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.

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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REPORTED BY:

LINDA WALKER

WALKER REPORTING SERVICE

2500 Howes Run Road

Tarentum, PA 15084
MR. HAWK: Good evening, folks. If you could take your seats, we'll get ready to go here.

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

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

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

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

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

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

COL. GRAHAM: Jeff is going to go over the rules in just a minute so we could get to
everybody's comments so I'm going to be pretty brief. I'm going to give you a quick update on where the project sits. Mary Ann? Where are you at Mary Ann? You're in here somewhere. Stand up. You get to stand up.

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

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

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

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

Concurrently, with the district's efforts, the Corps is looking to see, okay, now we have a better understanding of what's been buried in that field. We've got 10 percent of that material out of there and we know for certainty what 10 percent of that material is. So with that knowledge, we're looking to see if there's a better answer to the problem of that field. If there is a better organization or a better manner which we can go about cleaning up that field and moving the radiological contamination from it.
But that's going on concurrent with what I'm doing right now at the district level.

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

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

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

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

There's probably been, as we've been looking to see what the way forward is, if there's going to be a better answer out there a lot of angst amongst the community.
that's pretty obvious by the turn out we've had here tonight, which is probably three times what we had at the March meeting.

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

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

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

(Applause.)

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

At the county level we've got I believe three of the commissioners here. Mr. Richard
Fink, Robert Bower and David Petaglia. If I didn't botch that. If you three gentlemen will also stand up, please. Did I get that right?

(Applause.)

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

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

(Applause.)

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

(Applause.)

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

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

(Applause.)

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

And your first name is?
MS. GLENN: My name is Elise Glenn. And Joe is battling the battle of the budget.

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

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

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

Jeff?

MR. HAWK: Thank you, sir. I am going to go over some ground rules. I'm going to ask your forgiveness right up front. These
are pretty strict and they are put into play
so we are all on same page, we are all in
agreement how to conduct this meeting.

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

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

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

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

If you must take a phone call or engage
in a conversation with someone here, please
take it outside so that people can make their comments with minimal distraction.

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

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

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

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

We have some other options for you also. You can also provide your comments by filling out a comment card that we have available at
the registration table. You can hand it back to us tonight or you can mail that in. You can also e-mail us. Our e-mails are on the public comment cards, as well as our mailing address.

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

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

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

Is there anyone who does not understand
these rules?

(No response.)

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

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

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

Thank you to everybody who came out tonight.
I want to thank the Corps of Engineers before
I get started on my statement for having this
meeting. Thank you very much.

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

On behalf of the citizenry and the local
governments of the Kiski Valley past, present
and future, and on behalf of the citizenry of
Pennsylvania, in an attempt to have equal
access to justice and for the protection of
our health and safety as a necessity, for the survival of our economic structures, present and future as a necessity, I make and enter for the record the following requests as a necessity regarding the fate of the clean-up of the shallow land disposal area.

Number one, that the Pittsburgh District of the Army Corps of Engineers maintain total jurisdiction, control and cleanup authority of the SLDA, under the formerly utilized sites remedial action program for a safe and comprehensive cleanup of all contaminated wastes without threat of giving the license back to the NRC and BWXT. And that the cleanup process resume as expeditiously as possible.

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

Three, that given the history of misrepresentations made regarding the SLDA by ARCO and BWXT and by the AEC and the NRC
agencies previously involved, that the Corps set out to evaluate the totality of the original deeded property outside the fence line for possible burials to include areas within the abandoned coal mine.

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

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

MR. WOLFE: My name is Dennis L. Wolfe. I'm 65 years old. A life-long resident of Gilpin Township. My community is located directly west of Parks Township. The nuclear waste dump is located approximately a half mile east of our contiguous border. I've been appointed/elected supervisor of Gilpin Township since 1992. Approximately 10 years
ago, our board of supervisors approved a resolution which was passed by a vote of five yes, zero nays to support federal legislation being proposed at that time by the late, great Congressman John Murtha to cleanup the toxic site. Congressman Murtha was successful in getting this bill to both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate and signed into law with the president.

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

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

This would only set back the timeline
established for the completion of this project. Thank you for your time.

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

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

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

Now, as the manager of the Kiski Valley, I've had 13 years. I worked with the NRC on a low level contamination at my facility. And personally, I would feel a lot more comfortable if the Corps handled it. That's all I got to say. You got to do better than what they did.
MR. HAWK: We have the fourth speaker. The fourth speaker and the fifth speaker come up.

We could get you a mic.

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

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

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

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

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Okay. Wouldn't it be cheaper to buy everyone's property at Kiskimere and make that and the nuclear dump a graveyard; or is it too dangerous even for that?
Plus, everyone within a two-mile radius from the dump should have very low state taxes or none. The government owes us. They can never pay for heartache and pain they've caused so many. I feel sorry for the workers that have to cleanup the dump. They know not what they are doing to themselves.

(Appause.)

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

MR. KRAMER: Will you take seven first?

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

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

I've been opposed to this project for many years. And basically, this site has not exposed anyone to radiation much background
for over 60 years.

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

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

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

It would allow us to do refurbishing of our bridges. Ten bridges, like the Freeport bridge. I think there are more deserving projects. There are more serious radiations and radioactive exposure threats to our
health, such as radon in the natural
environment, medical x-ray exposure and flying
at high altitudes. For these reasons, I
recommend that this project not be continued
but the burial left here where it will expose
no one and has not for many years.

(Appplause.)

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

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

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

I'll turn this in.

MR. SHANNON: My name is Bud Shannon.
Parks Township supervisor. I have been since 1990.

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

(Applause.)

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

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

MR. HALEY: Nine is here.

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

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

MR. HAWK: If you folks want to, you can
take that out. It's a wireless mic. You can also take it that way.

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

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

As with all those who have endorsed this document and the one who has directly involved as a consultant on this project, I am pleased to add my vote of confidence to the Pittsburgh District of Army Corps of Engineers, and Colonel Graham specifically. Complete the safe and comprehensive removal of a nuclear waste and the materials present in the SLDA. From the time he assumed command, Colonel Graham has kept our community informed about this project through a continuing series of public meetings and has answered questions about our concerns. More importantly, at
every meeting he emphasizes that his highest
priority is safety for the workers and for the
community and indeed for all involved, plus
his commitment to achieve complete removal of
all material of concern.

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

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

One, that ACE authorizes the
continuation of research effort to further
identify nuclear materials of concern. The
latest research contract was canceled, another
prime contractor, after excavation work was
terminated and before research could begin.

Since safe handling and transportation
procedures vary according to the identity and
amounts of expected isotopes, additional
knowledge should provide additional safety.

Two, the communication links between the
contractors of the Corps to ensure constant
and seamless to identify and anticipate any further unsafe complexities.

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

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

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

MR. HAWK: The time is up.

MR. HALEY: -- and other unauthorized means to reduce cost at the expense of safety. I thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. HAWK: Next speaker, please.

MS. STARR: Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Kathy Starr. And I submit this
testimony this evening representing the Allegheny Township Board of Supervisors of which I am the current chairperson. I'm a life-long resident of Allegheny Township and we border Parks Township along the Kiskiminitas River and Route 66 where this 44-acre site is located.

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

The Corps has been managing the Parks project in a similar manner. With the comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act process, the remedial investigation, feasibility study,
proposed plan and record of decision all being completed to date, removal of their expertise from this project at this point would be a devastating blow to our community likely resulting in many additional years to complete this remediation. If we are ever to hope that this property once again becomes a viable piece of the economic puzzle, we need to keep moving forward on the path that has currently been in place.

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

The economy of our area is strictly and directly tied to environmental impacts by the way in which we manage our water resources in improving the quality of our citizens' lives. It has affected where and how people live and influenced the development of this country, including the Kiski Valley.
Our country today seeks economic development, as well as the protection of environmental issues. They are key partners in the economic development initiatives. Nothing should happen on this property that would further jeopardize the tax base with stagnant remediation or backwards remediation.

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

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

This concludes my statement. Thank you.

(Appause.)

MR. HAWK: She had four seconds left.

MR. MONHEIM: Hi, I'm Bob Monheim. I'm the newest and the youngest of the Parks Township Supervisors.
Yesterday at the public meeting, we, the Parks Township Board of Supervisors, voted to draft a resolution to keep the Army Corps as the site managers. We have a good working relationship and are confident in their abilities to do the job safely.

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

(Applause.)

MR. HAWK: Number 12 and 13.

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

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

First of all, I would like to say I don't in any way want to see the NRC take control of this because they were in control
of it when it became the disaster that it is.

    (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

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

    And I would very much like to show my appreciation for everybody that has shown up for this meeting and I hope we continue to
have this level of interest and cooperation.
Thank you.

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

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

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

We need compliance. And it needs to go beyond what the law of the land says. Both
human lives and living, breathing creation, all around in the earth and in the waters. The military program that you're a part of has been known worldwide for cleanup activities, especially for sites contaminated with hazardous waste, radioactive wastes and ordnances. The military side places a heavy emphasis also on maintaining the natural and cultural resources already here. We don't want to lose those resources. Those resources will be lost if the reigns of the cleanup are turned back into the hands of companies and governmental agencies that have their own interests as a priority, rather than the injustice that continues to go on here.

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

The other said: Relevant, ready,
responsible and reliable. I'll take either one of those tonight.

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

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

(Applause.)

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

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

And maybe I watch too many movies from
the '70s, but it's just like with what happened in Japan. It only took that dust a week to get to Pittsburgh. And then we're told it was only a speck. A speck. As about much as you would get in a banana. If anybody wants to believe that...

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

(Applause.)
MR. HAWK: Fifteen, 16? We have up to 18 speakers tonight, so there should be a couple more.

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

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

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

This community and its elected officials have found the Pittsburgh District of the Army Corps of Engineers to be honest with us about the cleanup effort. And we want this Corps to maintain total jurisdiction and control of the
SLDA under the program known as FUSRAP.

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

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

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

Did everybody get that?

(Chorus of ayes.)

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

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

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

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

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

MR. HAWK: Your time is up.
(Applause.)

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

Go ahead and come up and give your comments.

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

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

(Applause.)

MS. NAVARRO: My name is Anita Navarro. And I'm a citizen of the area here as well as all these other folks. Also my father worked for the NUMEC facility 31 and a half years,
along with a lot of his fellow coworkers that
unfortunately aren't here to see this coming
about and to testify. But my plea to the Army
Corps of Engineers is to try to fight for us
and please stay in there. Because I
personally do not want the NRC, and I think
numerous people in this valley do not want the
NRC to oversee the cleanup efforts of this
site, along in conjunction with the companies.

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

    With the knowledge of what they have
left happen at both sites, Apollo and Parks,
having them in charge of this massive
undertaking would be a grave mistake. They
have the responsibility back then while in
operation to make sure that there was
oversight and that the situation we currently
are dealing with is proof that there was a
huge lack of oversight and not a concern for
the well-being of the workers of those plants,
as well as the citizens of the surrounding
communities property values or the community
as a whole.

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

(Applause.)

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

Do we have any other speakers who have
signed up to register that we missed? Let's,
first of all, let me ask if there's somebody
who had not signed up and hasn't given a
comment that wants to give a comment, we would
invite you to the mic. Is there anyone at this time that would like to provide a comment?

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

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

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

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

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

(No response.)

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

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

Let me go on. Number five, that the Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency's investigative branches be
included and implemented each as stakeholders
to ensure all legal avenues within the laws
are investigated, met, negotiated and
represented.

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

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

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

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

That every precaution for public and
environmental safety be constructed and
implemented.
That it is respectfully requested of the
Secretary of the Army and the Commanding
General and Chief of the Army Corps of
Engineers that the tours of duty of Colonel
William Graham and Major Robert Elliot be
extended so that this project which has been
seriously delayed by circumstances not of
their doing can progress with their valued
knowledge and be well underway so that a
smooth transition without further regulatory
mishaps will occur upon change of command.

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

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

We have dealt with loss of life, loss of
health, loss of property values, and yes, we
even lost our ground. We have suffered. We
have cried. We have grieved and we have
yelled out for help and none came. None came.
None came. Until Jack Murtha wrote into law
the legislation that gave the Army Corps of
Engineers the jurisdiction over the SLDA site.

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

(Appplause.)

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

COL. GRAHAM: Sir?

MR. SLAVE: My name is Ron Slave. I'm
from Upper Burrell Township. I would like to
concur with the previous speakers in the
request that the Army Corps of Engineers
remain at the helm of the nuclear cleanup
efforts and not the NRC.

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

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

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

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

(Applause.)

MR. HAWK: I want to offer another opportunity for anyone out there who is wanting to make a statement. Anyone else out there? Going once, going twice, going three times.
I want to emphasize to you that,
especially some of the messages that were
truncated to please provide your written
comments to us. You can do that tonight, you
can do it via e-mail, you can mail it to us.
But it's very important that we have your
written comments so we can submit those along
with, if they were not fully presented
tonight, along with the transcripts that we'll send up.

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

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

Safe travels going home.

(Whereupon, the meeting concluded at
7:15 p.m.)
CERTIFICATION

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