue generating
13 property without the threat of
14 indemnifications. If that cannot be done,
15 that the responsible parties, ARCO and BWXT,
16 be held accountable to at least the tax base
17 as if all structures were still present
18 encompassing the area of the original deeded
19 property.

20 That the testing of the ground water,
21 springs, aquifers, river and vegetation are
22 done on a regular basis.

23 That every precaution for public and
24 environmental safety be constructed and
25 implemented.

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1 That it is respectfully requested of the
2 Secretary of the Army and the Commanding
3 General and Chief of the Army Corps of
4 Engineers that the tours of duty of Colonel
5 William Graham and Major Robert Elliot be
6 extended so that this project which has been
7 seriously delayed by circumstances not of
8 their doing can progress with their valued
9 knowledge and be well underway so that a
10 smooth transition without further regulatory
11 mishaps will occur upon change of command.

12 Furthermore, if ever there has been any
13 semblance of trust in a governmental agency
14 from this community, regarding our nuclear
15 legacy, it is in the Pittsburgh District of
16 the Army Corps of Engineers solely because of
17 these two officers.

18 Lastly, our valley was proud to serve
19 our country as veteran civilian soldiers, but
20 because of this, we have dealt with torturing
21 issues at the hands of the companies and the
22 AEC and the NRC who failed to regulate,
23 especially with public safety in mind.

24 We have dealt with loss of life, loss of
25 health, loss of property values, and yes, we

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1 even lost our ground. We have suffered. We
2 have cried. We have grieved and we have
3 yelled out for help and none came. None came.
4 None came. Until Jack Murtha wrote into law
5 the legislation that gave the Army Corps of
6 Engineers the jurisdiction over the SLDA site.

7 To the command in Washington D.C. of the
8 Army Corps of Engineers I ask you this: Do
9 you leave us on the battlefield or do you
10 fight for us and live up to your motto, the
11 difficult we do immediately, the impossible
12 takes a little longer. Essayons, essayons.
13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. HAWK: Okay. Is there anyone else
16 who would like to finish their comments? Is
17 there anyone else who would like to provide
18 comments that hasn't? Anybody that walked in
19 late that would like to provide comments?

20 COL. GRAHAM: Sir?

21 MR. SLAVE: My name is Ron Slave. I'm
22 from Upper Burrell Township. I would like to
23 concur with the previous speakers in the
24 request that the Army Corps of Engineers
25 remain at the helm of the nuclear cleanup

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1 efforts and not the NRC.

2 Full disclosure to the public and
3 exactly what is being dug up at the site must
4 be revealed. Moreover, the Corps must go
5 beyond the boundaries to check on what
6 contamination goes beyond the cleanup site.

7 Our concern is great that eventually, if
8 not already, radioactive waste will make its
9 way into the Kiskiminitas River and beyond
10 into the Allegheny River.

11 Finally, seeing the armed guards at the
12 site in the local paper gives all of us pause
13 as to what dangers we are truly dealing with.

14 I commend the Army Corps and will make
15 this prediction that one day, in the not too
16 distant future, the Corps will be called on to
17 cleanup our next big mess, that being the
18 contamination left behind by the Marcellas
19 Shale extraction plague. Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. HAWK: I want to offer another
22 opportunity for anyone out there who is
23 wanting to make a statement. Anyone else out
24 there? Going once, going twice, going three
25 times.

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1 I want to emphasize to you that,
2 especially some of the messages that were
3 truncated to please provide your written
4 comments to us. You can do that tonight, you
5 can do it via e-mail, you can mail it to us.
6 But it's very important that we have your
7 written comments so we can submit those along
8 with, if they were not fully presented
9 tonight, along with the transcripts that we'll
10 send up.

11 COL. GRAHAM: Again, I appreciate
12 everybody coming out tonight and sharing with
13 us your concerns. We will let certainly my
14 chain of command know. Your elected
15 representatives I'm sure understand your
16 comments loud and clear.

17 So thank you for coming out tonight.
18 And thank you very much for being respectful
19 of each other so we could hear your comments.

20 Safe travels going home.

21 (Whereupon, the meeting concluded at
22 7:15 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Linda Walker, hereby certify that the transcript of the proceedings and the evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me at the within cause, and that this is a true and correct transcript of the same.

Linda Walker
Notary Public