

CORPS OF ENGINEERS

SPRING VALLEY COMMUNITY MEETING

Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church

Wednesday, March 14, 2001

7:00 p.m.

Participants

COL. CHARLES A. FIALA, JR.
Commander, Baltimore District

SUSAN WARNER, Meeting Moderator
President and Founder of the LEAD Alliance

RAY FATZ
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army

BRIGADIER GENERAL M. STEPHEN RHOADES
Commander, North Atlantic Division

THOMAS VOLTAGGIO
Acting Regional Administrator, Region III
Environmental Protection Agency

DR. DANA ABOUELNASR
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease
Registry

THEODORE GORDON
Chief Operating Officer
District of Columbia Health Department

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7:10 p.m.

MS. WARNER: We'll begin the meeting -- ask you to move toward the center. I'll play the role of a minister for a moment. Move a little bit to the center so those that are coming in late can find a seat. We want everybody to be able to sit in this front section if possible. Thank you.

Opening Remarks

COL. FIALA: Let me introduce myself. I am Col. Chuck Fiala. I am the commander of the Baltimore District Corps of Engineers, and I have overall responsibility for the overall operation of -- of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers activities down here in Spring Valley.

Tonight's meeting, we want to try to get through a couple things. First off, we heard you loud and clear last month in a community meeting. And at that community meeting you all said you wanted some of the senior leadership to come here tonight. Behind me I have the senior leadership, and not only in the Corps of Engineers but in EPA Region III. Hopefully, we'll be joined by Ted Gordon out of D.C. Health here in a couple minutes.

I want to try to get two things done

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1 tonight. First off, what we heard last month is --
2 is we -- you all wanted to discuss and -- and have -
3 - have looked at establish of -- establishment of a
4 restoration advisory board, and we'll talk about
5 that tonight.

6 The second piece that, and more importantly
7 I think, we have what we call a proposed sampling
8 plan tonight. And we're going to lay that out for
9 you tonight.

10 And then we're going to start -- start to
11 listen to your comments tonight. And over the
12 course of the next 30 days continue to listen to
13 comments that you have. And I don't expect you
14 tonight to -- to -- to have a comment and -- and
15 leave here thinking that this is the final plan. I
16 want you to take it home. If you've got questions,
17 I'll give you my staff's phone number at the end of
18 my briefing tonight. And -- and we want to hear
19 from you because this plan we will synchronize with
20 you all and -- and come to the -- the right
21 solution.

22 We all understand -- fully understand the
23 heightened concerns that you all have stirred on by
24 the media and stirred on by the discovery of
25 elevated arsenic samples around the -- in the soil

1 around the -- the CDC, child development center at
2 American University.

3 So we're here to lay out where we are in
4 this process tonight, and more importantly, we're
5 here to listen to your feedback.

6 And with that, I'd like to turn it over to
7 Susan Warner, who's going to work to facilitate the
8 communications tonight. Susan?

9 Meeting Protocol

10 MS. WARNER: Good evening. I'm Susan
11 Warner from the LEAD Alliance. My company does many
12 kinds of meeting facilitation, executive coaching,
13 team-building, and so forth, and we've been invited
14 to be here this evening so to make sure that
15 everyone who is here is here to hear. Playing off
16 of words there. So that both sides and all involved
17 can hear from one another.

18 I'm accompanied by my business partner
19 Trisha Gibbons, who will be assisting me this
20 evening as we go forward with our meeting.

21 One of the things that we wanted to do in
22 order to make sure that we have a meeting that is
23 conducted with great decorum and gives everyone who
24 has a perspective an opportunity to be heard is to
25 set up some meeting protocols for this evenings that

1 I think will help us have a more effective meeting.

2 We generally use a -- an acronym, OARRS.
3 And my apologies to my army presenters here this
4 evening for using a naval term. But we use the
5 acronym OARRS for making sure that we have our oars
6 in the water and we're all expecting the same
7 meeting outcomes and results from this evening.

8 OARRS is an acronym. The outcomes of the
9 meeting Col. Fiala has just discussed with you and
10 are in fact in your handout. If you will hold your
11 hands up and signal if you did not get a handout
12 packet, we'll keep an eye out for those and -- and
13 those at the back can bring some of those packets
14 forward and -- and distribute those as soon as I
15 finish this part.

16 In your packet you'll find a number of
17 helpful things. The outcomes are stated there. Our
18 agenda for this evening is in there. So that takes
19 care of the O and the A in the word OARRS.

20 The next is the first R. It is a liberal
21 spelling of the word OARRS. And that's kind of our
22 rules for the road for this evening that'll help us
23 have a more effective meeting.

24 The first of those is we all want to be
25 sure that we're contributing toward a collaborative

1 meeting environment. The best way to solve the
2 problems and deal with the issues before you are to
3 do that collaboratively clearly. And we're asking
4 that everyone here keep an open mind because there's
5 great wisdom in this room and we want to be sure
6 that we're open to receiving all of that, that we
7 have an opportunity to share perspectives and
8 insights from various aspects of the -- of the
9 community and the subject matter experts that we
10 have here this evening, that in raising our
11 questions and concerns we demonstrate respect for
12 one another, again, amongst all of those here.

13 One of the ways to do that is to avoid
14 interruptions, letting one have their opportunity to
15 be heard. And the second one of those is avoiding
16 repetition. We want to be sure that as many
17 different kinds of issues, concerns, and questions
18 as possible are raised this evening. So rather than
19 reiterating a question that has already been asked
20 or restating a question that -- a comment that has
21 already been stated, if we could avoid the
22 repetition and move to the next comment or
23 perspective I think that will help us this evening.

24 Finally, I don't know what it is about
25 human nature. Perhaps we have some of you in the

1 audience who have Ph.D.s in psychology. I don't.
2 But there is -- there are some characteristics about
3 us as human beings. We tend to want to question in
4 order to corner and listen in order to rebut. So we
5 want to try to suspend those behaviors tonight.
6 Those of you that are parents of teenagers, you know
7 what that means. That's when you say, "Why are you
8 late?" as opposed to "Tell me about your evening."

9 So we want to try to question to clarify
10 this evening and make sure that we're really being
11 clear about what it is that's being asked and then
12 listening to learn rather than to simply find the
13 chink in somebody's armor and then nail them on it.
14 And in so doing, we'll be able to attack problems
15 rather than attacking people.

16 So with those basic rules of the road, I
17 think we -- we're off to a good start in having an
18 effective meeting.

19 The second R in our liberal spelling of R -
20 - of OARRS is for roles. And I've already
21 identified mine, and Col. Fiala has identified his,
22 and we're about to identify others who have roles to
23 play this evening.

24 In addition, I'd like to point out that we
25 have a court reporter who's way at the back in the

1 upper, perhaps, choir loft waving to us there. So
2 if you're concerned that what's being said is not
3 being captured, put your mind at ease. She is able
4 to hear everything that is being said and that
5 record will be made and that will be posted on the
6 Corps' web site for your edification and for review
7 of the comments and concerns and information from
8 this evening.

9 With our final letter in the word OARRS we
10 have some structure for this evening. You do have
11 your detailed agenda in your packet, but just as a
12 way of kind of breaking that out with a bigger
13 picture for the structure for this evening, from
14 approximately now to 8:00, about the first hour of
15 our meeting you'll see some presentations and hear
16 some presentations that'll be made from our subject
17 matter experts for your benefit.

18 From 8 to 9:00 we'll have comments,
19 questions, and concerns from the floor. We have two
20 microphones at the back and we'll be asking you to
21 bring forward your questions or comments on a
22 particular aspect of our presentation and raise
23 those questions. There'll be some folks at the back
24 helping you with the microphone and helping you get
25 in order as you move back there.

1 In your packet you will also find a comment
2 card, so if you have a comment or a question and
3 you'd just rather not get up and walk all the way to
4 the back to make that by way of the microphone, if
5 you'll pass those to the center aisle. Trisha will
6 be walking up and down the aisle periodically
7 picking those up, taking them to the back where
8 they'll be read so that the court reporter can hear
9 them over the microphone and then those questions or
10 comments will be addressed by our -- by our experts
11 who are here.

12 And I think that pretty well takes care of
13 that part of the structure except that we will have
14 some time from 9 to 9:45 for some breakout groups.
15 And they will be positioned around the room. At the
16 end of the formal part of our presentation here,
17 then we'll move to the breakout groups. You'll have
18 an opportunity then to get some one-on-one questions
19 answered. Perhaps you have some specific issues
20 about your specific property or some timing issues
21 on something that's of great concern to you. So
22 rather than raising those in the general forum,
23 those very specific questions that relate only to
24 you, to your property, to your particular issues can
25 be addressed by our subject matter experts in the

1 breakout room -- groups. Those will occur in this
2 room.

3 We will have -- let me check my cue card
4 here -- ASTDR and CHPM up here in the front of the
5 room. We'll fill you in on those acronyms so you
6 don't feel like this is all alphabet soup before we
7 break out. D.C. Health on, more or less, the middle
8 of this side of the room. And EPA will be answering
9 questions toward the back of this side of the room.

10 On this side we'll have the Army Corps of
11 Engineers. And questions that need to be addressed
12 regarding operations, logistics, and so forth will
13 be addressed by the Army Corps of Engineers. And at
14 the back of the room you'll hear a little bit more
15 from Col. Fiala in his presentation about the
16 restoration advisory board. There will be people
17 back there to further address any questions that you
18 have and to sign you up to participate -- eagerly to
19 have you participate in that.

20 I think that takes care of our structure
21 for this evening and gets us off to a good start.
22 Let me check my notes one more time to make sure I
23 didn't leave anything out that I wanted to.

24 Unanswered questions, yes. It may be that
25 you have a question that did not get answered, that

1 didn't get raised during our timing. You have two
2 opportunities. Either fill out that comment card
3 and leave it in the pew and we'll pick those up and
4 those will be answered on the web site or hand it to
5 one of us that you now recognize as part of
6 tonight's forum and we'll be sure that that gets to
7 the proper place and those questions are addressed
8 in the -- on the web site.

9 Okay. With that in mind, I think other
10 than the fact that there may be topics not addressed
11 at all tonight because they're not on this evening's
12 agenda, the sampling plan, the CDC response, and the
13 RAB, and we have parking lots parked on the sides of
14 the room. So if there are topics you want to hear
15 about at the next meeting there are some sticky
16 notes located near each one of those parking lots.
17 Just write down what it is you'd like to hear about
18 next time. And of course, you can also do that on
19 the web site. But this gives you an opportunity
20 here and now to respond.

21 During our presentations this evening we're
22 going to ask that you not interrupt the presentation
23 with questions until the full presentations have
24 been delivered. The reason for that is we find that
25 for the sake of efficiency that oftentimes the very

1 question you're asking is two slides away and would
2 be answered, and all it does is kind of disrupt the
3 flow. However, if you're in danger of a senior
4 moment, as I sometimes am, and you're worried that
5 you're going to forget your question, in the pews
6 you'll see some five by seven cards that we've put
7 there. So if you're concerned that you're going to
8 forget your question, then jot it down and don't
9 lose track of that. Or write it down on your
10 comment card and you'll be prepared then to ask your
11 question at the end. So I think we'll be able to
12 take care of everyone's concerns in that manner.

13 There is also a meeting evaluation form in
14 here. I will remind you of that again during the
15 breakout session, right before the breakout
16 sessions, and again at the end because it would be
17 very helpful to everyone here who is putting the
18 meetings together if there are improvements,
19 opportunities for improvement, that you so note
20 those so that they can be taken into consideration.

21 Introductions of Key Officials

22 MS. WARNER: Without further ado, then, I'd
23 like to begin to introduce our dignitaries and have
24 them introduce themselves and make some comments to
25 you as they begin.

1 So Mr. Ray Fatz, Deputy Assistant Secretary
2 of the Army -- he has the longest title on the
3 planet -- for Environment, Safety, and Occupational
4 Health. Your turn.

5 MR. FATZ: Thank you. Thank you.

6 Good evening. I'm pleased to be here
7 tonight and it's great to see such a -- a large
8 turnout for this important meeting.

9 With my long title as the Deputy Assistant
10 Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety, and
11 Occupational Health, I have responsibility of the
12 cleanup of Spring Valley in that I'm the
13 Department's executive agent for formerly used
14 defense sites.

15 Now, under that program as executive agent,
16 the Corps of Engineers manages and executes that
17 program for the Department of the Army and actually
18 for the whole Department of Defense.

19 I want you all to know here that the Army
20 is committed to the safety and health of the
21 community in -- at Spring Valley here. We accept
22 the responsibility for our past activities, and in
23 fact, we have a national program that addresses
24 cleanups across the country at over 2000 sites
25 similar to Spring Valley.

1 In the Army, we have made Spring Valley a
2 top priority. We have shifted funding around in our
3 program to enable us to react to the Spring Valley
4 issues here rapidly.

5 At the last community meeting in February
6 you asked the Army to expand the sampling procedures
7 here at Spring Valley. We're here tonight to lay
8 out a proposed plan that will accomplish this
9 expanded sampling. In fact, I want to make it very
10 clear that this is a proposed plan. We are here
11 tonight to hear your inputs, get your ideas on the
12 plan not only tonight but like Col. Fiala said over
13 a 30-day period.

14 This plan was developed in close
15 coordination jointly by the Army, EPA, and D.C.
16 Health officials. I believe this plan is well-based
17 in science and will address many of your concerns
18 and -- all of your concerns, I hope, and it will
19 answer a number of questions that we all have.

20 I'll just lay out simply what that proposed
21 plan is, and it is we're going to sample for arsenic
22 at every residential property in Spring Valley. We
23 will also do -- thank you.

24 (Applause)

25 MR. FATZ: We'll also do some sampling for

1 other chemical -- possible contaminants based on
2 historical documentation.

3 The Corps of Engineers tonight will lay out
4 a more detailed plan on the basic plan that I'm
5 giving you here. And then we'll be hoping that we
6 will get from you the input that will help this plan
7 move along. We're hoping that we will learn a lot
8 from you, the Army, the EPA, the -- and the D.C.
9 Health officials in your comments on this tonight.

10 Now, also, the Corps of Engineers as being
11 the managers and the executors of this program for
12 the Department of the Army will be here to answer
13 the detail questions. We have in the Army the
14 highest confidence in the Corps of Engineers, to
15 include General Rhoades and the Baltimore district
16 commander and his staff who have played a very close
17 role with all of you here to date. We think they've
18 done an outstanding job.

19 I thank you all for coming and look forward
20 to hearing your comments and talking to any of you
21 individually. Thank you.

22 MS. WARNER: Thank you, Mr. Fatz.
23 Brigadier General Steven Rhoades?

24 BRIGADIER GENERAL RHOADES: Good evening,
25 ladies and gentlemen. I'm impressed -- I'm

1 impressed with the turnout tonight.

2 I'm Brigadier General Steve Rhoades and I
3 command the North Atlantic Division of the Corps of
4 Engineers. My headquarters is in Brooklyn, New
5 York.

6 And Mr. Fatz, when he was talking, he was
7 talking about the Corps of Engineers being the
8 executor, and I'm that guy. And that -- that's my
9 duty and that's my responsibility here. And I
10 exercise that responsibility through Col. Chuck
11 Fiala, the Baltimore district commander. And I have
12 six districts like the Baltimore district commander
13 from the Canadian border down to the Virginia-North
14 Carolina border and Europe. And of the sites like
15 this that we have in my area, we have -- of the
16 sites and the nations, I have about 65 percent of
17 them are located in the northeast, the area that I -
18 - I have the vast majority of them across the Army
19 here. So this is important business to us.

20 Tonight what we want to do is continue to
21 dialogue with the citizens that live here, and I
22 think that that's extremely important. Tonight we
23 need to hear what you think about what we are
24 presenting to you and how did we reach this point
25 where we're able to present something to you. We

1 worked collaboratively with the EPA and with the
2 District of Columbia Department of Health to come
3 together with the -- with the plan that we're going
4 to show you tonight that we want your input on, and
5 this plan is based upon good science and
6 engineering.

7 And so I think we're off to a good start
8 here. I'm anxious for you to see the plan and see
9 your -- and see your reaction to the plan and look
10 forward to working with you until we complete the
11 mission here at Spring Valley. Thank you all very
12 much.

13 MS. WARNER: Mr. Tom Voltaggio from the
14 Environmental Protection Agency.

15 MR. VOLTAGGIO: Good evening also. I am
16 the acting Regional Administrator of EPA's
17 Philadelphia Office, which has responsibility for a
18 five-state area plus the -- plus the District.

19 I have been involved in this site
20 personally since 1993 when they first found the
21 items at 52nd Court back there. I came down with my
22 staff to help with the environmental considerations
23 that needed to be done for the ordnance work at the
24 site. My staff has been involved in this project
25 ever since.

1 Our function is to provide advice and
2 consultation to the Corps of Engineers in our area
3 of expertise. Our area of expertise is the
4 investigation and cleanup of chemical contamination
5 that exists similar to what you have here in Spring
6 Valley. We have -- we have had a program that we've
7 operated for 20 years called the Superfund program
8 that -- whose job it is to do just that: investigate
9 and clean up chemical contamination that exists in
10 soil and water.

11 We have provided that expertise throughout
12 the process. In the last month we have worked very,
13 very closely with the Corps to bring that expertise,
14 knowledge, experience, and training, to help the
15 Corps develop a sampling plan that the colonel will
16 be going over.

17 It is my earnest hope that you listen
18 carefully and ask as many questions as you possibly
19 can. We want you to be assured. The purpose of
20 this plan is for you to be assured that you are
21 living in a safe environment. We believe we have
22 such a plan. We hope to be able to assuage that
23 fear through knowledge and information and from
24 answering questions that you will have from it.
25 Thank you very much.

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1 MS. WARNER: Mr. Gordon has not arrived as
2 yet, so we'll move ahead and -- I don't believe?
3 Because I don't know everybody who's here.

4 Exposure Study Results

5 MS. WARNER: So we'll -- we'll move ahead
6 now and hear from Dr. Dana Abouelnasr, who will
7 explain the acronym -- ATSDR as well as present to
8 you some findings with regard to CDC. And I think I
9 slaughtered her name. Forgive me.

10 DR. ABOUELNASR: Thank you. It's
11 Abouelnasr, but I'm used to that.

12 I'm Dana Abouelnasr. I'm with the Agency
13 for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. We're
14 based in Atlanta, Georgia. We're the agency that
15 has come down to the American University day care
16 about a month ago and gave those poor kids some very
17 bad haircuts.

18 And I'm here to tell you why we did that
19 and what we learned from the investigation that we
20 did. Thank you.

21 The first thing I'd like to do is give you
22 a little background about what ATSDR is, and it's A-
23 T-S-D-R. Everybody likes to say A-S-T-D-R.

24 We are any agency that's tasked with
25 looking at environmental health issues around the

1 nation. We're with the U.S. Department of Health
2 and Human Services and I'm going to outline three of
3 our main goals here just to give you an idea of what
4 we do.

5 Our first goal is to identify people who
6 are at health risk because of hazardous substances
7 in the environment. The second goal is to once
8 we've found those people, then we evaluate
9 relationships between the hazardous substances in
10 the environment and their possible health problems.

11 And thirdly, if there are health problems or the
12 potential for health problems, then we intervene to
13 eliminate or reduce that potential.

14 So that's pretty much why we're here
15 tonight. A couple of things that we are not --
16 ATSDR is not regulatory. We're not like the EPA.
17 We can't force anybody to do anything. We're
18 basically here to answer questions about health
19 problems from the environment.

20 Secondly, we are not health care providers.

21 We can't answer your questions about health
22 conditions. And if necessary, we can refer you to
23 clinics that are specifically work on environmental
24 issues. We can also work with your healthcare
25 providers in the area to address any regional

1 issues.

2 With that background, now I'd like to talk
3 a little bit about what we did -- whoops. Could you
4 go to the next slide? Yeah.

5 (Slide)

6 DR. ABOUELNASR: What we did at the
7 American University child development center.

8 Initially, the Army came to us with their
9 sampling results at the day care playground and they
10 had found relatively high levels of arsenic. And
11 they asked us if there would be any potential for
12 harm to the children that had been playing in that
13 playground.

14 Our answer was that we needed more
15 information. Given the worst case scenario, it
16 could be a problem but we didn't know if that worst
17 case scenario actually applied. There were factors
18 that reduced the possible exposure to these
19 children, like on the playground they had a thick
20 layer of mulch so the children weren't actually
21 exposed to the soil. The other areas had grass on
22 them so that that also reduced their exposure to the
23 soil.

24 So we needed more information before we
25 could answer that question. So we decided we needed

1 to go to the children and see if there was something
2 we could sample to see if there was any arsenic that
3 the children had absorbed and -- and kept in their
4 bodies. And we decided that the best way to answer
5 that would be to look at hair arsenic levels.

6 So if you could give me the next slide,
7 please?

8 (Slide)

9 DR. ABOUELNASR: Okay. What -- so we -- we
10 actually went to the day care and we took hair from
11 all of the children that would have been exposed to
12 the playground. That was 28 children and also four
13 staff members. And we sent the samples off to be
14 analyzed for arsenic, and the results came back a
15 little while ago and we found that the vast majority
16 of the children and the staff members did not have
17 levels of arsenic in the hair that we could detect.

18 About a quarter of them did have some
19 arsenic that we could find in their hair, but those
20 levels were well below -- well within the normal --
21 normal range for unexposed people.

22 Okay. So tonight I'm also releasing a
23 final report that will interpret what does that mean
24 from a health standard. I guess it's kind of an
25 anticlimax.

1 Go ahead.

2 (Slide)

3 DR. ABOUELNASR: We're interpreting the
4 results. And the conclusion of that, because it
5 looks like they were not exposed to elevated
6 amounts of arsenic, then we do not anticipate that
7 the children and the staff at that day care would
8 have any adverse health effects.

9 I do have copies of both of those reports,
10 and I will make those available to you in the -- in
11 the breakout sessions, if you're interested.

12 Also, this is our contact information, if
13 you're interested. Okay. Thank you.

14 MS. WARNER: Were there any direct
15 questions with regard to this presentation? Yes?
16 Could you stand and make sure that we -- you can be
17 heard?

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: How long does arsenic
19 stay in the hair?

20 DR. ABOUELNASR: Once it's in the hair,
21 it's in that -- that section of hair forever. Of
22 course, your hair grows out and the longer your hair
23 is there the more possibility there is that it can
24 be coated with other things that might have arsenic
25 in it: hair dyes or smoke from some -- from wood

1 that may have preservatives in it.

2 So we like to get hair that's very close to
3 the scalp. The first two inches, maybe about six
4 months is the most reliable.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible question)

6 DR. ABOUELNASR: Yeah. That -- that just
7 recently came out. I'd like to point out that
8 article was looking at low levels of arsenic that
9 are within the -- the -- the normal, what I should I
10 say? Non-environmentally exposed population. So
11 they were looking at all the micronutrients and
12 comparing them. So they took one person who had not
13 been exposed to high levels and did not have high
14 levels in her hair and checked -- sent her hair to
15 several different labs. And the labs came back with
16 levels that looked like they might be different, but
17 they were all very low.

18 And I think that's the issue her is we can
19 use these -- these tests to look for high values.
20 When you get down in the low values, we can tell you
21 that it's within the -- the normal range but we
22 can't really tell you exactly where you are. So I
23 think they're very valuable for looking for high
24 exposures like we might have expected to see at the
25 day care.

1 MS. WARNER: -- questions? And we will
2 need to repeat the questions, Dana --

3 DR. ABOUELNASR: Oh, I'm sorry.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: -- question? They were
5 not able to hear that.

6 DR. ABOUELNASR: Okay.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible question)

8 DR. ABOUELNASR: Okay. The first question
9 was are there adverse health effects associated with
10 low levels or arsenic.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible question)

12 DR. ABOUELNASR: Well, the -- the issue of
13 -- of adverse health effects within the background
14 levels, I guess is the question. I guess that's --
15 that's still up for consideration.

16 I think basically what we can say here is
17 that those children and staff members were not
18 exposed to more arsenic than normal people. Not
19 normal people. People who did not attend that day
20 care.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible question)

22 DR. ABOUELNASR: Right.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible question)

24 DR. ABOUELNASR: Well, I guess -- first,
25 let me restate the question. She was saying how --

1 how can we state that they did not have greater
2 exposure than people who are not environmentally
3 exposed? Because there were several areas in the
4 day care, with the garden being one of 'em, that had
5 elevated levels of arsenic.

6 And that's true, particularly the garden
7 where the children were most likely digging around
8 in the -- in the dirt planting plants. That's
9 probably the place where they received their highest
10 exposure of arsenic.

11 However, arsenic, you need a chronic
12 exposure to the low levels of arsenic. And I -- the
13 -- the levels that they received while gardening
14 would not be a chronic, a long-term exposure. It
15 would be a few days here and a few days there. So
16 it -- that arsenic would be eliminated rather
17 quickly and you would not get that long-term
18 exposure, that -- that daily exposure to thee
19 levels.

20 The -- the other areas that were high
21 within the playground were covered with mulch and
22 covered with grass. So I-- it appears that the
23 children did not have as much exposure to the soils
24 in that area.

25 MS. WARNER: One question here and one here

1 and then we'll postpone the rest of the those
2 questions for the breakout session.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible question)

4 DR. ABOUELNASR: Yeah.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible question)

6 DR. ABOUELNASR: Okay.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible question)

8 DR. ABOUELNASR: Okay. Let -- let me
9 restate the question. First, he has a -- a public
10 health statement from 1983 --

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible question)

12 DR. ABOUELNASR: Okay. We do have a new
13 toxicological profile for arsenic that came out last
14 September, so those -- those are old. But what you
15 were saying is still valid. He was concerned that
16 the tests for arsenic in hair were not valid for low
17 exposures.

18 What -- what we were looking for, though,
19 was high exposures to the children in the area. We
20 didn't find any elevated levels so we did not find
21 any high exposures.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible question)

23 DR. ABOUELNASR: If it -- if it stays for
24 six to 12 months?

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible question)

1 DR. ABOUELNASR: Correct.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible question)

3 DR. ABOUELNASR: No. We were looking at
4 the first two inches of hair next to the scalp,
5 which corresponds roughly to about a six-month
6 exposure.

7 MS. WARNER: -- one more question.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible question)

9 DR. ABOUELNASR: Thank you for bringing
10 that up. I guess I didn't make that clear.

11 She mentioned that as you are exposed to
12 arsenic, as it -- it is absorbed into your body it
13 does not bio-accumulate. It's excreted out of your
14 body, usually through your urine, sometimes -- or
15 also into your hair. But it does not stay into
16 your body. That means that you need almost a long-
17 term exposure to these low levels, day today
18 exposure to these levels in order to maintain a
19 level of arsenic in your body to produce some health
20 effects at the low -- low levels.

21 MS. WARNER: I think we'll -- I think if I
22 could ask you to jot your question down and if it's
23 relevant at the end of Col. Fiala's presentation
24 we'll address it there. And if not, during the
25 breakout session for sure. But we do want to be

1 sure that we get all of the information shared this
2 evening, so Col. Fiala, I think we're ready for you.

3 Project Briefing - Restoration Advisory Board
4 and Comprehensive Sampling Proposal

5 COL. FIALA: Okay. Can you hear me? Is
6 this on?

7 (Pause)

8 COL. FIALA: All right. I'll stand --
9 okay.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's on now.

11 (Laughter)

12 COL. FIALA: All right. Is this on? Can
13 you hear me?

14 (Pause)

15 COL. FIALA: Okay. I'll have to stand up
16 here and I can't walk around.

17 Two things. We're going to -- I'm going to
18 try to cover tonight: Restoration Advisory Board
19 and then we'll get into the sampling plan.

20 Okay. Next slide.

21 (Slide)

22 COL. FIALA: Purpose is to involve the
23 local community in the decision-making process and
24 to allow -- in a more formalized process the
25 exchange of information, both between us in the

1 community and back.

2 Next slide.

3 (Slide)

4 COL. FIALA: Composition on what the RAB
5 is. It includes my staff. It will include members
6 of -- of the EPA. More importantly, members of --
7 of this community will be on the board, along with
8 D.C. Health. And we'll bring in local businesses
9 and -- and -- and other institutions. The key piece
10 of this is you all will decide who in the community
11 will represent you on -- on this board.

12 Okay. Let me walk through how we -- how we
13 do this. What I'm going to tell you tonight we've
14 already given -- we've already passed out in your
15 folder, so if I get -- I go a little fast tonight
16 you can look at it and go through.

17 We're going to be passing around clipboards
18 here tonight and ask you if you're interested in --
19 in one of these two pieces of this to -- to sign up.

20 And -- and -- and that way we're going to gauge --
21 we're going to gauge some interest, whether or not
22 there is interest in the -- in the community.

23 Selection committee. This -- this -- this
24 allows the community to be insulated from -- from
25 the Federal agencies that are involved in this so

1 that empowers you all to make the selection who --
2 who gets on this advisory board.

3 So the selection committee, if you -- you -
4 - you put a check on the checklist, you're
5 interested, the committee will be selected -- the
6 selection committee will be select -- selected by
7 the Corps in consultation with D.C. and EPA.

8 A couple things. We'll want no more than
9 about 10 -- 10 members on the selection committee.
10 We'll gear from that to volunteer interest. And
11 we're going to look for a balance across the
12 community. Their purpose is to identify the
13 selection criteria, review what the RAB does -- I
14 mean -- excuse me. Review the applications and to
15 recommend to us.

16 Next slide.

17 (Slide)

18 COL. FIALA: If you want to be a RAB
19 member, here are -- here are some of the
20 responsibilities of a RAB member. And this is an
21 investment in time.

22 I'll point out that they were looking for
23 people that are -- are willing to participate on a
24 monthly basis for about a year to two years. You
25 attend meetings. You provide individual comments.

1 You -- you bring in issues that the community has.
2 And at the same time, you help participate in
3 reviewing of documentation and act as the
4 information conduit -- another information conduit
5 back out to the community.

6 And the bottom line is I can't pay you.

7 Next slide.

8 (Slide)

9 COL. FIALA: What I want to do tonight, and
10 -- and we'll gauge from -- from who signs up, is
11 whether or not there's -- there is interest in this.

12 We heard you back in the community meeting in
13 February. There was -- there were some folks that -
14 - that said we think we need a little bit more
15 formalized process. And so this is it. And this
16 allows us to do that.

17 It' a pretty quick time line. We're going
18 to -- we're going to ask you to identify the
19 selection committee. I'll make a decision that who
20 sits on the selection committee. The committee will
21 then get a -- a list of those folks that either sign
22 up tonight that want to sit on a RAB or sign up here
23 within next couple weeks. They want to -- to sit on
24 the RAB.

25 They'll go through the selection process.

1 They'll lay out for me. And then again, with --
2 with EPA and D.C. Health, we'll make a decision on
3 who sits in -- sits in it. And we'll hold --
4 announced the membership and hold first meeting, and
5 I want to try to kick that off about mid May. And
6 that is -- and again, is a -- a fast time line. But
7 we want to get on with -- we want to get on with
8 that.

9 Next slide.

10 (Slide)

11 COL. FIALA: Two -- two important things.
12 Already told you the -- the pamphlet if you've got
13 questions or concerns. There's more detailed
14 information than I -- than I really wanted to cover
15 tonight.

16 But the other piece is if you sit on the
17 selection committee, you can't be on the RAB. If
18 you want to be on the RAB, you can't be on the
19 selection committee. So that -- that insulates how
20 -- how the -- how the RAB is -- is -- is selected
21 and worked.

22 Okay. Next piece and probably most
23 important.

24 What we have here tonight is -- is what I
25 would call the proposed -- the proposed sampling

1 plan.

2 Next slide.

3 (Slide)

4 COL. FIALA: Here's my purpose. I'm going
5 to lay it out. The proposal includes expanded
6 sampling, and we've heard it already, for all
7 properties in Spring Valley. And we're here to
8 gauge initial feedback tonight and we're going to
9 gauge -- feedback over the next 30 days.

10 Next slide.

11 (Slide)

12 COL. FIALA: Just the background for those
13 that -- that -- that don't know
14 1917 to 19 -- 1919. The army leaves 661
15 acres -- two -- two pieces of the operation. The
16 American University Experiment Station. That is --
17 stationed -- that's where we did the chemical rounds
18 testing. And -- and delivery things.

19 And the other piece of -- of the property
20 was referred to as "Camp Leach." It was essentially
21 an engineer training -- training facility. We have
22 no historical documents or no indication whatsoever
23 that any chemical training were conducted at Camp
24 Leach.

25 Obviously, you all live on this property

1 now. And I don't need to go into that.

2 1993 to 1995, the Army, with the Corps of
3 Engineers as lead -- as the lead were out here.
4 Now, we looked at what -- what we call in the
5 business points of interest or point -- points of
6 interest. These are -- these are areas where we
7 thought potential chemical rounds disposal had taken
8 place. We focused on those based on historical
9 documents, aerial photographs, and -- and such. And
10 we went into those areas. We did the investigation.
11 And we did soil sampling testing.

12 Now, what we did in 1993 to 1995 is we went
13 down to the existing 1918 topography or elevations
14 and we tested for a -- a -- a slew of -- of chemical
15 contaminants, to include arsenic.

16 Okay. Next slide.

17 COL. FIALA: We came back in 1998 and we
18 expanded the testing for arsenic, both at subsurface
19 and -- and surface level based on specific POIs. We
20 had to come in and we looked specifically one in
21 particular that, to be honest with you, we missed by
22 150 feet. In '95 we'd been having this meeting if -
23 - if we'd guessed right. And it's not an exact
24 science.

25 But as a result of that, our focus has --

1 has been primarily the southeastern portion of AUES,
2 specifically around American University, Glenbrook
3 area.

4 Again, I don't need to tell you the
5 elevated arsenic levels in the soil found around the
6 -- the AU CDC, along with the media coverage has --
7 has elevated you all's concerns. So here's the
8 proposals process. Where are the generals? Where's
9 the senior leadership in the Army? We heard that in
10 your community meeting last -- last month. They're
11 here. Okay. Make no mistake about it. The senior
12 leadership is engaged in this process, and we're
13 dedicated to -- to making -- cleaning it up.

14 We -- after that community meeting we put
15 together an initial proposal, and then we -- we took
16 it to our partners in this: D.C. Health and the
17 EPA. Now, this project has -- has changed a little
18 bit in -- in -- in composition, and I would tell you
19 that -- that we are in -- in the soil contamination
20 business more than chemical rounds and byproducts
21 now at this point. And we deferred to the expert in
22 that business and -- and -- and Mr. Voltaggio was --
23 is up here from the EPA and he talked about that.
24 And so we listened very hard to their expertise.
25 We're not in the business of being the expert in

1 soil contamination; the EPA is.

2 So with our partners we adjusted the
3 proposal based on their input and the -- and the
4 input from the D.C. Health Department. We vented
5 this out with a few community members 'cause we kind
6 of wanted to get the -- making sure that we were
7 -- we were on the right track here. We then
8 convened the senior leadership -- a meeting of
9 senior leadership that included the folks behind me
10 that kind of took the plan that the worker bees had
11 come up with and refined that. And what we came up
12 with -- with was a proposal that combined a couple
13 of the option that -- options that we proposed.

14 Next slide.

15 (Slide)

16 COL. FIALA: Now, what we heard in both our
17 meeting last month and on the 6th of March were
18 these things. You wanted expeditious sampling of
19 every property for arsenic. More intense -- an
20 intensive investigation in certain areas for other
21 contaminants. You wanted a report to each property
22 owner on the results. And you wanted a letter of
23 certification that the contaminants had been
24 addressed. And I think that we've captured that,
25 and we -- we checked that again on the 6th of March.

1 Next slide.

2 (Slide)

3 COL. FIALA: We got together with the
4 senior leadership and -- and they had those same
5 concerns. But the bottom bullet was added there.
6 And it -- it was the sampling effort needs to be
7 based on -- on scientific and historical basis and
8 that we're just not out there sampling everybody's
9 property but there's some science involved in this.
10 And -- and -- and that's what we're going to lay
11 out now.

12 Next slide.

13 (Slide)

14 COL. FIALA: Comprehensive sampling plan.
15 It's going to include all residents -- residential
16 properties within the AUS -- AUES property, and non-
17 residential areas will be divided into half-acre
18 lots and we will take samples.

19 Next slide.

20 (Slide)

21 COL. FIALA: This is hard to see up there,
22 but you got a copy of this in -- in your folder.
23 And I'll just -- I'll make just a couple comments on
24 this.

25 Down in the far left corner -- far right

1 corner where you got the green mark -- and that's
2 AUES and that's the Glenbrook property areas.
3 That's where we are doing sampling right now and
4 that's where the CDC is and -- and -- and we're
5 continuing operations right there.

6 The purple area we are going to call the
7 central testing area, and I'll talk about that in
8 the future.

9 And then the rest of the properties outside
10 that, which is the border of the Spring Valley
11 property over all.

12 Next slide.

13 (Slide)

14 COL. FIALA: Okay. Here's how we're going
15 to do the comprehensive sampling. We're going to
16 take two samples -- two composite samples from each
17 lot. Each of those -- each of those samples are
18 going to consist of six -- soil taken from six --
19 six specific locations. We're going to mix 'em
20 together, put in the -- put 'em in a lab bottle, and
21 send it to the lab. We'll do two of those for each
22 property. So total of 12 areas within your property
23 will get sampled. We'll mix 'em together and send
24 'em -- send 'em to the lab.

25 In addition, we're going to take subsurface

1 sampling of 15 percent of the properties across the
2 whole area. We typically do that by coring down six
3 -- six to 10 feet and taking samples at each -- each
4 foot level.

5 In addition, in -- in working with the EPA
6 and D.C. Health, we're also going to sample for
7 other contaminants. We're still working to identify
8 what that list is with the EPA and D.C. Health and
9 we will develop -- develop that contamination list
10 and -- and the specific areas.

11 Next slide.

12 (Slide)

13 COL. FIALA: Very simply, this depicts it.

14 I'm going to take your -- we're going to take your
15 property, cut it in half. On the north half, if I -
16 - if I orient you north and south. We'll take --
17 six samples to the north of the line, put 'em
18 together in a bowl, mix 'em up, put 'em in a sample
19 bottle, send 'em to the lab. Now, this'll be the
20 same lab that we've used through the course of this
21 whole project so there isn't going to be any
22 variations on -- on -- on lab to lab, so we'll have
23 some consistency. The same thing with the southern
24 portion of your property.

25 Next slide.

1 (Slide)

2 COL. FIALA: This -- this is a depiction of
3 how we are going to take -- take the subsurface
4 sampling. If I lay the grid across -- across all of
5 Spring Valley and -- and -- and -- and imagine that
6 there were 180 -- 180 squares up there, we will go
7 and say, okay, we'll take samples -- subsurface
8 samples in here. Again, that's 15 percent sampling
9 over the whole course. That excludes the purple
10 area, which I'll talk about, which is the central
11 testing area and where we're -- we're conducting
12 operations down there in conjunction -- or in the
13 Glenbrook and American University area.

14 Next slide.

15 (Slide)

16 COL. FIALA: In the central testing area,
17 that's that purple area, we're going to do a little
18 bit more. We're going to take twice as many samples
19 on those properties. So all in all, you'll have
20 four composite samples taken for 24 locations. In
21 addition, we will take a subsurface sample on each
22 lot.

23 And again, within the central testing area,
24 we're going to work sampling for other contaminants.

25 Again, we don't have that list yet. We're still

1 working with the EPA and D.C. Health to develop
2 that.

3 Next slide.

4 (Slide)

5 COL. FIALA: A follow-on is if we find
6 elevated -- an elevated sample we're going to come
7 back in a grid pattern and lay out sampling, both
8 surface and subsurface depending on what we found.
9 And the same thing for other contaminants if we find
10 them.

11 Next slide.

12 (Slide)

13 COL. FIALA: Here's the schedule. I know
14 I'm laying this out for you tonight. It's a
15 proposal. We're going to listen to your concerns
16 tonight on -- on this plan and then we're going to
17 listen to your concerns over the next 30 days. In
18 addition to that, the mayor has established a D.C.
19 Scientific Advisory Committee. We're going to work
20 through the D.C. Health Department to lay out this
21 plan in front of this committee and get their input.

22 Once we get your input, once we get the
23 D.C. Scientific Advisory Committee, we'll have the
24 final plan. Between mid April and mid May then I
25 gotta work some contractual things. I also gotta

1 ask you for rights -- property right -- property
2 entry rights. And I need your cooperation in that,
3 too.

4 Now, let me -- let me arrest some fears.
5 I'm not going to come in there with a bulldozer and
6 tear up your front yard or your back yard. Let me
7 describe what a sample is.

8 I'm going to take a little piece of your --
9 your -- your turf -- and we're going to work with
10 you, by the way, on where you want. It may be in
11 your garden. I'm going to peel back the grass. I'm
12 going to dig a hole down about six inches. I'm
13 going to take that soil out, and that's -- that's
14 what that sample's going to -- going to be. So it's
15 not a -- you know, we're not tearing your yards up.
16 You're not tearing your property up to -- to do
17 these samples.

18 We will start in -- in where we think the
19 biggest risk is, and that is the central testing
20 area. We're going to start there in mid May and
21 work through mid August. And then we're going to
22 expand out and hit the rest of the properties,
23 focusing on properties and lastly hitting areas that
24 we don't either have any -- any property development
25 done or -- or in some cases Federal property that we

1 have out there.

2 Lastly, hopefully you all know we've been
3 very flexible in -- in -- in this process and will
4 continue to be flexible. So if you got a property
5 up for sale, we're going to work with you to try to
6 get your -- your -- your property bounced up on the
7 priority and sampled.

8 Okay. Next slide.

9 (Slide)

10 COL. FIALA: Here's what we owe you when
11 we've finished, okay? You're going to get a letter
12 from -- from my team down here that lays out the
13 results within 45 days of knocking on your door.
14 Hi, we're the Corps of Engineers or we're a
15 contractor working for the Corps of Engineers, we're
16 going to take samples in your yard. 45 days you
17 should get a letter from us.

18 In addition to that, the EPA will also be
19 sending you a letter after they get the results and
20 they get the reviews results addressing each
21 property.

22 Next slide.

23 (Slide)

24 COL. FIALA: What I'm looking for from you
25 all. I'm going to listen to your comments tonight.

1 We're going to listen to your comments tonight.
2 But I don't intend to -- to cut it off there.
3 You've got our address. We've got e-mail. We've
4 got a web site. I got a fax. The only thing I'm
5 not going to give you is Brian Plaisted's home phone
6 number, okay?

7 And we're going to consider all that before
8 we make a final decision.

9 Next slide.

10 (Slide)

11 COL. FIALA: What I can tell you is this --
12 there aren't any easy solutions here and it's a very
13 complex mission that we're -- we're trying to do.
14 The Army's dedicated, and you heard it from all the
15 senior leaders that have come up here tonight, we're
16 dedicated to -- to bringing you what I would call
17 best government possible. And we're going to --
18 we're going to be in this thing until we've resolved
19 all your concerns.

20 Okay. With that, I'm going to turn it back
21 over to -- I'm sorry. Yes, you're right.

22 Next slide. Next meeting night. See, I
23 got my guy. He's -- he's working, making sure I
24 didn't screw up.

25 (Slide)

1 COL. FIALA: Next meeting date. I'm
2 proposing the 1st of May. By then I know whether
3 we're going to have a RAB. By then I know whether
4 or not we're going to have interest in the community
5 for a RAB. By then I'll know what your comments
6 are. And by then I'll know what -- what the plan
7 is. We'll be able to talk it through.

8 Okay. With that, we're going to open up
9 questions. Susan?

10 Questions and Answers

11 MS. WARNER: Thank you. Let me, first of
12 all, address one question that has already arrived
13 to me, and that is we're seeing a lot of slides
14 here, we can't possibly take all these notes. You
15 don't need to because these presentations that are
16 on slides will be on the web site. So don't be
17 concerned about that aspect.

18 Now, we will need to go to our meeting
19 protocol that says that you either pass your
20 question to the center aisle for it to be read over
21 the microphone and then our experts will answer it
22 or you need to go to the microphones at the middle
23 of the church there for these questions.
24 Unfortunately, we tried to repeat the question and
25 so forth but we're not getting -- the court reporter

1 is not able to hear us adequately. So we really do
2 need to have you proceed to the back.

3 We're going to begin with questions on the
4 RAB. So if you have questions about -- okay. We
5 want to get --

6 COL. FIALA: I'm in charge here, so --

7 MS. WARNER: All right.

8 COL. FIALA: -- change the --

9 MS. WARNER: He certainly --

10 COL. FIALA: I can change this. I got --
11 I've got Ted Gordon from D.C. Health here. Before -
12 - before we get to questions, there's another piece
13 to this thing and we ought to be listening -- we
14 ought to -- we ought to give the floor to -- to Ted,
15 and -- and I'll -- I'll let you.

16 MR. GORDON: Thank you, Colonel.
17 Appreciate that.

18 Good afternoon. My name is Theodore
19 Gordon. I'm the Chief Operating Officer for the
20 D.C. Department of Health. What I'd like to -- to -
21 - to -- to first leave with you is that we have been
22 working very closely with the Corps of Engineers and
23 Col. Fiala and the U.S. Environmental Protection
24 Agency. We've rolled our sleeves up. We know
25 there's a lot of concerns from the community. We

1 met with probably over 60 scientists and engineers
2 and we rolled our sleeves up and we've come up with
3 a sampling protocol that we hope will meet the
4 needs. We are confident with it from the D.C.
5 Department of Health.

6 We have a responsibility to protect the
7 health and safety of this community. I've just come
8 from a meeting with the mayor. The very -- the
9 mayor is very much committed. He has appointed
10 probably one of the most prestigious scientific
11 advisory committees I think in the country.

12 I also want to commend Col. Fiala, the
13 Corps, and Tom Voltaggio. They've worked very hard
14 and there's -- there's a real teamwork spirit. And
15 we want to move forward to get this resolved, and we
16 want to resolve it in a way that you have comfort in
17 your community for your families and your children.

18 And we also want to make sure that there certainly
19 are no pathways for disease or no one is at risk in
20 this community.

21 So for further ado, I'm going to ask Dr.
22 Balis Walker, who is the chairman of the Mayor's
23 Scientific Advisory Committee, to come up. Dr.
24 Walker is also a professor of occupational and
25 environmental medicine at Howard University and he

1 also chairs the Mayor's Health Policy Council for
2 the District of Columbia.

3 Dr. Walker?

4 DR. WALKER: Thank you, Ted.

5 The mayor has asked us to assemble a group
6 of scientists, and I would release the names tonight
7 but with the exception of the fact that we have two
8 scientists at the National Institutes of Health who
9 are now out of the country and we have not been able
10 -- been able to confirm their participation.

11 I chair the Committee on Toxicology of the
12 National Academy of Sciences, and we'll be drawing
13 on that resource to work with us in advising the
14 District of Columbia as to what additional
15 procedures are necessary or appropriate. We will
16 assist the District in interpreting both the soil
17 sampling data and the human data that we will be
18 able to assemble. And we will move along as the
19 sampling process that's outlined by the colonel
20 moves along. Thanks very much.

21 MS. WARNER: Okay. Now I think we're back
22 and ready to proceed.

23 The first set of questions we would like to
24 have addressed are those that are questions about
25 the RAB. So hold your questions on the sampling for

1 a moment and let's see what questions we have with
2 regard to the RAB.

3 Gentleman at the back, is that your
4 question?

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes. Thank you very
6 much.

7 MS. WARNER: Thank you.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: First of all, thank you
9 for organizing this meeting. I think it's very well
10 done.

11 I think the RAB idea is an excellent one,
12 and I commend you for it. I think -- am I correct
13 in assuming that 10 of the 20 members of the
14 committee will be from the community? That's a
15 question and then a suggestion.

16 I think that if that is correct there
17 should be some additional members, substitute
18 members that are available to serve in case of
19 illness or in case of travel or what not. In other
20 words, a -- backup system so that the community is
21 continuously represented. Thank you.

22 COL. FIALA: Let me -- let me respond to
23 that. Yeah, we can -- we can do -- I was remiss in
24 pointing out that when we formed the -- the RAB
25 there'll be a co-chair.

1 One of the chairs is this guy right here,
2 Captain Promotable, soon to be a major, Mike
3 Pelliquin who, by the way, will be taking over for
4 Major Plaisted here this summer.

5 And the other co-chair will be a -- a member
6 elected by the community to co-chair. So I want to
7 make sure that that -- that's clear. I was remiss
8 in that.

9 We've got a total of 20, so I think -- I
10 think --

11 MAJOR PLAISTED: There's a maximum of 20.
12 The idea -- the idea is that you get a community
13 that's too large, then it becomes difficult,
14 unwieldy, and so maximum of 20. There's probably
15 going to be five or six or seven, as an example,
16 EPA, D.C. Health, the Corps of Engineers be members.

17 But it -- the number on the -- it's really going to
18 be dependent on how much interest there is from the
19 community, who -- who -- who and what this election
20 committee decides as far as how many they think are
21 appropriate to put forward to Col. Fiala for
22 actually serving on the RAB.

23 MS. WARNER: Another question on the
24 RAB at the back microphone. If any of the rest of
25 you -- let me just say before you pose your

1 question, sir -- have questions on the RAB but don't
2 care to get up and go to the microphone, if you
3 would pass those to the center aisle and that person
4 now is the designated co-facilitator with us. If
5 you'll hold those up we'll pick them up and then
6 make sure those are answered.

7 To the back?

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I have two issues. One
9 has to do with the right of entry and the other has
10 to do with the letters that we would ultimately
11 receive.

12 First, is the right of entry in the same
13 form that the neighborhood negotiated with the Army
14 Corps? If not, why not?

15 (Pause)

16 MR. TURKELL: I'm Jim Turkell. I'm the
17 chief of Real Estate and my staff will be working
18 with the community on obtaining the rights of entry.

19 The right of entry is in substantially the same
20 form. There might have been a few tweaks in this
21 latest round of -- of work that we've been doing
22 here. Certainly, if you see something in there,
23 there is -- of concern, just as we went through a
24 process of refinement last time, we are open to any
25 concerns that you might have with respect to the

1 right of entry.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Well, it might help if
3 you would send to someone whatever you have done
4 with the form as it was initially negotiated so the
5 neighborhood would know what it is that you have
6 changed.

7 The second question has to do with the --
8 with the letters that we will ultimately receive.
9 What will be the financial backing to those letters
10 so that every home owner will know that they own a
11 piece of property that they can sell with a letter
12 of assurance from the EPA and from the Army Corps
13 which, if the letter is inaccurate, will have
14 financial liability attached to the EPA and the Army
15 Corps of Engineers?

16 MR. VOLTAGGIO: Well, I'll speak for EPA.
17 We are, again, the experts on chemical contamination
18 and any health risks which may ensue from it.

19 Over the past 20 years we have been sending
20 letters to people who have had their homes or
21 property sampled by -- by us. These letters
22 basically indicate what sampling was done, what the
23 results of that sampling were, and what, if any,
24 health risks ensue from an evaluation of that
25 sampling and a determination of whether it presents

1 any acute or chronic health risks.

2 That is the extent of the letter that EPA
3 can provide. It basically says we have sampled your
4 property, here's what the sampling shows, here is
5 the analysis of whether or not it presents a short
6 or long-term health risk.

7 We have been, oh, probably we've had dozens
8 of situations where folks have wanted more, folks
9 have wanted some kind of assurance beyond that which
10 we're capable of providing. We are the experts on
11 determining what is -- what may be health risks from
12 a sampling that has occurred. We can provide that.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I submit -- I submit that
14 that is absolutely inadequate. That is not right
15 for the U.S. government that was the initial cause
16 of all of this. The U.S. government has to be
17 financially liable for whatever the result of all of
18 this is. And if you have to get an act of congress,
19 I would respectfully submit that you should do that.

20 MR. VOLTAGGIO: We are responsible for any
21 contamination which exists on a property, and the
22 government is here to clean that up. And it will be
23 based on the sampling that we do. Make no -- make
24 no mistake that the government stands behind its
25 responsibility to clean up contamination that it

1 finds.

2 The question that was asked is what would a
3 letter from EPA state with regard to what it finds,
4 what the Corps finds with regard to its sampling.
5 We will do that.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes, but I'm asking more
7 than that. I'm -- I'm asking what will the
8 financial backing be for those -- so those -- for
9 those letters so that a buyer will know that if
10 something is wrong with the letter they will be
11 fully reimbursed by the U.S. government for whatever
12 the problem is so that any seller of any home in
13 this area will be fully, fully protected?

14 MR. VOLTAGGIO: I understand your question.
15 We can be discussing that within the RAB. I can
16 tell you what we can -- what we are going into the
17 discussion with based on the history and experience
18 of what we've done. This is definitely a subject
19 for us to discuss further.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Well, I would submit this
21 is the single most important --

22 MR. VOLTAGGIO: Under --

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: -- subject other than the
24 health and the safety or otherwise the paper's only
25 worth what has been written on it, which isn't

1 actually very much.

2 MR. VOLTAGGIO: I -- I just would say that
3 the -- the involvement of the government for the
4 last seven years is indicative of the cleanup that
5 will be occurring when we find contamination.

6 MS. WARNER: If I could remind you that
7 we're addressing questions on the RAB at this point.
8 We have not moved to questions on the sampling.
9 These are questions on the RAB. And I will have to
10 ask you to step back if that's not the nature of
11 your question.

12 Gentleman in the back, I believe you were
13 next.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay. Col. Fiala, you
15 mentioned no compensation for the community members.
16 I was wondering if you could discuss the technical
17 support or assistance grants that -- that you -- on
18 some occasions provide to the community?

19 COL. FIALA: I can go ahead and address
20 that. There's a program called the Technical
21 Assistance Program. Generally, it's up to \$25,000
22 for a restoration -- for an individual or a group of
23 individuals to advise the Restoration Advisory Board
24 on technical matters. That -- that's renewable over
25 several years, I think a maximum of 50,000 or

1 \$100,000 total over the time period.

2 So what it does is allows the Restoration
3 Advisory Board to have some independent expertise.
4 Obviously, you all are not experts in arsenic or
5 soil sampling necessarily, but it does allow the
6 Restoration Advisory Board to have that outside
7 expertise that's not coming from the Corps of
8 Engineers or from the EPA.

9 MS. WARNER: Are there additional questions
10 on the RAB?

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My question is on the
12 RAB. I am Mary Bresnahan, and my question is
13 regarding the RAB and who would have -- who would be
14 the point person to have contact with the D.C.
15 government and the coordinating of all of the
16 activities that fall under the D.C. government, in
17 particular when it comes to activities that are in
18 progress regarding the Zoning Commission and the
19 Board of Zoning Adjustment and further processing
20 applications?

21 (Pause)

22 MR. GORDON: With reference to any
23 construction activities going on in the community,
24 we have notified the director of the D.C. Department
25 of Consumer Regulatory Affairs. We have provided

1 them with a map of the community and we've defined
2 the points of interest. And we've requested that
3 any permit applications that are filed we be
4 notified immediately before any issuance so that we
5 can provide technical consultation and coordinate
6 with the Army Corps of Engineers.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Does this also apply to
8 the Zoning Commission?

9 MR. GORDON: We will coordinate with the
10 Zoning Commission if -- if -- if necessary and
11 appropriate, yes.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you very much.

13 (Pause)

14 ASSISTANT: I have a RAB question from the
15 audience. What is the criteria for selecting the
16 RAB and who decides?

17 MAJOR PLAISTED: It was stated on the slide
18 the selection criteria for the RAB is actually
19 established by the selection committee. So the
20 members of the selection committee decide what the
21 criteria are for the individuals who serve on the
22 RAB. And what -- the selection committee really
23 isn't -- is an ability for the community to decide
24 who is actually going to sit on the -- on the
25 Restoration Advisory Board.

1 The selection committee will be based on
2 those people who volunteer based on the -- the sign-
3 in sheets that we've passed around. Col. Fiala
4 makes the determination about the selection
5 committee in consultation with the D.C. Health
6 Department and EPA. So what we're trying to do is -
7 - is the selection committee, hopefully, will be
8 somewhat of an independent body, make -- look at all
9 the Restoration Advisory Board applications, and
10 then make a recommendation back to Col. Fiala and
11 D.C. Health and EPA about these are the people that
12 we feel are best qualified to serve on the -- the
13 Restoration Advisory Board.

14 MS. WARNER: Are there additional questions
15 on the RAB? And if you would -- if you have any, if
16 you would pass those to the center aisle if you're
17 not willing or wish to get up and present? May I
18 assume that those that are holding politely, and I
19 thank you for so doing, have questions on the
20 sampling? Is that correct?

21 Okay. Excuse me, sir. As you're walking
22 back, on the sampling?

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

24 MS. WARNER: Okay. I think we're then
25 ready to move to that. That closes out the

1 questions at this point on the RAB. However, if you
2 recall from our earlier structure, there will be one
3 of our breakout sessions on the RAB, so further
4 questions on RAB can be addressed there.

5 We'll now begin with our questions on the
6 sampling procedure. Gentleman at the -- or person
7 at the back? I'm sorry. I can't quite see that
8 person.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: -- got my new haircut
10 today.

11 I'm Dr. Rosa Quinn. I work for a company
12 that's providing support for property owners in
13 Spring Valley. And I have a couple questions about
14 the proposed sampling plan. I guess aside from the
15 question I think that's arisen earlier about
16 compositing of samples which can serve to dilute hot
17 spots -- I'll sort of leave that 'cause I think it's
18 been addressed before.

19 My other question really has to do with
20 this additional suite of analytes that's going to be
21 applied to some of the samples that are going to be
22 collected from the deep borings. I want to know
23 whether there are results available for some other
24 locations, some locations that have already been
25 sampled for these additional suite of analytes?

1 Basically, the question is everybody's focusing on
2 arsenic. What about some of the other compounds
3 that are problematic?

4 And the next question has to do with data-
5 sharing. Of course, every individual is going to be
6 provided a letter stating what happens with their
7 property, but what about areas where somebody might
8 be concerned about a comprehensive set of the data?

9 You know, what's happening in your neighbor's yard
10 or across the street? What were the general
11 results? How is that going to be presented or dealt
12 with with the sampling and data handling?

13 MAJOR PLAISTED: Let me start with the --
14 the question on other analytes. There has been
15 previous sampling for, as an example, mustard agent
16 and mustard agent breakdown products, lucite agent,
17 cyanide. That was done in the '93 to '95 time frame
18 at various depths. Those were all taken at the 19-
19 18 surface level, so some places that may have been
20 on the surface, some places that may have been two,
21 three, four, seven feet and deep.

22 So that sampling essentially showed no --
23 none of those contaminants were detected at those
24 particular locations. They sampled predominantly at
25 the points of interest. There was, I think, eight

1 primary points of interest that are all within the
2 central testing area that you see in that -- that
3 purple area on the map.

4 As far as the -- I think the second part of
5 the question -- senior moment here.

6 (Pause)

7 MAJOR PLAISTED: Oh, data. That's right.
8 The -- the sharing of the data. There -- there will
9 be a remedial investigation report that comes out
10 after -- so the individual property owners will get
11 a letter. When we get done with the entire sampling
12 everywhere, there'll be a remedial investigation
13 report which will have the sample data for all of
14 the samples that were taken. So that report would
15 be available for people to look at as a -- as a
16 holistic manner all the samples that were taken
17 throughout the -- the neighborhood.

18 (Pause)

19 MAJOR PLAISTED: Oh. Yeah. Also -- we
20 also will continue to send out our newsletter as
21 well with, you know, general sample results. We
22 won't necessarily send out specific, you know,
23 values for a particular property but we'll generally
24 tell, say we've got these elevated levels in this
25 particular area that we would need to be addressed.

1 MS. WARNER: And since we have several
2 people who are really playing by the rules, I want
3 to acknowledge you on this side on my right in the
4 green shirt, dark green shirt first, and the
5 gentleman over here with the red -- maroon shirt on
6 second, and then sir, that you stepped up. So if we
7 could go in that order, please? Thank you.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm Randy Blake, and this
9 question's to the Army Corps of Engineers
10 specifically.

11 I live a stone's throw from the central --
12 so-called central testing area, specifically the --
13 the old mustard field, although I guess I'm
14 technically outside of that at this point. And what
15 I would like to see is strong consideration given to
16 possibly expediting the soil testing program to the
17 sites that are outside the central testing so that
18 we don't potentially have to wait all the way -- all
19 the way until December or January.

20 I understand that you do have to expedite
21 testing on the central testing area, although many
22 of those properties have already been -- been looked
23 at, you know, one time around, although, you know,
24 certainly, those are the greatest concern. But I
25 think the rest of us do have a lot of concern, too,

1 based upon anecdotal evidence that I've picked up by
2 many people who are outside the central testing --
3 the central testing area going ahead and spending
4 2500 to \$5000 to get their properties privately
5 tested. And I think there's certainly a level of
6 anxiety that -- that people feel outside of those
7 areas and -- which are -- which obviously everybody
8 knows are not very clearly defined. They're pretty
9 much done by, you know -- you know, best guess by
10 photographic evidence and so forth, which I think we
11 all understand.

12 So I'd like to see the Army Corps of
13 Engineers -- you know, again, this is a question but
14 also something to think about as well as the
15 citizen's advisory folks to think about, trying to
16 expedite that to move it up. Maybe we have
17 simultaneous testing. It's probably not going to
18 cost you too much more anyway by hiring duplicate --
19 you know, hiring several crews to work at the same
20 time. You're just going to get it done quicker.
21 And maybe you could shed some -- some views on that
22 at this point.

23 MAJOR PLAISTED: I understand your point.
24 And -- and as an example, I don't think your
25 property would be tested in -- in December. I think

1 it certainly would be tested probably shortly after
2 the central testing area would be done. Just
3 because there's a lot of non-residential areas that
4 certainly are going to be at the end of the -- the -
5 - that additional testing period. So I think most
6 of the residential properties are going to be done,
7 you know, by the -- by the fall. You know, mid,
8 late fall, somewhere in there.

9 As far as your -- your -- the issue about,
10 you know -- oh, more than one team. We've already -
11 - we've already actually set up a plan for four
12 teams to sample so we're -- we're already looking at
13 additional teams right now to do more sampling. One
14 of the, probably, the constraints is the lab. The
15 lab is actually going to bring on different --
16 additional shifts in order to handle all of the --
17 the samples that we're going to generate. We're
18 talking probably in excess of, you know, five, six
19 thousand samples that we're talking about here in
20 this area, and that's a lot of sample for the -- for
21 the labs to handle. And so they're going to
22 actually bring on additional sample processors in
23 order to address that.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Any further information
25 as we -- as we go through the commenting process on

1 the mechanics of that I think would help, too.

2 MAJOR PLAISTED: Okay.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Which I'm sure you'll
4 share with us, but of course we haven't gotten it,
5 you know, --

6 MAJOR PLAISTED: Okay.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: -- up to now. Thank you.

8 (Pause)

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. I welcome the
10 proposal to sample every property in the area. I
11 have two questions. First is in relation to the
12 limited sampling that's taking place outside the
13 core area. What is the reason for not testing for
14 other contaminants? Are you confident that there
15 are no possible other contaminants? And in relation
16 to that, I wonder whether there's any proposal to
17 share the information which is already being
18 gathered by people who have had private samples
19 done?

20 My second question relates to advice from
21 the D.C. Health Board that was published in "The
22 Washington Post" that although it's safe to go out
23 into the yard it is better to avoid any contact with
24 the soil. Anyone with children under five will know
25 that is like asking a cat not to wash. It is

1 virtually impossible and our children have obviously
2 been in regular contact with the soil throughout the
3 summer for the last two years. And therefore, we
4 are a bit concerned about that advice. I wonder
5 whether D.C. Health Board could say whether that
6 advice still stands and therefore how we should try
7 and avoid any adverse consequences before the
8 sampling is done and the all clear given? Thank
9 you.

10 MAJOR PLAISTED: On other contaminants, we
11 are looking at other contaminants outside of the
12 central testing area. That's part of our looking at
13 the aerial photographs, the historical
14 documentation. So we will be doing additional
15 sampling outside of -- of that area -- outside of
16 the central testing area for other contaminants.

17 Then also, on the sharing of private
18 sampling, some people have shared those results with
19 us, asked for, maybe, some input on that. I don't
20 believe we have the ability to share the private
21 results that we get with other property owners. I
22 believe that's really a privacy issue. If they want
23 to share that, then that would be fine but we -- we
24 don't have any intention of -- of sharing results --
25 private results with -- with other property owners.

1 MR. GORDON: First of all, you don't want
2 to believe everything you read in "The Washington
3 Post." Let me just say that.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: They were quoting the
5 D.C. Health Board.

6 MR. GORDON: I know, but --

7 (Laughter)

8 MR. GORDON: Well, I won't go there.

9 (Laughter)

10 MR. GORDON: We have -- in the Department
11 of Health have published "The Spring Valley
12 Newsletter" that we're distributing throughout the
13 community. And we have in this newsletter provided
14 protective guidance.

15 Mowing. You can use your lawn mower and
16 your leaf blower. However, when operating them
17 protect yourself from inhalation or ingestion of
18 dust by wearing a simple dust mask that can be
19 purchased at any hardware store.

20 Gardening and other yard work. Use
21 protective gloves to reduce contact with the soil.

22 Consuming vegetables grown in your yard or
23 your garden. At this time we are advising that
24 residents do not eat home-grown vegetables until
25 further testing has been completed.

1 Spending time in yard. We don't feel that
2 you or your children or your pet should stay out of
3 your yard. However, try to minimize your contact
4 with the soil. Use simple hygiene practices to
5 reduce the possibility of exposure. And then we
6 also provide -- and what we've done on the
7 construction activities.

8 It's basically common sense. We know that
9 there may be contaminants in the soil. If -- if --
10 if you're kicking up dust, if it's at the surface
11 level, if you're gardening, protect yourself. It's
12 common sense. If there's grass and there's a heavy
13 growth and you don't have exposure to soil, then I -
14 - I would say that the risk is extremely minimal.
15 But we want to take protective cautions until we've
16 brought this to closure.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. I wonder if
18 it would be possible to share the -- the -- terms of
19 reference for the new sampling plan with the
20 community along with some information about the
21 detailed budget breakdown?

22 The second point is that I'm concerned
23 about the hydrological impact of the central testing
24 area and the watershed and wonder what, if anything,
25 is being considered to -- to look at the adjacent

1 area where the watershed impact could be
2 significant?

3 Then a suggestion related to that. The
4 maps that you have developed are quite good but it's
5 very, very hard to pick out the points of interest.

6 The numbering system on the map is almost
7 illegible, and it would help enormously for purposes
8 of discussion to have a -- a more legible numbering
9 system.

10 COL. FIALA: I'll try to answer the budget
11 piece. I guess if your question is there enough
12 money, the answer is yes. I have enough money to --
13 to lay out what I proposed here. And if at some
14 point we don't, the Department of the Army has
15 already assured us that they'll move money from
16 other -- other -- other projects within the Fed's
17 program to meet those things. So I don't have a
18 funding issue, so if that -- hopefully that answers
19 that first part --

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Well, I'm also concerned
21 about the detailed terms of reference and how you're
22 going to carry this out. Is -- is there such a
23 thing? Or how do you -- how do you proceed with
24 this plan once you've decided or once the -- all of
25 the parties concerned decided that this is the plan

1 that you want to go ahead with?

2 COL. FIALA: Okay. Once I decide how to
3 plan -- you mean what --

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah, I mean --

5 COL. FIALA: -- the cost --

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Usually -- usually in the
7 Corps of Engineers at any project that I know about
8 has a detailed terms of reference that spells out
9 the -- the technical specifications that have to be
10 followed in order to render the product, what kind
11 of specialized information is going to be needed,
12 the database, the kinds of specialized inputs from
13 some people that know what they're doing.

14 COL. FIALA: Yeah.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That kind of thing.

16 COL. FIALA: I -- we've -- we're really not
17 changing anything. We're just expanding. We've
18 done this for -- for quite a -- quite a few months
19 now. So -- so we have the protocol. We have the
20 specifications. We're just expanding what we're
21 doing.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So -- so am I to conclude
23 from that that there would be no problem in sharing
24 that with the community if anyone is --

25 COL. FIALA: No, there --

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: -- interested?

2 COL. FIALA: -- there isn't a problem with
3 that. I think we can do that, right? The
4 specifications. Yeah, yeah. That's what you --
5 yes.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah. Yeah.

7 (Inaudible comment)

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Near the central testing
9 area. How you plan to -- what are your current
10 thoughts about handling the issue of hydrology?

11 COL. FIALA: I'm going to have Brian --
12 Brian help, but --

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah.

14 COL. FIALA: -- let me -- let me get
15 something on the table here and -- and assure you.

16 One of the other jobs that the Baltimore
17 District Corps of Engineers has is -- is we -- we
18 run the Washington aqueduct right out of the road.
19 Okay. We pull water out of the Potomac River, store
20 it in the -- lake and McMillan Reservoir and another
21 reservoir down the road. We monitor the quality of
22 water coming in, out in the process. D.C. Health
23 has -- has got access to that data. There has not
24 been one indication that we have -- have seen any --
25 any -- any levels of arsenic in those samples.

1 In addition, we have taken samples in the
2 Glenbrook -- around the Glenbrook properties, pulled
3 water out of the tap and found -- found no -- no
4 instances or no problems there.

5 We are working right now with the D.C.
6 government to -- to see whether or not we can
7 address other hydrological problems. But -- but I
8 will tell you, and I got Brian standing up here
9 because I may get the data wrong, but when we --
10 when we were excavating in the large pit in the
11 Glenbrook area we went down 19 feet and we didn't
12 hit any water and we didn't hit any -- any problem.

13 And to my knowledge, we've -- we've tested what
14 surface water that we've -- we have in the area and
15 found no indications at this point.

16 The geologic structure of -- of -- of the
17 area makes it awfully hard to find ground water or a
18 ground water pollution or plume because it's a
19 fractured type geologic formation. But one of the
20 ways we can get around that is -- is do some more
21 sampling of -- of -- of surface -- surface water and
22 if there are any wells or anything pull samples out
23 of the wells.

24 But at this point, if you all are asking is
25 your water safe, I think I got concurrence with D.C.

1 -- D.C. Department of Health. I mean the water that
2 you're pulling out of your tap is -- is -- is safe
3 and will be.

4 MAJOR PLAISTED: The only other thing I
5 would add is that we have sampled in East Creek and
6 also in Mill Creek. I'm not sure if that
7 necessarily addresses all of the watersheds you're
8 concerned about, but samples have been taken in both
9 those locations with no elevated levels in either of
10 those except for the very upper reach of East Creek
11 near American University.

12 MR. GORDON: We have absolutely no evidence
13 of any contamination of the drinking water system at
14 all. However, we are going to be monitoring some
15 streams. We are going to be conducting biological
16 studies of those streams to see what the aquatic
17 life is in those streams. There have been some
18 samples that have been taken and shown some
19 contamination and sediment of those surface body
20 waters. We're going to be monitoring those waters
21 and we are going to be in discussions with EPA.

22 We have what they call a TMDL schedule, and
23 that's Total Maximum Daily Loading. We know that
24 things run off, soil runs off, soil erosion into our
25 streams and is carried in our water bodies. We will

1 be in negotiations with EPA about shifting our TMDL
2 schedule to some of these surface water bodies to
3 determine whether or not there's any impact on our
4 streams.

5 Last but not least, we have gathered 20
6 years of surface water quality data and drinking
7 water data that we have provided to the chairman of
8 the Scientific Advisory Committee, and we're asking
9 them to review that 20 years of data to determine if
10 in fact there has been any impact. So we are
11 looking at surface water and ground water and also
12 the aquatic life of our streams within this
13 community. Thank you.

14 MS. WARNER: The gentleman in the blue
15 shirt and then Laurie, to you. You had picked up
16 three -- two or three questions, I think, that would
17 fall next in line. Then we'll go back over to -- to
18 this side.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. My name is
20 Frank Anastacy. I am not a member of the Spring
21 Valley community, but I live in Rockville, Maryland.
22 I'm a community technical advisor and I've helped
23 in restoration advisory boards and other community
24 groups at Superfund sites around -- actually, all
25 over the country right now.

1 And I had a couple of questions that I
2 don't want to ask them to corner anyone. I want to
3 try to help because that's what I try to do in these
4 situations.

5 But first of all, in response to the -- the
6 gentleman's question, it seemed to be -- before me.

7 He was asking -- I think he was asking about your
8 sampling plans. And don't you all maintain a
9 repository where you have your approved sampling
10 plans available for people to review if they're
11 interested in learning the details of how you're
12 sampling, what you're sampling, how you're
13 analyzing? Don't you all maintain that somewhere?

14 MAJOR PLAISTED: There is -- there is a
15 public repository at the Palisades Library.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Right. So that's a good
17 bit of information that some people may not know.

18 The second -- the first question, really,
19 has to do with the -- the sampling and the analysis
20 for arsenic, which seems to be the contaminant of
21 concern here. A really important aspect of looking
22 at are we exposed to a contaminant or not is the
23 bio-availability of -- of the element that may be
24 causing a problem. In this case it's arsenic. And
25 just like there may be asbestos here in this

1 building, if it's contained it's not presenting a
2 risk or -- it's not -- we're not being exposed to it
3 here today.

4 And if the arsenic in the ground here -- it
5 may be here in high concentrations, but if it's not
6 bio-available -- that is, if the chemical state is
7 not such that it can be released and absorbed into a
8 body or breathed and absorbed into the lungs or
9 exposed to vegetation and taken up by vegetation or
10 animal life, then it may not or is not presenting a
11 risk.

12 So my first question is have you all done
13 any chemical speciation, which is the technical term
14 for finding out what kind of complex this arsenic is
15 in to see if it is in fact bio-available to people?

16 Because that is an important factor that's
17 sometimes overlooked in investigations. So that's -
18 - that's my first question.

19 MAJOR PLAISTED: We have not done that yet,
20 but we are planning to do that. So we are going to
21 look at the speciation issue.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay. The second
23 question is they -- those other samples over the 15
24 percent of the area, I'm wondering what -- how are
25 you all selecting the locations for those? Is that

1 a random scientific method or is it based on
2 historical information that there may be a reason to
3 sample here versus there?

4 MAJOR PLAISTED: It'll be random.

5 (Pause)

6 ASSISTANT: I'm going to try to consolidate
7 several of the comments that I've been holding on
8 to, so I'll be asking you several questions. If --
9 maybe you could write them down, Susan?

10 Many, if not all of us have done extensive
11 property renovation. A six-inch sample may be only
12 new top soil brought in. Will deeper samples be
13 taken from renovated properties if owners request
14 it?

15 Second question. Are you only planning to
16 sample residential properties or are you sampling
17 commercial properties in Spring Valley? How are the
18 long-term employees and business men and women
19 ranked on the Army's priority scale?

20 (Pause)

21 ASSISTANT: I see she's trying to write it
22 down. Okay. Let me read the third question.

23 MAJOR PLAISTED: Let me -- let me just
24 answer --

25 ASSISTANT: Okay.

1 MAJOR PLAISTED: -- the first one. As far
2 as going deeper, that's certainly a good comment.
3 We'll take that under advisement. That -- that --
4 that was not something that we had necessarily
5 looked at. Generally, exposure that is most
6 concerning is in that zero to six inch range, but
7 that certainly is a valid comment. We'll take that
8 under advisement.

9 As far as -- it's all properties, both
10 residential and non-residential. So all properties
11 will be sampled.

12 ASSISTANT: And how are the -- long-term
13 employees and business men and women ranked on the
14 Army's priority scale?

15 MAJOR PLAISTED: I'm not sure --

16 ASSISTANT: Actually, I guess that doesn't
17 have to do with soil sampling, but --

18 (Laughter)

19 MAJOR PLAISTED: Certainly, the first
20 priority is in the -- is in the central test --
21 testing area. Then it would be other residential
22 areas. Certainly, the non-residential commercial
23 properties would be included in that. I think, as
24 an example, this -- this building right here is
25 actually, obviously, a non-residential property

1 that's within the testing area. And then we would
2 sort of -- those areas that -- as an example, the
3 Delcarlia Park on the other -- the west side of
4 Delcarlia Parkway is Federal property, not -- not
5 used at all. So that would be probably the lowest
6 priority.

7 ASSISTANT: Okay. Last question, and
8 probably for you, sir, Major Plaisted.

9 MAJOR PLAISTED: Mm-hmm.

10 ASSISTANT: Will the park land between
11 Hillbrook and Quebec be sampled? Many kids play
12 there and residents walk through it. Will adjacent
13 residents be notified of any problems in the park?

14 MAJOR PLAISTED: Certainly. That -- that
15 park land, if it's -- if it's a separate lot, we'll
16 -- we'll treat it as a separate lot. If it's a part
17 of -- of individual properties then we'll sample it
18 as part of individual properties. And -- and we
19 will certainly allow, you know, neighbors to -- to
20 know what the results are there.

21 (Pause)

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes. I -- I live at
23 Spring Valley. I don't -- sure I understand why
24 people who don't live here are here, but in any
25 event, I'd like to, I guess, offer one observation

1 on a change. I think there's been a dramatic change
2 and I want to commend the government for that from
3 the February meeting to now.

4 And particularly, Tom Voltaggio, I want to
5 commend your people. I've been on the phone with
6 them six to 10 times over the past three weeks in
7 terms of Mr. Christian and others about developing a
8 sampling plan, and I can see that they really have
9 moved forward fairly aggressively from what I'm used
10 to at other sites. So I think -- I think the
11 message was heard, and I think we -- we, in some
12 respects, want to try to look forward.

13 I think the -- the point that was raised
14 before, and I -- I am going to talk about the
15 sampling point just for a second, is that we're
16 concerned about health, obviously, as the key thing.

17 A number of us are also concerned about property
18 values. And a lot of that's going to be dependent
19 on the sampling plan and the samples that's
20 developed.

21 And you basically said you're open to
22 comments. You're open to questions about the
23 composite nature of the samples. You're open to
24 questions about the location. The grids that you
25 selected may not be adequate. If you look at the --

1 ASTM standard for property sales you may have to
2 take 'em closer together. And I think that type of
3 a thing we might want to get into in terms of how
4 many you take on each location. That's not a health
5 concern. That's more of a property value concern.
6 But it could be a health concern.

7 I think we also need to look at the UXO
8 issue that was raised last time. I think by the
9 admission of some, some of the equipment that was
10 used to look for the image -- ordinance was not
11 necessarily adequate, and I think we heard that
12 graphically described last time. So I don't think
13 I'd like to see that abandoned, and I'd hate to,
14 while you're doing these tests, find things in the
15 soil because the equipment you use is very different
16 than some of the equipment that you've used at other
17 sites in terms of the ability to detect things.

18 I think we heard a description last time at
19 the meeting that there were UXO is what? Six inches
20 put down or something to that effect by the trailer
21 that could not be detected by the equipment that we
22 used. So I think all these things are going to have
23 to be sort of woven into the sampling plan.

24 We also heard last time a lot of concern
25 about the AU plan, digging up on Tilden Street, et

1 cetera. And I'm still concerned that there's not a
2 lot of coordination in terms of the dust and other
3 things that are -- are going to be created if those
4 plans, which have already been permanent, go
5 forward. So I'd like you to take a look at that.

6 Lastly, I think I'd like to understand if
7 you'll make available to us. I just learned
8 yesterday that W.C.N.N. Miller had had a lawsuit
9 against the Corps -- the Army that was settled for
10 years ago for a substantial amount of money. And
11 there were a lot of documents produced in that case
12 that are under seal. And I think we ought to -- as
13 a community, are entitled to see those, so I'd like
14 to request that the Army -- the Army JAG Corps or
15 whomever go ahead and move to take those out from
16 under seal so we can explore them.

17 Lastly, Mr. Voltaggio, I talked to your
18 staff about the fact that the Palisades Library
19 record is entirely inadequate. There are more
20 documents referenced that are not there than are
21 there. And I think we need to figure out a better
22 way to get information available to the community in
23 a central locale. So I'd like -- I think that has
24 to be worked on, too.

25 But I think the -- the sampling plan has

1 got to be carefully looked at. My concern is that
2 you have the RAB after the sampling plan. We need
3 some technical expertise to look at this plan and to
4 work with you on it. Not to fight you but to work
5 with you and to get this thing moving forward with
6 the least amount of publicity possible. So I'd just
7 -- if there's a way to try to meld those things
8 together, I would appreciate it.

9 (Pause)

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. I'm a resident of
11 Spring Valley many years ago. I've been gone for a
12 few years and I can very well appreciate that you
13 all are concerned with the present and the future.
14 But you have a whole community of the past, and I'm
15 curious as to how you're going to get in touch with
16 them and take medical histories and things because,
17 trust me, they have problems and it needs to be
18 dealt with.

19 So I'm curious as to how you're going to
20 handle that. Thank you.

21 (Pause)

22 MR. GORDON: One of the -- one of the
23 things that we have done in our newsletter and we've
24 advocated is we have a hotline for anyone who has
25 been a resident of Spring Valley, who is currently a

1 resident that has medical concerns or past medical
2 issues that they think may be associated. We have a
3 set of physicians who will contact you back from the
4 D.C. Department of Health based on the information
5 that you provide.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Sir, may I ask? I -- I
7 did call your office and I spoke with your assistant
8 and she had no knowledge of a hotline.

9 MR. GORDON: Well, --

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And also, how does
11 someone go about being put into the realm of
12 statistic? And also, where do they go to get
13 tested? Do they go to a private physician or do
14 they come to the Health Department?

15 MR. GORDON: The -- the Health Department
16 will advise you on what type of clinical direction
17 you should take based on the information that you
18 provide. I don't know who you spoke to at my office
19 as an assistant, but we have set up a hotline. It
20 is published. I'll be more than happy to provide it
21 with you after we leave here.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

23 MR. GORDON: Dr. -- Dr. Andrew Shamos is
24 the senior deputy director for primary care and
25 public health. Dr. Shamos is a physician. We also

1 have Dr. Michael Richardson, who's the chief of our
2 chronic disease program. We have a battery of
3 doctors that will respond to your questions and
4 provide you with whatever clinical guidance that is
5 necessary based on the information that's presented.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I just want to say one
7 thing to the population of Spring Valley. I grew up
8 there. I love that neighborhood. Don't take this
9 too lightly. Be very serious about what's going on
10 in your neighborhood.

11 (Pause)

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I have a question about
13 the scientific advisory panel. First, I'm thrilled
14 that we have Dr. Balis Walker. I know of his work
15 by reputation and we're extremely lucky to have him
16 chairing this particular panel.

17 What I'm wondering about is because you've
18 heard the range of issues that have been brought up
19 here. Should we be doing water sampling as a proxy
20 to see what's going on? What about other
21 contaminants? The range of expertise we're going to
22 need goes beyond just some of the health expertise,
23 and I'm not clear whether that's going to be part of
24 the advisory panel or whether we're going to be
25 relying on Corps hydrogeological experts or where

1 that expertise comes from, particularly because the
2 sampling plan -- we don't know the results yet so we
3 can't look at the health issues, but we do -- we do
4 need some of that other expertise early on.

5 DR. WALKER: We will have represented on
6 the advisory committee all of the appropriate
7 disciplines: epidemiology, toxicology, preventive
8 medicine, we'll have the whole list. That's one of
9 the reasons why we are not able to share with you
10 the names tonight, because we haven't completed our
11 recruitment process. Thank you very much.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. I am a Spring
13 Valley --

14 MR. GORDON: Excuse me. I would just like
15 to add a further comment. We also in the Department
16 of Health have hydrogeologists on staff that will be
17 monitoring this effort. We have what I would like
18 to characterize as one of the best water quality
19 programs in the country. We have one of the best
20 water quality engineers and a staff of engineers
21 that will be participating and providing information
22 and reviewing data. It is not limited just to our
23 core team. We are mobilizing our -- our entire
24 environmental health administration and the
25 expertise that we have in that administration to

1 provide assistance to the advisory panel.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I am a Spring Valley
3 resident and I have already had my property tested.

4 We have a property which is slightly less than a
5 half acre. And the Corps of Engineers came in
6 August and September and tested in 14 different
7 locations in our property. I have some questions
8 about the results that they have sent to me and I
9 think that other people might have similar questions
10 after their property is tested, so I thought it
11 might be pertinent to ask.

12 14 spots in a half an acre may sound like a
13 lot, but my -- my question, if -- if the Corps has
14 actually missed other locations in the past, what is
15 to guarantee that there might not be contamination
16 10 feet away from one -- from where -- from where my
17 property -- another site where my property was
18 tested?

19 I'm also very concerned about qualifiers
20 which were -- were attached to each of the findings.

21 Of the 14 samples that were taken on my property,
22 14 samples were qualified with the remarks that the
23 result is estimated due to a minor QAQC problem. 13
24 of the 14 samples were qualified with the words
25 "sample was diluted due to matrix interferences."

1 Are these findings still valid even though they have
2 these qualifiers attached to them?

3 And my last question regards why the levels
4 of arsenic, even though they're within acceptable
5 limits, are much higher at the surface, within the
6 first six inches of our soil, than they are several
7 feet down. Is this environmental or is there some
8 other explanation for it?

9 MAJOR PLAISTED: Let me start. The
10 question about qualifiers. The qualifiers -- I
11 don't know the specifics on your property.
12 Generally, the dilution question had to do with the
13 fact that there was something in the soil that was
14 interfering with the arsenic test that was being
15 conducted and so they needed to dilute that
16 particular sample in order to do the test
17 appropriately.

18 The -- the estimated qualifier, I -- I'd
19 have to check to be sure, but it may have had to do
20 with dig -- we also get quality assurance
21 information from the lab about -- and it has to be
22 certain EPA-specified values. And so if it falls
23 just outside of that range it's still valid data but
24 the EPA's validation rules require us to put a
25 qualifier on it saying that it's estimated.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So they're qualified
2 valid rules or valid findings?

3 MAJOR PLAISTED: Yes, they're still valid
4 findings. Absolutely. That's correct. They're --
5 they're still -- they're still valid findings.

6 As far as the surface being higher, it
7 probably has to do with, you know, as an example,
8 there's lots of different ways that arsenic can get
9 onto your soil. Pesticides and herbicides often had
10 arsenic in them up until, you know, the last 30 or
11 40 years, so the early part of this century there
12 was arsenic in those. Burning of coal was quite
13 frequent, you know, obviously, in the early part of
14 the century. That may have led to some arsenic
15 being deposited, you know, from the coal dust or
16 coal burning, so.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Well, presumably, the top
18 six inches of soil, though, has been somewhat turned
19 over in the past, you know, 30 to 50 years. But I'm
20 just wondering if this is a result of -- of arsenic
21 that's been borne in the air as a result of some of
22 the cleanup that's gone on.

23 MAJOR PLAISTED: No, I don't think so. The
24 -- the -- the background -- EPA took samples from
25 outside of the Spring Valley area and those values

1 ranged from three to about 18 parts per million.
2 That was sort of the range. They took about 30
3 samples. Generally, most of those values fell
4 between about three and 10 or 11 parts per million.

5 But there is -- there is -- there's arsenic
6 everywhere in the soil and there's a certain level
7 of arsenic in that human -- humans are adding
8 arsenic, unfortunately, you know, with our -- some
9 of our other, you know, pesticides and herbicides.
10 So -- so that's what we're using as a background
11 range is three to 18 parts per million.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And can you address my
13 question about the -- the potential arsenic
14 contamination in areas other than the -- those --
15 those small areas that you're testing?

16 MAJOR PLAISTED: Sure. The -- the -- the -
17 - sampling is really looking at trying to identify
18 where are there potential for arsenic elevation.
19 You know, and that -- and then we go back and do the
20 grid sampling on that particular area.

21 As an example, we just -- we're just
22 getting the results back on some of the properties
23 along Rockwood Parkway. One property that we
24 sampled didn't have any -- didn't have any elevated
25 composite levels but we sampled it because all other

1 properties looked like they would be elevated. We
2 found that none of the samples that we took on -- in
3 that particular grid were elevated, so we think it's
4 a valid process of screening for elevated arsenic
5 levels and then going back with the next level of
6 sampling, which is gridding the property off to find
7 out exactly what are those levels and where -- where
8 are they on the property.

9 We -- we generally -- the -- the screening
10 criteria that we use is, you know, 13 parts per
11 million. If it's above that, then -- then we're
12 wanting to go back and do additional sampling.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And so the properties
14 that have been tested and have found no elevated
15 levels will not be tested further?

16 MAJOR PLAISTED: That's correct.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

18 (Pause)

19 ASSISTANT: I'm consolidating several
20 comments which have to do with the large-scale earth
21 moving in the area. What is the Corps doing to
22 track the history of large-scale earth moving,
23 especially where contaminated soil may have moved
24 from currently known points of interest? Given the
25 surface soil movements which have taken place in

1 this area, how useful is sampling to a maximum depth
2 of six inches? And will you handle the soil
3 sampling differently for properties that are located
4 on fill?

5 MAJOR PLAISTED: As far as the -- the --
6 the concern is -- is for -- for the exposure in the
7 zero to six inch range or the -- or the -- the --
8 the range that -- that residents are going to be
9 exposed to -- actually, I guess it goes down to --
10 we cleared at the Glenbrook Road property down to
11 two feet. But the -- the biggest concern is for
12 that zero to six inch range, and so that's why we're
13 looking in that area. So if soil's been moved from
14 one location to another and there's elevated arsenic
15 that's been moved with that, then we should see that
16 in that -- that soil.

17 I think that -- the screening process
18 should -- these composite samples should be able to
19 identify that elevated levels of arsenic if they've
20 been moved from another location.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes, I'm a resident of
22 Spring Valley. Have been for a long time.

23 I know that my property has been regraded,
24 you know, for drainage, et cetera. And we built a
25 retaining wall and therefore filled in an area with

1 dirt. So I would have a suggestion that perhaps on
2 the rights of entry form that's filled out by the
3 homeowner that maybe you have a question saying do
4 you want to be available for selecting the points
5 where you were taking samples of soil because I
6 would know from my own property -- I realize that
7 there would be many new homeowners and it wouldn't
8 apply. But if you -- I was wondering if you would
9 take guidance at all from the homeowner as to what
10 areas let's say to maybe concentrate on.

11 Were you saying also that the depth -- the
12 -- the sampling that you would take that would go
13 from six to 10 foot would be automatic for every
14 property within that blue area of the map?

15 MAJOR PLAISTED: That's correct. Every --
16 every property within the central testing area will
17 receive subsurface sampling down to -- down to six
18 to 10 feet, depending on, you know, how much fill
19 material may be on the -- the property.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That might be almost the
21 best indication of -- of the nature of the property
22 because there are so very many homes that have been
23 -- where the landscaping has been tremendously
24 changed or altered just in -- in trying to come up
25 with a smooth road that would go down at a certain

1 correction. But as I say, I'm -- I'm lucky. I've
2 been in the same address since 1940, so I know
3 basically what's gone on in the property.

4 But I -- I would say that you should have
5 the property owner at least be able to make a -- a
6 recommendation on some of the --

7 MAJOR PLAISTED: Absolutely. We -- we will
8 -- before the sampling team comes on the property
9 you'll be contacted about -- about when they're
10 going to be arriving and -- and that person will
11 talk to you about are there any specific areas that
12 you feel you would like to have sampled, and -- and
13 then we can make sure that we adjust the sampling
14 points based on that.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. And the
16 results would -- I'm a little bit confused on the
17 arsenic. The arsenic that everybody's concerned
18 about that traces back to the 1917, et cetera era.

19 MAJOR PLAISTED: Mm-hmm.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Is that a different
21 composition of arsenic than is used in pesticides
22 and fertilizers and stuff or is there any
23 recommendations? And you said within how many
24 years? In other words, can you still grow
25 vegetables and use 5-10-5 or -- in areas where you

1 have Barricade or other things or weed killers?

2 MAJOR PLAISTED: The -- the current stuff
3 does not have that -- does not have arsenic in it,
4 so that -- that would not be an issue for today, so
5 you can certainly use those, whatever --

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And you said within how
7 many years?

8 MAJOR PLAISTED: I think it's within the
9 last 30 or 40 years, so --

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Oh, 30 or 40 years?

11 MAJOR PLAISTED: Yes, yes. I'm sorry. So
12 within -- I think it was sometime in the '50s or
13 '60s that -- that -- sometime in the -- in the -- in
14 the last 30 or 40 years is -- is when it's been
15 eliminated. So -- but earlier than that, in the
16 early part of this century was when it was used as a
17 herbicide and a pesticide. So --

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: All right. But if you --
19 if you have, let's say, imported dirt or what have
20 you, then there's no concern about gardening or
21 eating tomatoes or beans out of the soil that you --

22 MAJOR PLAISTED: Oh, right. So yeah, you -
23 - if you got it --

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: If you -- if you know the
25 nature of the source of the soil?

1 MAJOR PLAISTED: Right. I think that would
2 be correct. Right.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

4 MS. WARNER: Before we -- before we take
5 the next question, I wonder has the -- have the
6 clipboards with the sign-in for the RAB been
7 circulating? And if so, where are they? If some of
8 -- I know some of you are now having to leave and I
9 want to make sure that those that are interested in
10 participating in that process have had an
11 opportunity to do so. Is there a staff member that
12 knows where those are? Has anybody seen the
13 clipboards with the sign-in for the RAB?

14 ASSISTANT: I believe I saw Ted Henry pick
15 them up. I believe he's keeping track of them.

16 MS. WARNER: Okay. Okay. Well, and -- and
17 of course, in the breakout session on the RAB there
18 will be additional opportunity to do that. I just
19 want to be sure we've captured those who are
20 leaving.

21 Others of you who do need to leave, we're
22 so interested in hearing from you, your comments on
23 this evening's meetings. Please take a minute
24 before you leave to fill out that evaluation, and
25 you can leave it right there in the pew and we'll --

1 we'll pick it up after the meeting. So we do want
2 to get your comments so we can continue to improve
3 upon the public meetings.

4 Okay? We have about -- we started a few
5 minutes late. Let me check my watch again. We have
6 about five more minutes for the questions in the
7 public forum and then we'll break into those
8 discussion groups. So if you are concerned that
9 your question might not be answered, please make
10 sure it's on a comment sheet so that we can collect
11 that and then the question can be answered on the
12 web site.

13 I will point out also there's a card in
14 your folder that has that web site information lest
15 you be concerned that you'll forget what was on the
16 slide.

17 Okay. Laurie? And then the gentleman on
18 this side.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Could you please explain
20 how composite testing might not depress a test
21 result from a specific hot spot on a site?

22 (Pause)

23 MAJOR PLAISTED: I mean the composite --
24 the composite sample will be, obviously, pulled up
25 by the -- the hot spot. And so that's why we

1 established the 13 parts per million level as the --
2 as the -- the level by which we go back and then do
3 additional sampling. So I think what we've seen
4 from the -- the previous composite sampling we've
5 done is that this is a very good way of identifying
6 areas that have elevated arsenic levels. So I think
7 that no -- if you go to a hot spot, we're going to
8 be able to generally get that or identify that for
9 your property, unless it's so very small that it
10 doesn't -- it's not really an issue, so.

11 (Pause)

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm a resident. Thank
13 you for the sampling plan and for all of you coming
14 tonight to see us.

15 We got a letter after the last round of
16 testing from the U.S. Army Corps, and I found that
17 very reassuring since it was the Army which had done
18 the testing and so on back in the first World War
19 days. I see that now the proposal is that the final
20 letter to us would come from the EPA, and I would
21 like to say that I would feel more comfortable
22 maintaining the direct relationship with the U.S.
23 Army Corps, particularly if these letters at any
24 time became significant because there was something
25 wrong or who knows what in the future. And I wonder

1 why you want to shift to having a relationship
2 between us and the EPA in this matter for the final
3 determination? I would recommend that we stay with
4 the Army throughout.

5 COL. FIALA: Let me respond to that.
6 You're going to get a letter from my organization
7 and you'll get a letter from the EPA. But the --
8 the point in this -- this process is -- is we have
9 and will continue to -- to team with the EPA and
10 D.C. Health. So whether you get the letter from the
11 EPA or the Corps, the team that is involved in -- in
12 Spring Valley has -- has looked at that and -- and -
13 - and those concerns are -- are -- are addressed in
14 that letter.

15 What -- what we, the Corps, had pushed from
16 the EPA was a letter from the EPA, particularly
17 because, and I kind of said this at the beginning,
18 the nature of what we're dealing with now is more
19 along the lines of chemical -- chemical
20 contamination, which the EPA has -- has got 20, 30
21 years of expertise. And -- and so if I were a
22 property owner, yeah, I'd want a letter from the
23 Corps but I'd also want a letter from the EPA saying
24 -- saying here's what this means.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My question is about if

1 during these tests you find elevated levels of
2 arsenic, what level would it take and how deep into
3 the soil would it have to be for you to take action
4 and what action would you take? And would it be
5 taken at the time that the problem is found or would
6 it be taken after all the sampling is done?

7 MAJOR PLAISTED: If we find elevated levels
8 in the composite samples and we come back and do the
9 grid sampling, we would do a risk assessment to
10 determine is there an elevated health risk. It's
11 taking a look at all the -- all the samples that we
12 have on a particular property. And then, at that
13 point we would make a decision about there is
14 elevated health risk, we need to remediate the whole
15 property, or there is not but maybe we need to
16 remediate certain specific hot spots on the
17 property.

18 There's a couple -- as an example, probably
19 a lot of you have seen the Glenbrook Road property
20 and the fact that we've torn up -- we've essentially
21 removed two and a half -- excuse me, two feet of
22 soil and we're bringing in -- back in, you know, two
23 feet of fill, clean fill material. That -- that's
24 the methodology that we've chosen to remediate that
25 particular site.

1 There are some other -- other ways to do
2 it. One of 'em happens to be phytoremediation,
3 which is the use of -- of plants. There's a plant
4 that hyperaccumulates arsenic. That -- that's one
5 way of being able to remove the arsenic without
6 removing all the trees or all the vegetation on your
7 property. So it would be a dialogue, really, with
8 each property owner. Each -- I think each place is
9 going to be a little unique. Some property owners
10 are much more interested in, you know, maintaining
11 their -- the vegetation or the trees that are on
12 their property, and so they would be much more
13 attuned to the phytoremediation as opposed to, you
14 know, doing soil removal.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And is it only in the top
16 two feet, then, that you're -- you have concern or
17 if you find elevated levels below that would
18 anything be done?

19 MAJOR PLAISTED: If we found elevated
20 levels below that, we would have to -- we would have
21 to look at, you know, what is the exposure? It
22 would not be exposure for a resident, but it would
23 be exposure for construction workers and so that
24 would probably represent a different risk scenario.

25 And so we'd have to evaluate that risk scenario and

1 then determine -- certainly, removal is one option,
2 and there's also a possibility of -- of doing some
3 sort of deed restriction or something that would not
4 -- say don't dig in that particular area.

5 But I think that, again, would be the
6 dialogue with the property owner. That -- that's
7 what we see as the main, you know, source of input
8 is the property owner's desires. Obviously, not the
9 only source but the primary source of input for us.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

11 (Pause)

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Which of the two letters
13 will unequivocally state whether or not I as a
14 parent ought to move out of the neighborhood in
15 terms of whether there's any health hazard
16 whatsoever to my children? And will that letter be
17 in plain English and state that conclusion?

18 MR. VOLTAGGIO: The EPA letter will be the
19 one that will be describing what we found and what
20 our assessment is of any health or environmental
21 risk that may exist as a result of the
22 contamination. Would be the letter from EPA.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Will it be in sufficient
24 plain English that a parent will be able to read it
25 and understand whether they should stay or go?

1 MR. VOLTAGGIO: It is our absolute with
2 earnest hope that we could write it in terms that we
3 can understand -- that you could understand, and
4 more importantly, to have a mechanism by which there
5 could be a question-and-answer with regard to -- to
6 that. So we will definitely commit to -- to making
7 sure that it is not just a letter sent in the mail
8 without any ability to follow up to answer
9 questions.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Because working on the
11 Hill, I'm -- I'm extremely familiar with responses
12 from the government which come in boilerplate which
13 are incomprehensible.

14 MR. VOLTAGGIO: We are --

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: -- giving anybody any
16 satisfaction.

17 And the second question that I have is I
18 wish I had as much confidence as has been expressed
19 previously with the Army Corps of Engineers. I'm
20 not saying it with respect to this investigation
21 which sounds as though it'll be a forthright
22 undertaking of a very difficult job. But I'm
23 wondering in the 1993 and the subsequent
24 examinations that have been done with the property,
25 are all the records that have been accumulated by

1 the government dealing with those inspections now
2 publicly available?

3 MAJOR PLAISTED: Yes, those are -- those
4 are all publicly available. They -- they may not
5 all be in the -- the -- some of the records may not
6 be in the Palisades Library, but a number of
7 property owners have asked us for information about
8 their particular property as far as, you know,
9 geophysical survey reports or environmental sampling
10 that was done on their properties, and we have made
11 that available to residents.

12 MS. WARNER: I'm going to -- to deviate
13 just for a moment to pose a question that has come
14 to us that has a very short time frame on it in --
15 in that -- in that. The question is please clarify
16 the right of entry form. Is the one in the packet
17 tonight the final one? And if so, should people
18 sign them tonight to expedite the process? If not,
19 where should public input go and to whom?

20 MR. TURKELL: It was our hope that that
21 would be the final form. As I said earlier, it is -
22 - it is virtually the same as the right of entry
23 that was used beginning back in 1993. I believe --
24 just to clarify that -- that question from earlier,
25 I believe the only difference in that form is we had

1 specific limits of liability coverage of the
2 contractors in the first right of entry. Now we
3 simply state that the contractors will be required
4 to carry appropriate levels of coverage. And I
5 believe that those levels could be made available to
6 anybody that was so interested in -- in finding out
7 what those levels were.

8 If anyone cares to sign those rights of
9 entry tonight, that would be most helpful. We -- we
10 certainly want to minimize the time and -- and the
11 amount of cost that we incur in trying to get the
12 rights of entry from everyone. So if you would --
13 if anyone that wants to sign the right of entry and
14 leave them on the table, perhaps, where you came in,
15 I will make sure to collect those before leaving.
16 Thank you.

17 MS. WARNER: So that we can have our
18 breakout sessions, I'm going to call a halt to
19 anyone else joining those who are presently
20 standing. And those who are presently standing will
21 be the ones that we'll hear from in conclusion for
22 the public part of the forum.

23 I'm going to turn to the lady on -- on my
24 right and then the gentleman on my left.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm a resident of Spring

1 Valley and I've been a homeowner for 16 years here.

2 I'm glad they're going to be sampling 100
3 percent of the properties for the surface, but my
4 question is about the subsurface aspects of your
5 plan. I'd like to know why 100 percent of the
6 properties in Spring Valley can't be sub -- sampled
7 subsurface, excuse me, for arsenic and for other
8 likely contaminants? And I'd like to know why we
9 should accept 15 percent as sufficient rate for a
10 subsurface sampling outside the central targeting
11 area? Testing area, rather.

12 MAJOR PLAISTED: The -- at our senior
13 executive review group that met last week that was
14 one of the discussions that -- that came up was
15 about how to -- applying the science and historical
16 information that we have, you know, best sample the
17 entire area. Mr. Voltaggio made the point that
18 based on the -- the -- the scientific evidence he
19 felt there was not a need to sample every property
20 outside of that -- necessarily that central testing
21 area 100 percent, but there was a need to do some
22 kind of random check to make sure that we -- there
23 isn't an issue with subsurface, you know, arsenic in
24 those particular areas.

25 On the other contaminants, those --

1 depending on what the contaminants are, we may be
2 doing that at the surface or may be doing some of
3 that at subsurface levels. So we -- we haven't
4 determined yet where the other contaminants -- you
5 know, whether it's going to be surface or subsurface
6 or maybe both in the areas outside of the central
7 testing area.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I guess I feel the
9 comfort level should be an important aspect of
10 things and that does seem still like a rather vague
11 answer to -- to why 15 percent should give us a
12 feeling of confidence. Certainly, it will be more
13 expensive to do 100 percent of the property's
14 subsurface, but I submit that many of us would feel
15 that it would be worth it.

16 MR. VOLTAGGIO: Let me give a shot at this.
17 The two major areas that are being looked at is the
18 central testing area where there is every indication
19 that there could be chemical contamination as a
20 result of past activities. The areas outside the
21 central testing area are areas where as a result of
22 all the information that we have to date don't
23 indicate that there is chemical contamination there.
24 On most chemical contamination sites that we've
25 come up against in the past 20 years that we've

1 dealt with -- with -- with this, we've had to
2 recognize and characterize our investigation to
3 focus on where we most expect there to be chemical
4 contamination and focus our efforts on that area.

5 Nevertheless, we recognize that people who
6 have homes in areas that could have become
7 contaminated, although not likely to as a result of
8 all the evidence that we've had, need some level of
9 comfort that's been looked at. What we have
10 considered is some method of screening all the
11 areas. And in fact, it is a significant departure
12 from a normal type of screening activity to sample
13 every lot or every residence in area that is not
14 expected to have chemical contamination.
15 Nevertheless, we recognize that it's important to
16 the community.

17 So by using a statistical concept where we
18 will screen the entire lot, the entire number of
19 lots within the area, and take a percentage to
20 determine if there is subsurface contamination and a
21 percentage to determine if there are other
22 contaminations, we expect since we have no evidence
23 to indicate there is that it is a methodology by
24 which we can be assured that based on the best
25 science that we have that we are able to make a

1 conclusion that's sound science and engineering to
2 indicate whether or not those areas that we fully
3 don't expect to be contaminated either do or don't.

4 If any of the screening analyses outside of
5 the central testing area indicate a problem, don't
6 forget that second step is to go in and do a much
7 more intensive grid.

8 It's -- we've had a couple of questions
9 that deal with this. What if 12 samples don't do
10 it? What if it could -- it could, you know, miss an
11 area? What about the areas outside? Obviously, the
12 more samples one takes, the more that one could be
13 assured that there's nothing there. But there's no
14 methodology -- there's always some number above that
15 that you could take that would even give more --
16 more assurance. So where -- where do you make a
17 reasonable interpretation of what needs to be looked
18 at to -- to -- to -- to give us a very strong
19 assurance, again, in areas that we don't expect
20 anything that there's nothing there?

21 So 14 is better than four. 24 is better
22 than 14. 140 is better than 14. Where do you draw
23 the line? We have soil screening guidance that we
24 have applied that indicates the kind of analysis
25 that we're looking at is what -- is done in

1 contamination sites like this throughout the
2 country, and again, is only for those areas, this 15
3 percent where we're looking for contaminants other
4 than what we found anywhere, is a methodology that
5 we use to give ourselves a good scientific assurance
6 that we don't have to worry.

7 Nevertheless, if any of those screening
8 analyses show something, we go back in and we grid
9 it finer. This is a pretty conventional,
10 traditional methodology that's used, again, for
11 areas where we don't expect to find anything. You
12 can always do more. It would take more time and we
13 don't believe the science is going to indicate that
14 there is going to give you any better information
15 than what we have here.

16 I understand that doesn't give you a total
17 measure of comfort. We could talk about this
18 further in -- in the RAB to explain a little more
19 why we think that it is in an appropriate -- it is an
20 appropriate way to do it, beyond the saying that
21 there's always some number that you could always
22 have more that would make you feel better. You
23 gotta draw a line somewhere, and that's -- that's
24 the area that we drew it. As a proposal for
25 comment. Thank you.

1 (Pause)

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. I, too, am a
3 -- a resident of Spring Valley, and mine's a pretty
4 elementary question. I've assumed all along in the
5 discussion that if a property is found to be
6 contaminated that the Corps will assume
7 responsibility for the remediation of it. What I --
8 what I don't find and maybe I simply missed it in my
9 speed-reading is any statement to that effect in any
10 of the materials that we've received. And it might
11 be well to confirm that in language that lawyers
12 would be comfortable with, but more importantly,
13 those of us who are not lawyers.

14 COL. FIALA: I assure you if we find it,
15 we're going to remediate it. That's what we're here
16 for. And again, our focus on the -- on -- on
17 tonight's presentation was the sampling. Sampling -
18 - proposed sampling plan. So yeah, we -- we didn't
19 take that step further, but that's -- I assure you
20 that if we find something we're -- we're going to
21 work with the specific property owner on a
22 methodology to remediate.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I thank you for arranging
24 this meeting, but there is a consistency between
25 this meeting and the last one for me as an

1 individual who's been living here since 1973. And
2 that's the question of confidence. I'm -- I think
3 some work needs to be put into building confidence
4 in the members of this neighborhood.

5 And part of the problem is that your way of
6 talking to us is somewhat unrealistic in many ways.

7 I -- we're told on the one hand not to worry about
8 water because it's been tested. But in my residence
9 here there have been at least eight major breaks in
10 the water system which have flooded the
11 neighborhood. What comes out also goes in.

12 Doing tests at the source of the water
13 supply is hardly going to satisfy my interest in
14 being sure that the water that's coming through the
15 pipe into my house is in fact uncontaminated with
16 wherever that water goes through.

17 I -- you tell us that we should be not
18 doing leaf blowing, but half of the neighborhood
19 hires leaf blowing companies that come in here with
20 large numbers of workers, 10 or more at a time
21 blowing up a storm that in fact contaminates my
22 house with or without arsenic. I -- you tell us not
23 to be concerned about going under six inches, but
24 the fact is my dog digs deeper than six inches, not
25 to mention my wife and myself who dig down to the

1 depth of a foot and a half.

2 And when you sent the team of people to my
3 property to do soil testing, I discussed this with
4 them and I asked them not to dig in those parts of
5 the property where I have personally replaced the
6 soil to a depth of two feet. I then went inside the
7 house and watched the process for the next four
8 hours, and they dug precisely in those areas where
9 in fact I had removed the soil because they were
10 following a grid system that you had told them is
11 the system they should be using.

12 So I'm having a real problem with the
13 details at these meetings and the way in which we as
14 citizens are supposed to be able to respond to what
15 you tell us because my confidence level is not very
16 high at this point. And it hasn't changed between
17 the last meeting and this meeting. Thank you.

18 (Pause)

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah. I have a neighbor
20 who couldn't be here, and she wanted me to ask you
21 if -- if a homeowner's been impatient waiting for
22 the Corps to decide if they're going to test the
23 property and have used one of your approved
24 subcontractors to test their property, will you be
25 reimbursing them for that expense and collecting

1 that data from the homeowner?

2 MAJOR PLAISTED: We're not allowed to
3 reimburse for tests that are conducted
4 independently, so no, we would not be reimbursing
5 for tests that were not conducted by the Corps --
6 for the Corps' contractors.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Has -- has a health
8 survey been done in the area? And if not, will
9 there be an investigation and a collection of data
10 about health issues of long-term residents here be
11 done at the same time that sampling is done?

12 MR. GORDON: I'm going to ask Dr. Stokes,
13 our senior toxicologist to come up to respond to
14 that because she's in charge of the epidemiological
15 assessment.

16 DR. STOKES: What we're currently doing is
17 a descriptive epidemiologic study of Spring Valley.
18 The existing data that we have at the Department of
19 Health is through our cancer registry. We've done
20 an extensive literature review to determine what are
21 the top three cancers that are associated with
22 arsenic, but we've gone beyond that and looked at
23 the cancers that we have in the registry and used
24 the rates that we see in Spring Valley and compared
25 them to the rates nationally for those sites of

1 cancer. We then took a comparison community and did
2 the same thing and compared them to the national
3 rates.

4 This particular descriptive design will
5 help give us an inkling as to whether the excess, if
6 there is one, of cancer over a 1987 through 1998
7 time period has occurred. And we all know that
8 cancer has a latency period associated with it, so
9 what cancers we may see -- incident cancer cases
10 that we may see now may have exposures, depending on
11 the site of cancer, some 15 to 20 years ago,
12 depending on the type of cancer. This is our way to
13 determine and look at unfortunately to use the word
14 "statistically" whether or not we see any excesses
15 in your community.

16 So we will be giving that data to the
17 Spring Valley Scientific Advisory Panel. We will
18 also be looking at specifically multiple myeloma,
19 which is of a concern, a type of cancer that has
20 been brought to our attention, and we will also
21 discuss possibly doing some further sampling in
22 properties in which multiple myeloma has been
23 identified. Hope that answers the question.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Just one more quick
25 thing. Several folks in the back of the room have

1 asked that the D.C. -- you had referenced some sort
2 of a health newsletter that was either being mailed
3 to the folks or whatever? There's a high level of
4 interest in the room, I think, to get copies of that
5 or have it posted on your web site or -- or links.

6 (Inaudible comment)

7 MR. GORDON: And we will be putting the
8 information, if we haven't already, Dr. Stokes, up
9 on the DH -- D.C. Department of Health web site.

10 MS. WARNER: For our court reporter, that
11 will be sent to each home. There are about 200
12 copies here, so please pick those up at the back of
13 the room.

14 I'd like for us to subdivide now for those
15 of you that have specific questions. Thank you so
16 much for your cooperation in the format of tonight's
17 meeting. Again, we'd like to have your feedback on
18 that.

19 In this area, D.C. Health officials will be
20 there for your questions.

21 ASTD -- ATSDR and, I'm sorry, and CHPM in
22 the middle.

23 On the back side EPA.

24 Over in this area, the Corps.

25 And at the back of the room, the RAB.

1 For those of you that are departing, please
2 let us know how the meeting went, and thank you very
3 much again for your cooperation.

4 (Whereupon, at 9:30 p.m., the meeting was
5 adjourned.)

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