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In the Matter of the
PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN
Northrop Grumman - Bethpage Facility
Operable Unit Number: 03
State Superfund Project
Former Grumman Settling Ponds
Bethpage, Nassau County
Site No. 130003A
June 2012

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10 Cherry Avenue
Bethpage, New York

June 12, 2012
8:15 p.m.

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS

AFTER PRESENTATION

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APPEARANCES :

JAMES HARRINGTON, P.E.
Director of NYSDEC
Remedial Bureau A

BILL FONDA
Citizen Participation
Specialist - NYSDEC

STEVEN SCHARF, P.E.
Project Manager - NYSDEC

STEVEN KARPINSKI
Public Health Specialist - NYSDEC

ADDITIONAL MEETING PARTICIPANTS :

JOHN SWARTWOUT, P.E.
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation

WALTER PARISH, P.E.
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation

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Public Comments

(Whereupon, the presentation was conducted.)

MR. FONDA: Folks, as the screen notes, we are going to have a public informational session on June 21st. It's at the Bethpage Community Center. That will be similar to the posters you see out in front. You'll be able to ask individual questions. We hope to have some time tonight to answer the individual questions.

The first thing I would like to say is I want to thank you for your patience in sitting through the presentation. It took us an hour to get through that to convey as much information as we possibly could.

We have reached the public comment section. Comments should be focused on Operable Unit 3. Many of you have filled out cards. I have about 15 cards here.

I'll just announce the first

1 Public Comments

2 four speakers. We have the
3 representative of the Bethpage Water
4 District, the two representatives of
5 the Massapequa Water District and the
6 New York Water District
7 representative. They will be the
8 first four speakers.

9 Then I'll call out two names at
10 a time. Your comments are going to be
11 timed. I'll hold up a sign when you
12 have one minute left and then I'll
13 hold up a stop sign. If you're in the
14 middle of a thought, obviously you can
15 finish the thought. I'm not going to
16 be so hard to stop you in mid
17 sentence.

18 Again, I am willing to let
19 people comment more than once. I want
20 to get through the people who have
21 handed their cards in first. If you
22 want a second comment, a third
23 comment, that's fine. We can stay
24 here until 10:00 to listen to the
25 comments. We all have a vested --

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Public Comments

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Use the
mike.

MR. FONDA: Again, we can stay
here until 10:00. We all have a
vested interest in your making
comments. That's why you came out
here. We will stay and listen to you
as long as possible.

The other item I noted much
earlier that the response to these
comments will all be addressed in the
responsiveness summary for this site.

Now, with that being said, the
representative of the Bethpage Water
District will come forward. You have
two microphones here. You can choose
whichever is closest to you.

Please, state your name to the
court reporter.

MR. SABINO: Anthony Sabino,
representing the Bethpage Water
District. Thank you. I'll do my best
to keep it down to five minutes. I
cut out the first six pages of my

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Public Comments

comments.

While this is an OU-3 investigation dealing with the Bethpage Community Park, it is important to know that this is much more than the Bethpage Community Park. There was an OU-1, two OU-2s and now an OU-3.

Your remedy selected for the OU-3 is founded in history. Unfortunately, that history has not been a good one for the DEC.

I just want to read a couple of comments that go back in time to let you know why we are opposed to the OU-3 PRAP.

Back in 1992, I wrote to the DEC, now two years down, two district wells show that traces of TCE are still present and no valid offsite test results have been coming from the remedial infeasibility study.

You and Grumman have had it your way and as usual the taxpayers wind up

1 Public Comments

2 proceeding without the help from the
3 very agency charged with the
4 responsibility of protecting the
5 public health.

6 Later in 1994, I wrote the level
7 of ground water remediation is a
8 significant concern to the community.
9 As you are aware, ground water will
10 provide the most likely human exposure
11 pathway. Speaking of pathways, the
12 District must express deep concern and
13 dismay for the delay in the
14 presentation of a ground water
15 remediation program.

16 In 1995, I further wrote, there
17 are important open issues that need to
18 be addressed from the Bethpage Water
19 District's point of view and they
20 include: availability of data,
21 modeling scenarios and ground water
22 remediation and their impact on the
23 Bethpage Water District. As time
24 moves on... more and more
25 contamination moves off site towards

Public Comments

1
2 the District wells and the district
3 must deal with that day in an day out.

4 It is also our view that the DEC
5 should critically evaluate the model
6 and assumptions being employed as well
7 as the data used for its initial
8 conditions. It should be recognized
9 that the model may not fully represent
10 the real conditions being experienced
11 by the Bethpage Water District.

12 Later in 1995, I wrote the DEC,
13 again, enclosed you'll find a copy of
14 the most water raw water test results
15 for... the Plant 6 well site. The
16 results indicate that here has been a
17 dramatic increase in the concentration
18 of TCE as well as total VOCs. This
19 trend has the District extremely
20 anxious over the delay in the
21 construction of... (the Grumman
22 Groundwater Interim Remediation
23 Measure).

24 The test data causes the
25 District to doubt the results of the

1 Public Comments

2 (groundwater) modeling, which
3 estimated much lower off site
4 concentration at that well (sites).

5 We then move on to the OU-2
6 investigation. The District engineers
7 commented to the DEC that they claimed
8 that this plan had the old plant with
9 had full containment of on site
10 contamination.

11 In addition, the Bethpage Water
12 District disputes that we wrote that
13 contaminated water has continued to
14 move off site. You claim full site
15 contamination. This has not been
16 documented. The feasibility study
17 should provide for full evaluation of
18 the full containment concept. As of
19 this moment all we have is the model
20 (predictions) and you should not be
21 stating full containment as fact.

22 In fairness to the gentlemen up
23 here, they are proposing a program
24 which will try to demonstrate full
25 containment. They claim they will dig

1 Public Comments

2 many monitor wells at depths, which
3 they failed to do the last time, to
4 make sure the contamination is held on
5 site.

6 Now, in 2000, I wrote again to
7 the DEC letting them know we are
8 having difficulty in a lot of water
9 well sites. The investigation is
10 ongoing for new remediation plans,
11 such as the one on the Motor Parkway.
12 They were processing a very limited
13 remediation.

14 The Bethpage Water District
15 became concerned that we would have to
16 close down well sites.

17 And I wrote, there is no
18 provision for the development of a new
19 well field in the event treatment
20 becomes ineffective... Kindly
21 understand that the Bethpage Water
22 District has no plan to distribute any
23 water that contains any level of
24 contaminants to its consumers.

25 Now, that's the history of what

1 Public Comments

2 has gone on.

3 Now, this PRAP in OU-3, we got a
4 copy of the plan in late 2010, early
5 2011.6 So I wrote directly to the
7 Commissioner Joseph Martens of the
8 DEC, which states as follow: There is
9 significant data and expert opinion
10 that the Bethpage Water District
11 public supply wells at Plants 4, 5 and
12 6, located in the midst of the OU-2
13 and OU-3 plumes and hot spots, will
14 remove more mass from the plume than
15 the RW-21 proposed as a remedy in
16 OU-3. That was the remedy that you
17 saw up on the screen tonight.18 While the Bethpage Water
19 District would have preferred to have
20 seen offsite recovery wells installed
21 a decade ago to lessen the impact of
22 the plume on its well sites, that
23 possibility is now history.24 Consequently, the Bethpage Water
25 District is left with the task of

Public Comments

1
2 treating its public water supply to a
3 nondetectable level, and by default,
4 being the most significant pro-active
5 environmental player of the OU-3 plume
6 remediation.

7 This unenviable position has
8 come as a result of the morbid pace of
9 the OU-2 and OU-3 investigations and
10 inadequate remedy selections of the
11 past investigations. Again, this is
12 history and we are now left with the
13 current state of affairs.

14 Therefore, the Remediation
15 Division must now hold the PRPs
16 accountable to the Bethpage Water
17 District. The PRPs must be directed
18 in the OU-3 remedy selection and ROD
19 to pay for the treatment facilities
20 made necessary by the discharges
21 emanating from both the Northrop
22 Grumman and Navy properties. The OU-3
23 remedy selection must not ignore the
24 fact that the Bethpage Water District
25 has spent, approximately, ten million

1 Public Comments

2 dollars to upgrade its treatment
3 facilities to provide pure water to
4 its residents.

5 That figure is now 14 million.
6 And it's going to be 21 million for
7 the Bethpage Water District to
8 remediate this plume caused by the
9 Grumman and the Navy properties on the
10 OU-3 section of the plume.

11 Of the recent 14 million
12 dollars, Grumman and the Navy have not
13 paid one dime. You people have paid
14 for all of it.

15 (Applause.)

16 The Bethpage Water District
17 urges you to place the financial
18 burden of the newly constructed
19 treatment/remediation system where it
20 belongs, on the shoulders of Northrop
21 Grumman and the Navy and remove it
22 from the innocent residents of
23 Bethpage. This will also prove to be
24 the most beneficial to the environment
25 and cost efficient remedy available to

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Public Comments

the PRPs.

I will put the rest of my
comments --

(Applause.)

I will put the rest of my
comments in writing.

By the way, that last letter was
sent to every elected official to deal
with Bethpage Water District on
federal, state, county level.

Thank you John Vendetto for
taking the contamination out of the
park. If it was up to the DEC and
Grumman, the park would still be
closed.

Thank you Ed Mangano who met
with Grumman and the Water District
three times to try to remediate the
financial burdens of this plume with
no avail.

Senator Schumer said to throw
out the model that the DEC has used
for the last twenty years.

In conclusion, let me say I

1 Public Comments

2 think I've been here since 1990
3 working on this plume. All the
4 gentlemen in the front of the room
5 have changed over this time.

6 This particular group in front
7 of you is, in fact, the most
8 responsive we have had up-to-date.
9 The defense issue, their hands are
10 tied. They have to make Grumman and
11 the Navy do what they have to do, stop
12 the migration of this plume.

13 When we started, it was roughly
14 -- it was just short of Hempstead
15 Turnpike, this side of Hempstead
16 Turnpike. Now it's across Hempstead
17 Turnpike, approaching the Southern
18 State Parkway because the remedy
19 selections have been inadequate.

20 We have one recovery well
21 proposed for this plan. That is not
22 enough. At least a half dozen are
23 necessary.

24 Thank you very much.

25 (Applause.)

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Public Comments

MR. FONDA: The next two speakers are the representatives of the Massapequa Water District.

MR. CARUSO: Good evening. Thank you very much Bethpage Water District. Wonderful job.

MR. SABINO: Thank you all for coming out tonight, by the way.

Mr. CARUSO: John Caruso, Commissioner with the Massapequa Water District. I hold a degree in engineering in case you are wondering, been in this business for 25 years, former Commissioner of Public Works for Nassau County, where myself and my co-commissioner Frank Flood did, in fact, put into effect the clean-up of two sites, one at the MSBA bus garage and one ongoing at the Firemen's Training Center. The MSBA bus garage, the EPA completed about two years ago. We come to you with some background. We don't come to you without.

First of all, how many know the

Public Comments

1
2 yellow garage at Jet Blue at JFK? Has
3 anyone been there? That's 100,000
4 square feet. This is 11 acres. They
5 put up 30 test pits. We put in 75
6 test pits in 100,000 square feet. I
7 think the amount of information is
8 severely lacking because we just don't
9 have people who want to get this thing
10 done.

11 (Applause.)

12 First of all, your PRAP is
13 rejected simply because it does not
14 incorporate the mitigation
15 requirements of the four water
16 districts. We have sent you a letter.
17 We represent 200,000 people. There
18 isn't anything in that PRAP that was
19 selected based on the letters we
20 wrote. We are entering those two
21 letters tonight as part of the record.

22 Your PRAP is also rejected
23 because the Massapequa Water District
24 presented 5,400 petitions to the
25 Governor's office saying stop this

Public Comments

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2 plume and clean it up.

3 As far as we are all concerned,
4 the only person that can do that is
5 Governor Cuomo. He must step in, make
6 him step in, he must step in and clean
7 this plume up and stop this plume.

8 (Applause.)

9 As far as the PRAP is concerned,
10 it's further rejected because over the
11 last twelve months you received a
12 series of letters that we are entering
13 into the record. None of us have been
14 answered by the DEC, the State
15 Department of Health or the Governor's
16 office regarding the technical
17 approach, the amount of constituents
18 in the ground water, how to clean that
19 up. That we're entering into the
20 record.

21 Also, your PRAP is rejected
22 again because you blatantly did not
23 incorporate any of a series of letters
24 sent to the DEC, the State DOH and
25 Governor Cuomo's office regarding the

Public Comments

1 health effects of the known
2 carcinogens PCE and TCE that
3 predominantly make up this highly
4 toxic hotspot and plume. PCE and TCE
5 are not anything to fool around with.
6 They must be stopped from entering our
7 drinking water supply and it is your
8 responsibility to do that.

9 (Applause.)

10 Your PRAP is also rejected since
11 it knowingly and blatantly
12 misrepresents facts and cost estimates
13 regarding the cleanup of this highly
14 toxic plume.

15 Your recommended Alternative
16 Five fails to understand the simple
17 fact that capping contaminated soil
18 does not work since the capping
19 process you are recommending will not
20 stop the leeching process. Again all
21 you have to do was look at the EPA
22 Liberty Superfund site to realize that
23 even the EPA agreed with the
24 Massapequa Water District in that the
25

Public Comments

1 Public Comments
2 capping process would not work. The
3 EPA demanded that the PRPs remove all
4 of the soil and they complied.

5 You have to talk about soil
6 removal. You went to a lesser plan.
7 If you called up your fellow people at
8 the EPA Liberty Superfund site, an
9 industrial contamination site, you
10 would see that they came to realize
11 that Massapequa Water District was
12 right and said take out all the soil.
13 It was resisted. The EPA finally
14 complied. Those 72,000 square yards
15 of contaminated soil was removed. You
16 must get Grumman to remove the soil.

17 The reason why capping does not
18 work because it does not ex-filtrate
19 the contaminants from the ground
20 water. Also, if you want to use
21 asphalt to cap, every five years you
22 have to seal that asphalt. Who is
23 going to do that? Removing soil is
24 far less expensive and the proper
25 thing to do.

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Public Comments

(Applause.)

Also, you have to consider the fact that there are 19 public water supply wells that could be contaminated by the plume.

We look at the drawings here. We have a little different drawing. As you know, the vertical profile boring at the intersection of Route 107 and the Southern State Parkway came up at 150 feet, there it is right there, PCE and TCE, that's within eight-tenths of a mile of a well.

This plume for 20 years has been allowed to travel and go on its merry way. It's going next into the Great South Bay. There is 60 gallons of underflow that needs to be accounted for.

The reason being the model you have chosen as that report, the optimization report, points out is static presentation. Nassau Department of Public Works has on

Public Comments

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2 dynamic use that model and you will
3 see that Massapequa Water District is
4 going to be hit in four years, not the
5 40 years as you say.

6 As far as the time, it is going
7 by real fast. The estimates for OU-2,
8 which were not estimated by the DEC,
9 cost 30 million dollars. Grumman went
10 to Newsday two years ago and said they
11 spent 100 million dollars and the Navy
12 said they spent 100 million dollars.
13 That 30 million dollars is over 250
14 million dollars. This 20 million is
15 going to represent another 200 million
16 dollars. Doesn't it pay to stop this
17 and clean it up?

18 (Applause.)

19 Doesn't it pay to stop this and
20 clean this up? We have designs for
21 this. And we have said it will cost
22 \$400 million. You have not returned
23 any of those. You haven't answered
24 any letters. We stand on what we
25 said. The Water Districts demand this

1 Public Comments

2 be stopped.

3 We do not agree with the PRAP
4 for OU-3. As far as Senator Schumer,
5 he wants to stop the plan. Call
6 Governor Cuomo and tell him that you
7 want this plume cleaned up.

8 (Applause.)

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Bravo.

10 MR. CAREY: My name is Stanley
11 Carey. I am the Superintendent of the
12 Massapequa Water District.

13 I just have several questions
14 that I would like to have answered and
15 put on the record tonight.

16 Mr. Scharf, you stated that the
17 optimization report mentioned a goal
18 of 90 percent removal. The report
19 actually states a minimum of 90
20 percent. There is a difference there.
21 It's not accurate what you stated.

22 The statement of full
23 containment based on cost is not
24 feasible and public water supply wells
25 were left out of it. We pointed that

Public Comments

1
2 out and the report was never changed.
3 That statement is based on false
4 statements.

5 Another question I have, do the
6 PRPs who caused the pollutions
7 reimburse the DEC under FS, PRAP and
8 ROD? I would like to know how much
9 DEC has been paid and by whom.

10 The PRAP states that additional
11 monitoring wells will be installed to
12 better delineate the leading edge of
13 the plume. What will happen if the
14 monitoring wells show contamination
15 above drinking water standards? Will
16 remediation wells be installed or will
17 wellhead treatment systems be the
18 action required by the DEC?

19 The public had requested an
20 informational website be set up back
21 in 2001 during the PRAP hearing for
22 OU-2 and again at the RAB meeting in
23 April of 2012. I would like to know
24 if this has been done. It's been
25 requested by the public a couple of

1 Public Comments

2 times to be informed.

3 The OU-3 makes several
4 references to being commingled with
5 the OU-2 area and it is known that
6 additional public water supply wells
7 have been impacted since that time.

8 Isn't this an indication of a
9 failed plan?

10 Why is such a simple plan being
11 proposed for OU-3?

12 The OU-2 ROD made reference to
13 being co-mingled with the EPA RUCO
14 site. Why isn't RUCO mentioned in the
15 OU-3 PRAP?

16 I submitted these writings to
17 you in writing. Hopefully, I will get
18 an answer in writing. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. FONDA: The next speaker is
21 with New York Water.

22 The following speaker will be
23 Kyle Strober from Senator Schumer and
24 then a representative from the New
25 York State Legislator will meet next.

1 Public Comments

2 MR. VARLEY: My name is Bill
3 Varley. I am the president of New
4 York American Water. We were known as
5 the Aqua Property, which is the water
6 service. I'm no stranger -- I'm a
7 civil environmental engineer. I'm no
8 stranger to the hazardous waste
9 industry. In fact, Commissioner
10 Caruso was one of my first bosses when
11 I was a resident here at the bus
12 facility. I've been in the water
13 industry my whole life.

14 The fact that you are saying
15 that 90 percent of the plume is going
16 to be contained is not acceptable. In
17 fact, we're relinquishing and saying
18 we know your wells are going to be
19 contaminated. That's why we are here
20 from American Water. It's not
21 acceptable.

22 I ask that you reach out to us.
23 We're the largest private water
24 supplier in America. We have
25 significant resources and technology.

1 Public Comments

2 We prefer to work with you and come to
3 the solution. There has to be 110
4 percent containment to achieve this
5 cleanup in this day and age.

6 (Applause.)

7 I cannot stand here and say
8 jeopardize our wells. We hope to work
9 with you and not against you.

10 Thank you for the time. Nice to
11 meet you.

12 MR. STROBER: Good evening,
13 everyone. My name is Kyle Strober.
14 I'm here on behalf of Senator Chuck
15 Schumer. Unfortunately, today the
16 Senator is down in DC. He called me
17 before to make sure I say a few words
18 on behalf of the Water Districts.

19 We have long pushed for
20 delineation, remediation and new
21 wells. We have fought for funding
22 from the Navy for the Water District.

23 The residents should not bear the
24 burden of cleaning up this plume.

25 (Applause.)

1 Public Comments

2 Finally, I want to thank
3 everyone for coming out and taking
4 time in their busy lives. Numbers
5 speak volumes.

6 MR. ELLINGER: Good evening,
7 ladies and gentlemen. In the lull of
8 the meeting, my name is Bill Ellinger
9 (phonetic). I'm a Commissioner at the
10 Bethpage Water District and because of
11 what has been said here, I have to
12 make a few comments.

13 First of all, I was born and
14 raised here. Grumman moved out here
15 in 1937 and proceeded to be one of the
16 finest organizations to build military
17 aircraft in the United States. We did
18 not care what they dumped overboard
19 because all they wanted to do is beat
20 the Japs. They built 330 F6 Hell
21 Cats. For what? For what? To ride
22 right over the Japs.

23 In any event, they had equipment
24 you couldn't fit in this room that
25 lubricated the stuff. They dumped

Public Comments

1
2 waste overboard by the ton, not by the
3 gallon and now has formed this
4 tremendous plume that the DEC knew
5 about in 1969.

6 When the water went bad and they
7 called us, the Bethpage Water District
8 hooked them up to our water supply.
9 We had no idea what they were talking
10 about. They had 13 wells on test.
11 They had twice the amount of water
12 that the Bethpage Water District could
13 pump. They had 22,000 employees
14 there.

15 So we found out what
16 trichloroethylene is. It's a cleaning
17 solvent for metal. Could you imagine
18 the tons of that they used there?
19 They dumped it overboard. We notified
20 the DEC. We notified everybody and
21 their brother at that time. That was
22 35 years ago. And they are still
23 doing studies. Are you, guys, kidding
24 me or what?

25 (Applause.)

1 Public Comments

2 We don't need that. We need
3 someone to get a hold of like my
4 counsel Anthony Sabino who is an
5 expert in this field. He has been
6 studying this for years and years as
7 an attorney and scientist.

8 We need money. These people
9 cannot spend anymore money. As Tony
10 said, it's going to hit 20 million
11 dollars.

12 The Bethpage well sites, we have
13 treated ever well site in Bethpage.
14 We treat it so we can give you water
15 with undetectable contaminants. We
16 will not send anything to your house
17 in your pipes that has detectable
18 signs of any contamination. That is
19 our rule.

20 But it takes a lot of effort on
21 our part and our staff's part to do
22 the testing that is required and to
23 run a machine. And you have to see
24 the machine. It's about as big as a
25 building. We got all of these things

1 Public Comments

2 going and doing a great job.

3 Hopefully, you people will soon
4 be relieved of this amount of money,
5 this enormous amount of money, that
6 you have to layout.

7 Hopefully, they will come
8 through for us. Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. DENENBERG: Good evening.
11 Dave Denenberg. I'm a Nassau County
12 Legislator. Thank you.

13 I have been in the environmental
14 field for years, going back to 2000
15 when I first became Chairman of the
16 Planning Development Environmental
17 Committee. My background is
18 engineering and law in the
19 environmental field as well as the
20 intellectual property field.

21 When I worked in that field, we
22 always heard or knew that the science
23 of remediation is first delineate,
24 then contain and then treat.

25 I have to say when I looked at

Public Comments

1
2 the numbers of those hearings in 2000
3 and the current County Executive
4 Legislature sat in those chairs as
5 well and looked at the numbers, I was
6 convinced we hadn't delineated a
7 thing. I was convinced that the plans
8 to contain were not existent and our
9 concern was that these plumes would
10 continue to migrate south down
11 gradient and they have.

12 When you look at the numbers
13 today, we still have a bunch of
14 numbers but they are inconsistent.

15 The plan is to make sure that
16 the plume is not migrating further and
17 further to our public water supply
18 wells. That's ridiculous. That's
19 absolutely ridiculous. How can you
20 contain something if we are not really
21 able to fully delineate it?

22 Then you come here, and by the
23 way, it's a lot closer to the public
24 water supply wells than we thought.
25 The gentleman who said four years from

Public Comments

1
2 the Water District is absolutely
3 right. And the gentleman who is from
4 American Water, Aqua Water, just had a
5 hearing a few months ago to say that
6 the wells that were not supposed to be
7 impacted actually are impacted.

8 One of the things that we heard,
9 and I got to check this out, the OU-3,
10 we're not going to have a down
11 gradient, we will pump and treat,
12 which should prevent 100 percent of
13 the migration, but they say, at best,
14 we're going to prevent 90 percent of
15 the migration. We are afraid to pump
16 then and treat in OU-3. We'll pull in
17 the contamination from OU-2. Why
18 don't you have a pump from OU-2 and
19 pull that in? I mean, come on.

20 (Applause.)

21 If you ask me, pump and treat.
22 Don't be afraid to pump and treat one
23 because it might pull it in from the
24 other. That makes no sense.

25 Will it cost more? Of course.

1 Public Comments

2 I forget which legislator in 2000 and
3 it was repeated in 2002 was pushing in
4 federal law, as Senator Schumer has
5 been pushing, under the circumstances,
6 you can go after the PRPs to get the
7 money back we're spending.

8 As for the DEC, whether you are
9 doing a good job, a bad job or
10 indifferent, we pay your salaries.
11 The State of New York is paying your
12 salary. We don't want to pay our tax
13 money for something that was caused by
14 Primary Responsible Parties.

15 The public session should let us
16 know what the legal action is. I did
17 that for a living for many years.
18 Under certain circumstances, you can
19 get the money back. You don't have to
20 wait until you expend the whole
21 amount. You can get the money on the
22 way, as we deserve, for containment
23 and delineation.

24 I'm in Merrick and we have Apple
25 Water. I get private water. I get to

1 Public Comments

2 spend four times as much as you for
3 the same water. Notwithstanding, it's
4 the same water. If the water gets
5 impacted, we'll all feel it, Nassau,
6 Suffolk.

7 More money should be spent to
8 have down gradient wells to know for
9 sure we're not impacted. It is
10 imperative. It should have been
11 happening 20 years ago.

12 Let's not repeat the same
13 mistake going forward for 20 years.
14 If it's 30 million now or we need to
15 spend 80 million, in the long run if
16 it's going to cost 400 million 20
17 years down the road, you still have to
18 do it.

19 We have to know how to achieve
20 containment. We have to know how far
21 it went. We still fully can't treat
22 it because we don't know what we are
23 treating. We got a problem and that's
24 what we are dealing with right now.

25 We're really saying this is a

1 Public Comments

2 massive plume. We're not fully sure
3 how to contain the entire plume.
4 That's unacceptable.

5 We need 100 percent containment,
6 100 percent delineation, 100 percent
7 treatment. That's what everyone
8 deserves.

9 If it's a matter of money, go
10 after the PRP, get the money back but
11 protect our water. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. FONDA: The next three
14 speakers are -- Raymond J. Averna, a
15 representative for the Assemblyman Joe
16 Saladino, John Budnick, Richard Schary
17 and an Ivy Green are our next four
18 speakers.

19 MR. AVERNA: Good evening. My
20 name is Ray Averna. I live in
21 Massapequa. I am here on behalf of
22 Assemblyman Joe Saladino. He asked
23 that I read this letter, which I would
24 like to submit for the record.

25 Good evening. I deeply regret

1 Public Comments

2 that I could not be in Bethpage with
3 you this evening. The time of this
4 meeting tonight coincides with my
5 necessity to be in session in Albany.

6 I would like to express my
7 gratitude to all of the residents in
8 attendance this evening.

9 I am thinking about the very
10 serious environmental challenges that
11 we are faced with and the constructed
12 positive action of residents committed
13 wholeheartedly to protect us from
14 potential environmental health
15 threats.

16 The fact that you have taken the
17 time to be here tonight is evident
18 that you care deeply and wish to
19 protect the health of the environment.

20 As you know, this is not the
21 first time I have taken off the gloves
22 to fight environmental threats that
23 could endanger the regions water
24 supply and the Great South Bay.

25 During my nine years in the State

1 Public Comments

2 Assembly, I have endeavored to fight
3 for issues which address the quality
4 of our water.

5 I have endeavored to find low
6 cost energy to Long Island homeowners
7 and entrepreneurs to join with the DEC
8 to keep our beaches, bays and ocean
9 protected and labored to maintain our
10 area's many wildlife habitats.

11 As a voice in the State
12 Assembly, I am duty bound to say "no"
13 to any proposition or consideration
14 that I believe is not 100 percent in
15 the best interest of my constituents.

16 (Applause.)

17 "No" is a powerful word and
18 should not be spoken frivolously. Yet
19 I feel morally and intellectually
20 obligated to tell you tonight that I
21 find the proposed plan to employ the
22 well-head treatment as the sole
23 solution to protect our water wells
24 from contamination is absolutely and
25 unequivocally unacceptable.

1 Public Comments

2 In all candor, it is important
3 to state that the quality of water at
4 the tap has not reached the level that
5 should incite panic or alarm. It
6 should also be stated that the plume
7 has not reached the wells of the
8 Massapequa Water District.

9 I do wish to outline reasons why
10 to oppose the measures proposed.

11 First, the employment of the
12 well-head treatment is not compliant
13 with New York State DEC regulations,
14 which state that the well-head
15 treatment "shall be considered as a
16 measure of last resort". Why would
17 this be the case?

18 Well-head treatment is a partial
19 solution that may not bear the
20 assurance of the complete protection
21 from contamination and may create
22 secondary and tertiary problems; for
23 instance, increased "system
24 vulnerability" and increased energy
25 consumption. These are the

Public Comments

1
2 consequences brought to light in the
3 U.S. Schumer Committee Overview.

4 By way of example, not very long
5 ago the Bethpage Water District had to
6 perform expedited upgrades to breached
7 wells to avoid the breakthrough of
8 VOCs and other volatile organic
9 compounds for our residents'
10 protection from the VOCs and other
11 contaminants.

12 Perhaps, most problematically,
13 it is irresponsible and myopic to
14 commit to a solution before every
15 possible method has been tested. Your
16 solution has been declared only viable
17 as a last resort.

18 Good science tells us that
19 freshwater from the aquifer works its
20 way into the Great South Bay. Proof
21 of this is the fact that, due to
22 underflow from the aquifer, salinity
23 levels in the bay are far lower than
24 that in the ocean. The day will come
25 when this plume reaches the marine

1 Public Comments

2 waters south of Massapequa and could
3 threaten the sea life and the
4 resources of the bay life.

5 I have confidence that the DEC,
6 with its dedicated stewardship of our
7 wetlands and saltwater estuaries, will
8 spare nothing to ensure the protection
9 of this resource. Understanding this
10 and the fact that the DEC has
11 repeatedly taken strong positions and
12 have denied many permits, all in an
13 effort to protect the bay. There is
14 no question in my mind that these
15 environmentally responsible
16 individuals will fully act one day
17 down the road.

18 Why not implement hydraulic
19 containment now before the plume
20 reaches Massapequa's drinking water
21 wells? Let's protect our residents
22 and our future generations.

23 I am deeply concerned that if we
24 do not act immediately and
25 aggressively, sooner than we might

1 Public Comments

2 expect, five, 15 or 20 years from now,
3 we will look back to a time when we
4 had the ability, resources and the
5 singular purpose to remedy this
6 challenge, not in a way that is merely
7 a compromise -- but one that is far
8 more successful and complete. We will
9 have spared our communities and our
10 citizens from the potential of long
11 term harm. Until we commit ourselves
12 to total remediation of this threat,
13 at the expense of the U.S. Navy, our
14 health and peace of mind are at risk.

15 I'm a third generation resident
16 of this community. These are good
17 people that you see before you
18 tonight.

19 On their behalf, I tell you that
20 I believe in your commitment, your
21 strength and your character to see
22 that the job gets done quickly with
23 hydraulic containment and remediation.

24 It was the dedicated and
25 talented citizens of our community

1 Public Comments

2 that came to the aid of our nation and
3 the United States Navy to build the
4 planes and equipment needed to protect
5 our national interest and our freedom
6 when the call to war and defense was
7 paramount. These good people of
8 Bethpage, Farmingdale, Massapequa,
9 Levittown and the like, flocked to
10 these hangars and labored to fully
11 protect America.

12 Isn't it only right that America
13 and the United States Navy now step up
14 and repay that patriotism by fully
15 protecting those who answered the call
16 of duty as well as their children and
17 their grandchildren?

18 (Applause.)

19 I give you my pledge that I will
20 work with you to see you through this.

21 Sincerely, New York State
22 Assemblyman, Joseph Saladino.

23 Thank you very much.

24 MR. BUDNICK: Good evening. My
25 name is John Budnick.

1 Public Comments

2 I've been on Long Island since I
3 was born. I was at Mitchell Air Force
4 Base in 1949. I have worked for
5 Nassau County, the Supervisor staff
6 and I became responsible internally
7 for the work we were doing to
8 alleviate problems over at the Fireman
9 Training Center and at the MSBA Bus.
10 We worked for Mr. Caruso and a large
11 number of other people. I was with
12 the Town for a bit.

13 One of the things I was deeply
14 involved with was what was going on at
15 the Liberty Site. The Liberty Site
16 for dozens and dozens and dozens years
17 was ignored and practically destroyed
18 the Massapequa Preserve.

19 If we don't stop the southward
20 spread of these plumes, that's going
21 to start happening again not only in
22 the Massapequa Preserve but a whole
23 plethora of parks down on the South
24 Shore, the Tackapausha Preserve.

25 I served for the Friends of

Public Comments

1
2 Tackapausha. There are animals there.
3 When the plume from the Liberty Site
4 was destroying the environment in the
5 Massapequa Preserve, you couldn't eat
6 one fish there without danger to
7 yourself. There were three-headed
8 fish being found there. There were
9 gross and horrible things and these
10 were the result of very similar types
11 of chromium and other compounds that
12 were put into the ground.

13 Now, some people are talking bad
14 about Grumman. You have to realize in
15 1942 when the United States was losing
16 almost one Wild Cat per one Japanese
17 Mitsubishi, they had to do something.

18 A complete emergency was
19 declared by President Roosevelt. They
20 stopped Grumman from doing anything
21 else except putting together F6-F.
22 They threw all caution to the wind.
23 They took every program that Grumman
24 was working on and gave it to other
25 places all over the country.

1 Public Comments

2 They had Grumman making those
3 F6-Fs because once the plans were off
4 the drawing board, they were going to
5 the guys on the U.S. carriers. In one
6 year, it destroyed the Japanese Air
7 Force and the Naval Air Force was
8 shooting down almost 20 to one the
9 Japanese planes. It made it
10 impossible for the Japanese fleet
11 after the battle of the Philippines
12 and later midway, which was only the
13 first step. They didn't have F6-F or
14 F4-F, which did a damn good job.

15 The thing is this. We have
16 seen, as Mr. Caruso said tonight,
17 about 100 feet down in the vicinity of
18 Route 107 and Southern State Parkway,
19 there is a plume there. That plume is
20 coming south. That plume is going
21 south. If we don't stop it now, it's
22 going to spoil everything south of
23 there.

24 What needs to be done is similar
25 to what was done with the fireman

1 Public Comments

2 training center. For example, over at
3 the MSBA facility, they set up a line
4 of intercepting wells to, pardon my
5 language, suck the shit up, get it
6 cleaned out and then send it back and
7 clean water.

8 (Applause.)

9 You gentlemen are professionals.
10 I know you think you're trying to do
11 the right thing. But it's important
12 that you realize here on Long Island,
13 we have a sole source Aquifer. We
14 have things like the Massapequa
15 Preserve, Tackapausha Preserve. Parts
16 all over the South Shore are
17 environmental gems. These are all in
18 clear and present danger of being
19 spoiled.

20 One of the things we don't
21 realize is a model that was worked by
22 the County Department of Public Works,
23 a friend, Steve Famay (phonetic). It
24 shows the various levels,
25 particularly, as in the Magothy and

1 Public Comments

2 the Glacial Aquifer, things go up,
3 things go down. Something that is
4 down today may get a clay lens that we
5 don't know about and end up being
6 pushed back up further and continuing
7 on south and continuing south.

8 We must put wells down to
9 delineate where the problem is
10 exactly. It may take a couple of
11 dozens. I don't know. Also, we have
12 to put down wells to remove the
13 contaminant completely and eliminate
14 this as a clear and present danger,
15 not only to all the people in the
16 southeastern part of Nassau County,
17 but also to all the animals and floral
18 that exist here.

19 Thank you all very much for your
20 time and trouble.

21 My compliments for the work you
22 are trying to do. You have to realize
23 we have to remember it has to stop
24 here. Thank you.

25 MR. FONDA: The next speaker Rob

1 Public Comments

2 Walker from the Nassau County
3 Executive's office will be the third
4 speaker.

5 MR. SCHARY: It's kind of hard
6 to follow John's act. I don't want
7 three-headed fish. I never seen one
8 in Massapequa Preserve.

9 I am Rich Schary. I am going to
10 address the audience and not the
11 people behind me.

12 As president of the Massapequa
13 Preserve, I've been around 11 years.
14 I want to say I have never seen a
15 three-headed fish but there are
16 problems.

17 We had a very nice discussion
18 this afternoon with these gentlemen up
19 front. They were at another public
20 information session. I suggest that
21 you go to a public information
22 session.

23 However, based on what I am
24 hearing today, we have a community
25 that is pretty annoyed and aroused. I

1 Public Comments

2 did not realize the depth of this.
3 This is a ground problem that goes
4 back to Liberty.

5 As President of the Friends of
6 Massapequa Preserve, I testified at
7 Liberty. We stuck it to the Federal
8 Government, forcing them to spend more
9 than they wanted to spend to clean it
10 up. Liberty took 20, 30 years to get
11 going. They were a contaminated site
12 in Farmingdale and it flowed into the
13 Massapequa Preserve.

14 We have some experience with
15 these plumes. We just finished with
16 the Nassau County Department of Public
17 Works in a 6,000 pond restoration.
18 Those ponds have been restored. The
19 water is at the right degree. There
20 is more trout, more birds, more fish
21 in there and the water is maintained.
22 It was the largest plume undertaking.
23 The reason I am mentioning it, it took
24 30 years to get it going. We were
25 involved in seven years of planning.

1 Public Comments

2 These things take a long time.

3 But this has been percolating.

4 You have to get going. You can't
5 afford to waste any more time.

6 Fortunately, for Massapequa
7 Reserve, I don't see immediate danger.
8 But the plume is going down, not up.
9 And Massapequa is south. It's further
10 down at this point. I'm not too
11 worried about the Preserve.

12 I have to tell you I have spoken
13 to many governmental official science
14 staff up front to get opinions. The
15 Friends of Massapequa Preserve are
16 going to follow this. We are very,
17 very concerned with the health of the
18 Preserve. We keep an eye on it. You
19 get daily reports.

20 Keep calling us and e-mailing us
21 comments. Anything we hear, we report
22 it to the County and take action.

23 Do not sit back. You people
24 have something to take care of. Keep
25 the pressure on the DEC, especially

1 Public Comments

2 the Governor. You have the way to do
3 it. We did it at Liberty and
4 Massapequa Preserve.

5 One thing that John said, I do
6 not need to read the signs, you cannot
7 eat the fish. The DEC put the signs,
8 you can eat the fish, but don't you
9 dare eat them.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. GREEN: Hello, my name is
12 Ivy Green. I don't have a fancy
13 title. I'm a consumer. I now live in
14 the tail end of the plume.

15 I keep an organic garden. I am
16 a health freak. Now I see my house
17 has a plume under it.

18 What you gentlemen said before,
19 you made a great presentation, I
20 appreciate it with all the things you
21 explained. I have a little more
22 clarity.

23 However, you said the stuff is
24 there, you don't want it there, you
25 want to get it out of the ground. If

1 Public Comments

2 you want to get it out of the ground,
3 I'm sure we want to get it out of the
4 ground. We don't know how toxic the
5 carcinogens in the ground are.

6 You state you are doing what is
7 practical. Is it practical to spend a
8 minimum amount of money and to allow
9 children, like these little angels
10 sitting here, to continue drinking
11 water, bathing in water, eating food
12 grown in the water with carcinogens
13 because it's not practical for you to
14 clean it up?

15 (Applause.)

16 You guys live out of town. You
17 live Upstate. The only thing you have
18 to worry about is iron and sulfur in
19 your water. You can put a filter on
20 your water.

21 It's very distressful to see the
22 lack of consideration of human life by
23 the Government that is here. They
24 have done things for us, but this is
25 just unacceptable.

1 Public Comments

2 There was a lot of talk about
3 what Grumman created. They made all
4 these war machines. We knocked the
5 juice out of the people who were
6 enemies at the time, but they are
7 getting back at us now. Guess what?
8 We poisoned ourselves.

9 You said there was protection of
10 human health in compliance with
11 standards, criteria and guidance. I
12 want to know what those standards are
13 and who created those. To my
14 understanding, those standards were
15 created 50 years ago with a list of
16 100 contaminants going into the water.
17 50 years later, there are over 7,000
18 contaminants here on Long Island that
19 the water is laced with.

20 Because the State only
21 recognizes the 100 that the Government
22 recognizes, we are not being told
23 about the rest of the chemicals in the
24 water and they are not forced to clean
25 them up or report them to us because

1 Public Comments

2 they are not on that list. And they
3 are all the things that we put on the
4 lawns, things that are sprayed in the
5 air, things that run off from the road
6 from the chemicals. We don't know
7 they exist and they are there.

8 If you can't clean up the area
9 because there are pipes there, well,
10 I'm sorry maybe your children and
11 grandchildren would like to play in
12 that particular area because our kids
13 don't want to. If you are going to
14 clean up, you need to clean up
15 everything, even just the little areas
16 that are tough to get around the pipe.
17 Sorry, it doesn't work for me.

18 My home is in the area. I am
19 going to dig up my organic garden,
20 which has been there for many years,
21 and put down organic grass.

22 What I'm concerned with is the
23 food that has gone into my body that
24 I've been eating for those couple of
25 years. You know what? Maybe what you

Public Comments

1
2 guys want to do -- I want would like
3 to invite you to my home so I can cook
4 you dinner with the organic spices
5 that I got from my garden, I'll make
6 pasta with the water from the tap. If
7 it's a sunny day, I'll invite you to,
8 please, sun bathe on the grass in my
9 backyard.

10 I'm afraid to drink my water.
11 I'm afraid to bathe in my water. I'm
12 afraid of what I am getting when I
13 shower, what is being absorbed into my
14 skin.

15 These vapors that you are
16 supposedly containing or we'll cap it,
17 high school chemistry teaches you gas
18 rises. So the vapors that are there
19 now are coming up. They are not going
20 to stop because there is grass. Umm.
21 Science.

22 So while you are cleaning all of
23 this up, you might think about what
24 you are going to do for our consumers
25 down here living in it. Are you going

1 Public Comments

2 to buy us all super duper filters to
3 put on our house water to survive? If
4 you are telling me it will be cleaned
5 up in 15 years after we have been
6 filled with chemicals and people are
7 sick in their twenties, what are we
8 going to do with that?

9 Thank you for listening.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. WALKER: Rob Walker from the
12 Nassau County Executive's Office on
13 behalf of Ed Mangano.

14 This is not an issue that
15 started yesterday. It's been going
16 on. I think everyone has had enough
17 with this issue. Is that fair to say?

18 We heard from a lot of people.
19 We heard from Kyle Strober, a Director
20 from Senator Schumer's Office, a
21 speaker for Joe Saladino, an
22 Assemblyman, Dave Denenberg, a County
23 Legislator and me from the County
24 Executive's office. Everybody is here
25 from all levels of the Government,

1 Public Comments

2 including the local water districts,
3 who have put so much time and so much
4 effort and so much enthusiasm in
5 getting this issue resolved.

6 Put your money into fixing this.
7 Everybody is here, environmentalists,
8 neighbors, young children. When do
9 you see that? It does not happen
10 enough.

11 I can tell you we worked with
12 the DEC. The County Executive met
13 with the Water District. He doesn't
14 just represent everyone in Nassau. He
15 lives in Bethpage.

16 One of the reasons he ran for
17 office was because of the situation
18 involving Grumman and the unfortunate
19 loss of jobs and the unfortunate
20 contamination of the environment.

21 We have an opportunity to forget
22 the petty politics. There is plenty
23 of time for politic. Forget the
24 money. We live in an opportunistic
25 time.

1 Public Comments

2 All of the Town of Oyster Bay,
3 Nassau County, New York State, the
4 Federal Government, they are all here
5 today, our Water Districts, our
6 residents, people from all ages,
7 environmentalists. We have people who
8 don't even live near the contamination
9 or the area where the plume will go.
10 They're are all here. It's our life,
11 our future.

12 If I can take everyone -- I
13 think everyone is taking their notes.
14 I can pretty much speak on behalf of
15 everyone here. Go back to the drawing
16 board, work together, all levels of
17 government, let's figure out how we
18 can do for the first time the very
19 right thing that needs to be done.

20 On behalf of the Nassau County
21 Executive, we have stay involved with
22 this issue. Stay involved with the
23 issue. Come up on the 21st. Contact
24 your local State officials. It's very
25 important. The State Assembly works

1 Public Comments

2 with the Federal Government officials.
3 Contact our congress. Contact our
4 enforced local counsel, our
5 legislator. Let's get the thing done
6 the first time correctly.

7 Thanks so much for being here.

8 MR. FONDA: The next three
9 speakers are Andrew Valenski,
10 Christopher Voit and Scott Greco.

11 MR. VALENSKI: You couldn't tell
12 I work for the Government
13 (indicating). I wrote a little
14 speech. I live in Richmond, Virginia
15 now. I lived in Massapequa. I'm
16 doing work down there. I heard about
17 this issue. I drove eight and a half
18 hours to talk here because I have a
19 background in water quality. I wrote
20 a little speech.

21 Every corporation, special
22 interest group, agency, and
23 organization has a purpose; and with
24 that purpose comes a distinct set of
25 goals. These goals are best reflected

1 Public Comments

2 in "mission statements."

3 The Department of Environmental
4 Conservation is no exception. The
5 DEC's mission statement, as per the
6 New York State DEC homepage, the
7 website of DEC, is "To conserve,
8 improve and protect New York's natural
9 resources and environment and to
10 prevent, abate and control water, land
11 and air pollution, in order to enhance
12 the health, safety and welfare of the
13 people of the state and their overall
14 economic and social well-being."

15 I think the best way to
16 understand why action must be taken is
17 to directly associate the issue to the
18 responsibilities of the DEC to what is
19 going on is directly related to this
20 mission statement.

21 But, first off, my name is
22 Andrew Valenski. I lived in
23 Massapequa Park all my life. I went
24 to all schools here. To say I am a
25 product of Massapequa would be a gross

Public Comments

1
2 understatement.

3 Now I attend the University of
4 Richmond, double-majoring in Biology
5 and Environmental Studies. I have
6 worked for nonprofit environmental
7 organizations, most recently "Keep
8 Virginia Beautiful." I have worked
9 for the Federal Government, currently
10 working under National Park Service
11 grants, to conduct national resource
12 assessments of water, air, landscape
13 and biotic quality of national parks.
14 I am also working with a professor to
15 publish a paper on American water
16 practices, concerning consumption and
17 pollution.

18 In addition, I am establishing a
19 "Friends of the James" chapter at the
20 University of Richmond. "Friends of
21 the James" is an environmental
22 organization dedicated to preserving
23 Richmond's main waterway, the James
24 River in Virginia.

25 So now to dissect the mission

Public Comments

1 statement.

2
3 "To conserve, improve and
4 protect New York's natural resources
5 and environment" is the former clause
6 of this mission statement. This
7 portion of the statement deals
8 strictly with the environment. So how
9 does this plume affect our natural
10 landscapes?

11 We heard a lot of chemicals
12 here. Do we know what they do to
13 animals? Well, the compounds in the
14 plume have been found to cause cancer
15 amongst animals. The International
16 Agency for Research on Cancer, a
17 branch of the World Health
18 Organization, has classified the TCE
19 and PCE as definite carcinogens to
20 animals. And with untreated cancer
21 comes death. No one is going to treat
22 cancer in animals. We will have a lot
23 of deaths. We have taken courses in
24 ecology on the interaction of nature
25 and a lot of animals dying off.

1 Public Comments

2 That's not good. There are dozens, if
3 not hundreds, of papers on the
4 chemicals PCE and TCE. And almost all
5 the studies show they are carcinogens.

6 The plume is gigantic and has
7 the potential to result in massive
8 die-offs. A plume has happened before
9 in Endicott, New York, where IBM is
10 located. They had the same exact
11 problem in Endicott and it has been a
12 study area for major toxicologists for
13 the last 30, 40 years. It's not good
14 what we are finding.

15 To this day, they have a
16 remediation process. According to the
17 website of the DEC, they have 30 years
18 to fix the problem from when it
19 happened. I don't think our case will
20 be as difficult or take as long to
21 fix.

22 However, we are here mostly
23 because we are concerned with the
24 protection of human life.

25 The latter portion of the DEC's

1 Public Comments

2 mission statement is "to prevent,
3 abate and control water, land and air
4 pollution, in order to enhance the
5 health, safety and welfare of the
6 people of the state and their overall
7 economic and social well-being."

8 The plume, which has been
9 described as spreading for 50 years,
10 is not only a form of water and land
11 pollution but also threatens "the
12 health, safety and welfare of the
13 state and their overall economic and
14 social well-being."

15 A lot of people don't know the
16 ailments that can be caused by PCE and
17 TCE. There are a bunch of ailments.
18 I know people may be skeptical but I
19 have read literature from many
20 journals and federal publications.
21 So, PCE has been linked to the
22 following ailments: Bipolar disorder,
23 aplastic anemia, post-traumatic stress
24 disorder, liver cirrhosis,
25 schizophrenia, scleroderma, low birth

Public Comments

1 weight, cardiac defects, breast
2 cancer, visual perception defect, DNA
3 mutations in liver cells, increased
4 intensity of allergic reactions,
5 ovarian cancer, increased affinity for
6 drug use, lung cancer, liver cancer,
7 impaired sexual conception, delayed
8 sexual conception, soft tissue
9 sarcoma, rectal cancer, fetal death,
10 miscarriages, fetal growth
11 retardation, neural tube defects,
12 short-term memory loss, attention
13 disorders, cleft lips, esophageal
14 cancer, prostate cancer, cervical
15 cancer, non-Hodgkin Lymphoma,
16 end-stage renal disease, urinary
17 bladder cancer, choanal atresia,
18 autoimmune hepatitis, inflammatory
19 responses, brain cancer, alopecia,
20 kidney failure and leukemia.

22 These have all been reported in
23 peer review journals about the effects
24 of these chemicals. It's clear these
25 chemicals affect human life.

1 Public Comments

2 I feel therefore this appeals to
3 all aspects of the DEC's mission
4 statement.

5 So it is the DEC's
6 responsibility to handle this matter
7 with pressing urgency for the value of
8 human happiness, healthiness and
9 vitality is a matter which is not only
10 important, but uncompriseable.

11 The DEC has already seen the
12 negative impacts of these chemicals in
13 New York. In Endicott, New York, the
14 plume is classified as a class 2
15 Superfund site. Their remediation
16 process is going to take 30 years.

17 The remediation for our case on
18 Long Island will take a fraction of
19 that time. Rather than facing a
20 larger more costly crisis situation in
21 which human lives, animal lives and
22 total biotic capacities are
23 threatened, why not address the
24 problem directly with certainty and
25 execute it promptly?

1 Public Comments

2 The main issue, I believe, is
3 monetarily driven. The proposed plans
4 to remediate our plume are costly and
5 thus unrealistic. However, I doubt
6 anyone in this room would argue that
7 there should be a price cap on keeping
8 citizens safe from toxic sites that
9 threaten their water supply. The loss
10 of a single life at the hands of this
11 plume far outweighs any preventive sum
12 of capital. It simply does not matter
13 how much it costs, or to what extent
14 the DEC must stretch to fix this
15 issue; it must be addressed.

16 I am going leave you with a
17 quote from Thomas Jefferson. Thomas
18 Jefferson said the purpose of
19 government is to "enable the people of
20 a nation to live in safety and
21 happiness." And this is all we ask
22 from the DEC, to let us live in
23 safety, security, good health and
24 happiness. Thank you.

25 MR. FONDA: Four more cards,

1 Public Comments

2 Scott Greco and Eric Hartman and Ed
3 Rosenfeld and Al -- I'm sorry, I can't
4 make out Al's last name.

5 Is Scott Greco here?

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Pass.

7 MR. FONDA: Mr. Hartman, Eric
8 Hartman?

9 MR. HARTMAN: The reason I came
10 tonight -- I am going to address the
11 crowd this way, not in any disrespect.
12 But I came down to talk. Basically, I
13 grew up in Bethpage and so did my
14 wife. And I don't know if these guys
15 are better or not, but I am going to
16 tell you the cancer rate in Bethpage
17 is off the charts. Okay?

18 So brain tumors -- my wife grew
19 up in Bethpage. My wife had a brain
20 tumor. My good friend had a brain
21 tumor. My other good friend had liver
22 cancer. Another good friend of mine
23 had a brain tumor. This is all within
24 a two-mile radius of where the plume
25 was.

1 Public Comments

2 I don't think it's acceptable to
3 you guys -- I don't live in Bethpage
4 anymore. -- but it's not acceptable
5 to me to hear that they're not going
6 to remove it 100 percent. Okay?

7 So me -- you know, I am not
8 going to get up here and speak about
9 the different chemicals that are in
10 the ground because it's affecting all
11 of us. And I lived in Bethpage from
12 1962 to 1989 so I'm affected although
13 I'm not living here anymore. I drank
14 the water from the schools, in parks,
15 dove in the playgrounds, ate the dirt
16 playing softball and I appeal to all
17 of you, don't take no for an answer.

18 A lot of the people are. I
19 don't know. Are there a lot of Miami
20 basketball fans in Bethpage? At about
21 ten to 9:00, a bus pulled up and they
22 are all going to see Miami.

23 Again, to me, I don't live in
24 Bethpage, I'm concerned and I'm
25 concerned because I might be passing

1 Public Comments

2 genes to my children that are
3 contaminated. So, please, this is
4 really gets me to the heart.

5 I am very attached to Bethpage.
6 I worked in the community for years.
7 I worked in Hicksville and to me -- I
8 drank the water.

9 Everybody in this room -- don't
10 you remember a couple of years ago won
11 Bethpage won that they had the best
12 drinking water in New York State? Let
13 me ask you this question. Was it due
14 to chemicals? I don't know.

15 But all I got to say is I'm not
16 trying to turn this into a standup
17 routine, I am trying to say to these
18 people wake up before it's too late,
19 like what happened in New York State
20 25, 35 years ago.

21 I don't know if you guys saw All
22 the Water in the World. I think of it
23 every day. So this reminds me a lot
24 of that movie.

25 I live in Deer Park now near

1 Public Comments

2 another plume site. Again I'm not
3 trying to turn this into comedy in any
4 way other than to tell you, guys, I'm
5 concerned. I do not live in Bethpage
6 anymore but I'm concerned for all of
7 my friends that do. Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. FONDA: The next speaker is
10 Ed Rosenfeld.

11 MR. PARISEI: Good evening,
12 everyone. I'm Al Parisei. I lived in
13 Massapequa for 50 years. I retired as
14 a Lieutenant Colonel. I flew as a
15 young pilot.

16 I want to tell you something.
17 I'm tired of this country putting
18 Band-Aids on big problems.

19 It's about time the rest of you
20 here understand something. You did a
21 great job presenting all the maps and
22 the data. As someone earlier said,
23 it's time to stop the constant
24 presentation of the data and take some
25 action. We've waited ten years. I

1 Public Comments

2 knew about this and everyone else did.
3 Mr. Sabino mentioned he's been writing
4 letters for over ten years, a decade.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 20 years.

6 MR. PARISEI: 20 years.

7 And I know you weren't with them
8 at the time. You, probably, are the
9 most responsive as they said before of
10 the group. I think you have gotten a
11 message tonight of what your homework
12 is going to be up in Albany. The
13 people here are tired and everything
14 has been said that it's unacceptable
15 to put a Band-Aid on a major item.
16 That's unbelievable and will hurt the
17 entire Long Island South Shore.

18 Number one, when this plume hits
19 Massapequa wells, all those wells will
20 become contaminated. You have to stop
21 it now, not five years from now.

22 I remember coming to a meeting
23 maybe five years ago and you said --
24 not you personally, but the DEC said
25 it will take 10 to 20 years before the

1 Public Comments

2 plume crosses Hempstead Turnpike.
3 It's already down there. It's at the
4 Southern State Parkway and it's only
5 two years. And once it hits there,
6 gentlemen, there you have a job to do.

7 The young man from raised in
8 Massapequa, a very bright young man,
9 he said basically you're responsible
10 for our health and welfare. It's time
11 for you to take the action. That's
12 all I wanted to say.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. FONDA: My final two cards
15 Fran Trotter and Warren Simon.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm not
17 in your schedule. One second. This
18 is important. I'm a resident. I pay
19 a lot of taxes here.

20 A lot of you are still here. If
21 you notice, we are here to address
22 them, there were four of them when we
23 began. Now there are two. One of
24 them is just sitting there. What
25 happened to the other guy? He went to

1 Public Comments

2 do a TV report?

3 We have to take the bull by the
4 horns. These people are not doing the
5 job. They presented stuff tonight. I
6 sat in the back. We don't have the
7 technology to be able to hear from
8 there with the tax money we pay? They
9 have signs that are this big that you
10 can't see from over here.

11 How far is the plume? It's
12 about four miles and that is different
13 than being that far on a picture. We
14 need to stop goofing around. These
15 guys are not doing their job.

16 We're the ones that got to go
17 home to our kids when our kids get
18 sick. Like the gentleman said,
19 Bethpage is riddled with cancer.

20 Grumman says it has nothing to
21 do with it. The Navy says it has
22 nothing to do with it.

23 The Town of Oyster Bay, they say
24 they have nothing to do with it, but
25 they did their part. They cleaned up

1 Public Comments

2 their part.

3 Right away the Government sucks
4 our money. Are they doing their part?
5 Forgive me, you guys are bored to
6 death. If we got this job done as
7 quick as you race to put up that five
8 minute card -- you have been watching
9 that clock. This guy got a minute and
10 a half. He got 30 seconds. The sign
11 goes right up.

12 But you, guys, don't do your job
13 here. Do you care about us here? Do
14 you know what kind of money we pay to
15 live in this place? Nobody wants to
16 do anything.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We pay
18 state taxes too.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Long
20 Island is an apocalypse of New York.
21 We inherit everything. We have to
22 stop you guys. You got to do
23 something.

24 The guy said before there was
25 another political thing. He contacted

1 Public Comments

2 everyone. You have to. Otherwise
3 these guys are not doing it. These
4 are four more guys they sent after the
5 last four guys after the last four
6 guys and the four guys after that.

7 I don't know how closely you
8 listened. There was a lot of double
9 talk that we didn't know about. It
10 affects us. We didn't know about this
11 -- we found out about this in 2004.

12 I have a friend. They've known
13 about this for 30, 40, 50 years. We
14 only found out in 2004. Give me a
15 break, guys. We're not stupid. We
16 let a lot of things slide. We're not
17 stupid.

18 Maybe you can do something. I
19 doubt it. You're one person in the
20 political world that they sent out
21 here.

22 We have to do it ourselves.
23 Someone has to rise up and just keep
24 pushing the envelope.

25 (Applause.)

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Public Comments

MR. FONDA: Fran Trotter and Warren Simon are the two cards I have. Again, we'll still take more comments.

MS. TROTTER: Hi. My name is Fran Trotter. I am a resident of Bethpage for 28 years. I'm very sorry to say I want you to remember my face. I have been recently diagnosed with a rare form of cutaneous T-cell lymphoma that's attacking my skin. My doctors at Sloan Kettering have told me this is very rare. When they did my biopsy that I am still recovering from the end of April, they asked me to donate my cells to research because it's that rare.

In addition, the street I live on is approximately three blocks, okay, from the community park. We live on a corner. I'm on Thomas Avenue on the corner of North Third Street.

In addition to me having this

1 Public Comments

2 rare form of this skin cell lymphoma,
3 I can count three, four, five, now six
4 people, four on Thomas Avenue and two
5 on Third Street who have or have had
6 cancer. Some of them have succumbed
7 to their brain cancers and breast
8 cancers.

9 Please, remember me. And don't
10 only do this for me. Do it for my
11 children. They were born and raised
12 here. My son is a volunteer fireman
13 with the Bethpage Fire Department. He
14 does training, you know, over at the
15 fire service academy. I just want you
16 to put a face with a name. I thank
17 you for your time.

18 (Applause.)

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I live
20 around the corner from her. It's
21 funny, I came from a family of seven
22 people. I'm the only one of five
23 girls that end up with a brain tumor.

24 I had just delivered my son and
25 I was diagnosed with brain cancer. I

Public Comments

1
2 was told I would not live long. I was
3 a full-time working mother. I lived
4 in Bethpage all of my life. I spent
5 every single day of the summer at the
6 community pool, at the summer camp, at
7 the ice skating rink in the winter, in
8 the softball field, in that giant sump
9 playing shooting with arrows from camp
10 and going forwards from there.

11 I questioned it at the time that
12 I was diagnosed and I said to myself,
13 wait a second, on Fifth and Mead,
14 there was breast cancer. The police
15 commissioner's wife died of breast
16 cancer. Mrs. Dawson had breast
17 cancer. She was on Mead and Third.
18 Then there was Mrs. Lang on Third with
19 breast cancer. And Cathy Rooney had a
20 brain tumor in the vapor zone. And a
21 fireman JC just had cancer, he had a
22 brain tumor and he died when I got to
23 my tenth year.

24 My parents say I have lived
25 because of my children. I had to live

1 Public Comments

2 for my children. And I said to my
3 mother, I was a good person, I never
4 drank, I never did anything.

5 I hung out with the biggest
6 sports people in Bethpage. As time
7 went forward, the head of the football
8 team, he had a tumor in his ear and
9 then diagnosed with liver cancer. And
10 the top lacrosse player, top in
11 sports, he wound up with colon cancer.
12 He lived in the area near the air
13 track around the top basket. He got
14 colon cancer. Next door to him, she
15 got breast cancer. Across the street,
16 a brain tumor. People are dying
17 before they turn 40. Nobody is
18 acknowledging it. It's just a normal
19 thing.

20 The problem -- now I am talking
21 too much. My fear is when I go to
22 take my children, what are they going
23 to be scanned with. What doesn't
24 happen to you in this generation, then
25 you have the babies.

1 Public Comments

2 I went to my reunion and there
3 was a person at the reunion in a
4 wheelchair with a disability.

5 When does it stop? When people
6 are born with two thumbs or weird
7 forming issue that are diagnosed like
8 women with two uteruses?

9 When I finally reached the tenth
10 year, then I get diagnosed with uterus
11 cancer. I say to my son, why just me.

12 The mother on Fourth and Thomas
13 got melanoma. The woman on Fifth
14 Street and Thomas, she had cancer
15 throughout her body, unidentifiable.
16 Her daughter who works for the
17 Government got breast cancer and then
18 cancer throughout her body.

19 The sooner you move on this, the
20 more we can live. I am still alive
21 and walking and have my children. You
22 can still go forward. You have to
23 come to the truth of it and let people
24 get scanned and get services that are
25 needed.

1 Public Comments

2 Dr. Patrick Kelly at NYU did my
3 brain surgery. He got the van that
4 comes around the neighborhood and
5 scans for brain tumors. I would be
6 dead already if nobody came to my
7 house. It would still be there.

8 Bethpage is the greatest place
9 to live, the houses, the
10 neighborhoods. I wish I could still
11 live there. I live there still and do
12 not drink the water and take short
13 showers. I don't want to put people's
14 houses down. I just want to say let's
15 get with it.

16 It's ridiculous to me that
17 Grumman, the big Air Force people,
18 can't come back and take care of
19 people. Every day we were at that
20 pool and thankful as we would sit
21 there. They, probably, knew we were
22 swimming in poison. But I can't talk
23 anymore. Thank you.

24 I used to go to Thomas and Third
25 because it was Mrs. Trotter. She used

1 Public Comments

2 to give me candy.

3 MRS. TROTTER: Remember us and,
4 please, do what's right. It's not
5 about money. Let's fix it. It's
6 shocking we had to come to this
7 meeting.

8 These are faces that we want you
9 to remember.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I live
11 here. I am 43 years old. My parents
12 who lived here have since passed away
13 from cancers. Do something now
14 because we need it desperately.

15 (Applause.)

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I live on
17 North Third Street. Every house on my
18 block has had some sort of cancer, not
19 every other house, every house and
20 even my dog got it recently.
21 Something has to be done. Thank you.

22 MR. FONDA: Thank you.

23 Warren Simon is next.

24 We will take more comments.

25 MR. SIMON: Good evening. I am

1 Public Comments

2 Warren Simon. At this point, I don't
3 know whether to face this way or that
4 way, but just keep turning around.

5 In deference to the ladies with
6 cancer and the fellow neighbor, I too
7 have cancer, but I didn't come to talk
8 about that. I'm a resident of
9 Bethpage. I'm not an engineer. But I
10 have a share of commonality of every
11 person in this room. I drink water.
12 I'm reminded of the tag line of the
13 movie Jaws, Just when you thought it
14 was safe to go back in the water.

15 About a year ago, the Department
16 of Health has forced the Bethpage
17 water supply to become chlorinated.
18 Aren't you glad we're chlorinated?
19 That's going to keep all this other
20 stuff from harming us somehow.

21 I would like to thank the water
22 company representatives. I believe we
23 heard from three or four of them. I
24 feel they are champions.

25 (Applause.)

1 Public Comments

2 I am not going to personally
3 attack anyone from DEC or the New York
4 Health Department or Nassau County
5 Health Department.

6 I appreciate everyone coming
7 here trying to help. I think one of
8 the reasons we have such a great turn
9 out is because of the phone calls. I
10 got mine yesterday. I'm sorry there
11 was such short notice.

12 I have attended prior meetings
13 in the Bethpage Community Center. I
14 believe that was for Operational Unit
15 2 when I met Mr. Scharf from the DEC.

16 I thought everything was taken
17 care of. I live down North Herman by
18 Plant 4. They built this huge plant
19 south of it to suck water out of the
20 earth and inject it back. They bought
21 a new tower to match the other one.
22 Now I have two. I thought everything
23 was taken care of not because I do not
24 read anything in notices sent to my
25 house referencing this problem.

1 Public Comments

2 What happened to the word
3 information? Why am I not getting the
4 letters I got when Operational Plan 2
5 was of concern? My both neighbors
6 attended those meetings, but I am not
7 part of Operational Unit 3.

8 I think mistakenly by dividing
9 us into Units 1, 2 and 3 we've been
10 weakened. Our collective voices have
11 been divided and there are few people
12 that attended those meetings that I
13 was at at the Bethpage Community
14 Center.

15 This is first time I have ever
16 seen so many people coming out. I
17 thank all of you for becoming
18 concerned.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We're all
20 here now.

21 MR. SIMON: I think one of the
22 problems with the contamination is
23 that it is not visible. We have
24 visual recollection. Let's take the
25 spill in the Gulf of Mexico by BP.

1 Public Comments

2 Show of hands. How many people were
3 watching that on almost a daily basis
4 on TV, on the Internet? They had a
5 robot down in there in the Gulf trying
6 to repair the oil leaking like crazy.

7 We were all concerned then.

8 Weren't we? We had something to look
9 at. It wasn't a piece of map of
10 circles and ovals drawn. It was an
11 image, a moving image, of oil spilling
12 out.

13 BP is being held accountable for
14 that. I've heard defenses of
15 Grumman -- Northrop Grumman Corp. I
16 did not come here to blame them
17 either. What they did in that period
18 of time was common. Did they lack the
19 foresight? Yes, they did. Was it
20 their fault? Not necessarily.

21 There are things that we still
22 don't know about our future. And in
23 70 years, we may be judged as being
24 shortsighted too.

25 However, we need not be

1 Public Comments

2 shortsighted about that which is
3 affecting us today. To say we don't
4 have the technology to fix this
5 problem in the year 2012 is just
6 beyond my grasp.

7 (Applause.)

8 A common example is how far we
9 have come with the technology often
10 referred as to the size of the
11 computer from the time the computers
12 were invented by UNIVAC or the other
13 funny sounding name Sperry Corp. If we
14 can make a computer the size of a
15 thumbnail and smaller to do what they
16 do today, I think we can clean this up
17 too.

18 Thank you very much.

19 MR. FONDA: Michael Sayers and
20 another gentleman wants to go after
21 Michael.

22 MR. SAYERS: My name is Michael
23 Sayers. I'm a resident of Bethpage.
24 I was not planning on speaking or
25 asking a question or commenting this

1 Public Comments

2 evening, but after hearing many of my
3 fellow residents mentioning all of
4 these problems, most notorious being
5 cancer, I'm wondering if maybe the
6 gentleman from the DOH could reach out
7 to maybe folks over at the DEC and
8 tell us whether or not this
9 information is anecdotal or any sort
10 of an epidemic. That's a study that
11 hasn't been done. It should be done.

12 I don't expect an answer, but I
13 would just like to put that on the
14 record.

15 I assume many of our questions
16 are going to be unanswered. If there
17 have not been studies as such, perhaps
18 it's time to initiate some. It seems
19 to be more than one or two people.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. VOIT: Good evening. I am
22 Christopher Voit. I'm not from this
23 area. I am from East Meadow. I
24 became involved with this problem
25 after reading the article on Friday

Public Comments

1
2 about the plume in the water.

3 I was aware of a plume. I lived
4 in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. They had all
5 the gasoline in the earth since 1900.

6 I did homework. Since Friday, I
7 did research. There is a gentleman
8 from a university in Philadelphia that
9 I talked to today that actually has
10 organisms -- it's a new technology
11 using organisms that they put in the
12 ground to eat all these different
13 carbohydrates (phonetic).

14 I talked to him today about this
15 article, what was in this little
16 article. He gave me a proposal on
17 this cleanup. Now I see it's larger.
18 It's only around 4 million dollars to
19 get it out of the ground and the
20 water.

21 I'm here with a solution, what
22 they can look at. Like he says, why
23 is 60 million dollars needed, all that
24 money? Like he says, from all the
25 engineers, why? I was wondering why

1 Public Comments

2 over 60 million dollars. It's going
3 in someone's pocket.

4 He could come over here and,
5 probably, do it in three to five
6 years. And he would go over anything
7 you like. He said if his bugs can't
8 eat your stuff, it is free.

9 This gentleman I contacted.
10 Here it is with all your background.
11 All I'm seeing is the hundreds of
12 million dollars. I became involved on
13 Friday and for five to ten to 20
14 million bucks, we can get it done.

15 Thank you very much. I can go
16 show it to them.

17 MR. FONDA: That's my last card.
18 We will stay in the lobby if you have
19 some individual questions.

20 I thank you for all your
21 patience and for coming here.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I've been
23 a resident since 1951. My parents
24 lived in the middle of the plume zone.
25 They're both dead now from cancer. My

1 Public Comments

2 dad had prostate cancer. I now have
3 prostate cancer.

4 What are you guys going to do?

5 MR. GROSS: My name is Tom
6 Gross. I'm a life long resident of
7 Bethpage. I worked in Grumman as a
8 summer job. My father was a
9 Grumman-ite. During college, I worked
10 at Grumman in the pits.

11 And, you know, I look at this,
12 we keep on saying Grumman, Grumman
13 Northrop. Right now it's a California
14 company that we don't hear anything
15 about, a California company that's
16 worth well over a hundred billion
17 dollars. 100 million dollars is not a
18 lot of money to a company that has
19 over 100 billion dollars.

20 Like we have a Federal
21 Government who is wasting stimulus tax
22 money taking off tattoos, spending
23 several millions. They keep printing
24 more and more money. Let them print
25 some money to clean this up.

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Thank you.

MR. FONDA: Thank you all for
coming tonight.

MR. SCHARF: Thank you.

(Time noted: 9:45 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATION

I, Susan C. Bartlett, a Notary Public for and within the State of New York, do hereby certify:

That the witness whose testimony as herein set forth, was duly sworn by me; and that the within transcript is a true record of the testimony given by said witness.

I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of June, 2012.

Susan C. Bartlett

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03 1:6	200,000 17:17	6 8:15 11:12	24:10 25:6
1	2000 10:6 31:14	6,000 50:17	address 38:3 49:10
1 6:8 87:9	32:2 34:2	60 21:18 91:23 92:2	67:23 69:10 74:21
10 1:12 73:25	2001 24:21	7	addressed 5:12 7:18
100 22:11,12 33:12	2002 34:3	7,000 54:17	68:15
36:5,6,6 38:14	2004 77:11,14	70 88:23	affairs 12:13
46:17 54:16,21 70:6	2010 11:4	72,000 20:14	affect 63:9 66:25
93:17,19	2011 11:5	75 17:5	affinity 66:6
100,000 17:3,6	2012 1:9,13 24:23	8	afford 51:5
107 21:11 46:18	89:5 95:18	80 35:15	afraid 33:15,22
10:00 4:24 5:5	20th 95:18	8:15 1:14	56:10,11,12
11 17:4 49:13	21 11:15 13:6	9	afternoon 49:18
110 27:3	21st 3:7 59:23	90 23:18,19 26:15	agency 7:3 60:22
12 1:13	22,000 29:13	33:14	63:16
13 29:10	25 16:14 71:20	9:00 70:21	ages 59:6
130003a 1:8	250 22:13	9:45 94:6	aggressively 41:25
14 13:5,11	28 78:8	a	ago 11:21 16:22
15 3:24 42:2 57:5	2s 6:8	abate 61:10 65:3	22:10 29:22 33:5
150 21:12	3	ability 42:4	35:11 40:5 54:15
19 21:4	3 3:22 6:3,9,11,17	able 3:10 32:21 75:7	71:10,20 73:23
1900 91:5	11:3,13,16 12:5,9	absolutely 32:19	85:15
1937 28:15	12:18,22 13:10 23:4	33:2 38:24	agree 23:3
1942 45:15	25:3,11,15 33:9,16	absorbed 56:13	agreed 19:24
1949 44:4	87:7,9	academy 79:15	aid 43:2 73:15
1951 92:23	30 17:5 22:9,13	acceptable 26:16,21	aids 72:18
1962 70:12	35:14 50:10,24	70:2,4	ailments 65:16,17
1969 29:5	64:13,17 67:16	accountable 12:16	65:22
1989 70:12	76:10 77:13	88:13	air 44:3 46:6,7 55:5
1990 15:2	330 28:20	accounted 21:19	61:11 62:12 65:3
1992 6:18	35 29:22 71:20	accurate 23:21	81:12 83:17
1994 7:6	4	achieve 27:4 35:19	aircraft 28:17
1995 7:16 8:12	4 11:11 86:18 91:18	acknowledging	al 69:3 72:12
2	40 22:5 64:13 77:13	81:18	al's 69:4
2 9:5 11:12 12:9	81:17	acres 17:4	alarm 39:5
22:7 24:22 25:5,12	400 22:22 35:16	act 41:16,24 49:6	albany 37:5 73:12
33:17,18 67:14	43 84:11	action 1:5 24:18	alive 82:20
86:15 87:4,9	5	34:16 37:12 51:22	allergic 66:5
20 21:15 22:14	5 11:11	61:16 72:25 74:11	alleviate 44:8
30:10 35:11,13,16	5,400 17:24	95:14	allow 53:8
42:2 46:8 50:10	50 54:15,17 65:9	active 12:4	allowed 21:16
73:5,6,25 92:13	72:13 77:13	addition 9:11 62:18	alopecia 66:20
		78:19,25	alternative 19:16
			america 26:24 43:11
			43:12

<p>american 26:4,20 33:4 62:15 amount 17:7 18:17 29:11 31:4,5 34:21 53:8 andrew 60:9 61:22 anecdotal 90:9 anemia 65:23 angels 53:9 animal 67:21 animals 45:2 48:17 63:13,15,20,22,25 announce 3:25 annoyed 49:25 answer 3:12 25:18 70:17 90:12 answered 18:14 22:23 23:14 43:15 anthony 5:21 30:4 anxious 8:20 anymore 30:9 70:4 70:13 72:6 83:23 aplastic 65:23 apocalypse 76:20 appeal 70:16 appeals 67:2 appearances 2:2 applause 13:15 14:5 15:25 17:11 18:8 19:10 21:2 22:18 23:8 25:19 27:6,25 29:25 31:9 33:20 36:12 38:16 43:18 47:8 53:15 57:10 72:8 74:13 77:25 79:18 84:15 85:25 89:7 apple 34:24 appreciate 52:20 86:6 approach 18:17 approaching 15:17 approximately 12:25 78:20</p>	<p>april 24:23 78:16 aqua 26:5 33:4 aquifer 40:19,22 47:13 48:2 area 25:5 55:8,12,18 59:9 64:12 81:12 90:23 area's 38:10 areas 55:15 argue 68:6 aroused 49:25 arrows 80:9 article 90:25 91:15 91:16 asked 36:22 78:16 asking 89:25 aspects 67:3 asphalt 20:21,22 assembly 38:2,12 59:25 assemblyman 36:15 36:22 43:22 57:22 assessments 62:12 associate 61:17 assume 90:15 assumptions 8:6 assurance 39:20 ate 70:15 atresia 66:18 attached 71:5 attack 86:3 attacking 78:12 attend 62:3 attendance 37:8 attended 86:12 87:6 87:12 attention 66:13 attorney 30:7 audience 49:10 autoimmune 66:19 avail 14:21 availability 7:20 available 13:25 avenue 1:12 78:23 79:4</p>	<p>averna 36:14,19,20 avoid 40:7 aware 7:9 91:3</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">b</p> <hr/> <p>babies 81:25 back 6:15,18 24:20 31:14 34:7,19 36:10 42:3 47:6 48:6 50:4 51:23 54:7 59:15 75:6 83:18 85:14 86:20 background 16:23 31:17 60:19 92:10 backyard 56:9 bad 29:6 34:9 45:13 band 72:18 73:15 bartlett 95:4,21 base 44:4 based 17:19 23:23 24:3 49:23 basically 69:12 74:9 basis 88:3 basket 81:13 basketball 70:20 bathe 56:8,11 bathing 53:11 battle 46:11 bay 21:18 37:24 40:20,23 41:4,13 59:2 75:23 bays 38:8 beaches 38:8 bear 27:23 39:19 beat 28:19 beautiful 62:8 becoming 87:17 began 74:23 behalf 27:14,18 36:21 42:19 57:13 59:14,20 believe 38:14 42:20 68:2 85:22 86:14 belongs 13:20</p>	<p>beneficial 13:24 best 5:23 33:13 38:15 60:25 61:15 71:11 bethpage 1:6,8,12 3:8 4:3 5:15,22 6:5 6:7 7:18,23 8:11 9:11 10:14,21 11:10 11:18,24 12:16,24 13:7,16,23 14:10 16:6 28:10 29:7,12 30:12,13 37:2 40:5 43:8 58:15 69:13,16 69:19 70:3,11,20,24 71:5,11 72:5 75:19 78:8 79:13 80:4 81:6 83:8 85:9,16 86:13 87:13 89:23 93:7 better 24:12 69:15 beyond 89:6 big 30:24 72:18 75:9 83:17 biggest 81:5 bill 2:6 26:2 28:8 billion 93:16,19 biology 62:4 biopsy 78:14 biotic 62:13 67:22 bipolar 65:22 birds 50:20 birth 65:25 bit 44:12 bladder 66:18 blame 88:16 blatantly 18:22 19:12 block 84:18 blocks 78:20 blood 95:14 blue 17:2 board 46:4 59:16 body 55:23 82:15,18 bored 76:5</p>
---	--	--	--

boring 21:10 born 28:13 44:3 79:11 82:6 bosses 26:10 bought 86:20 bound 38:12 bp 87:25 88:13 brain 66:20 69:18 69:19,20,23 79:7,23 79:25 80:20,22 81:16 83:3,5 branch 63:17 bravo 23:9 breached 40:6 break 77:15 breakthrough 40:7 breast 66:2 79:7 80:14,15,16,19 81:15 82:17 bright 74:8 brooklyn 91:4 brother 29:21 brought 40:2 bucks 92:14 budnick 36:16 43:24,25 bugs 92:7 build 28:16 43:3 building 30:25 built 28:20 86:18 bull 75:3 bunch 32:13 65:17 burden 13:18 27:24 burdens 14:20 bureau 2:5 bus 16:19,21 26:11 44:9 70:21 business 16:14 busy 28:4 buy 57:2	call 4:9 23:5 43:6,15 called 20:7 27:16 29:7 calling 51:20 calls 86:9 camp 80:6,9 cancer 63:14,16,20 63:22 66:3,6,7,7,10 66:15,15,16,18,20 69:16,22 75:19 79:6 79:25 80:14,16,17 80:19,21 81:9,11,14 81:15 82:11,14,17 82:18 84:18 85:6,7 90:5 92:25 93:2,3 cancers 79:7,8 84:13 candor 39:2 candy 84:2 cap 20:21 56:16 68:7 capacities 67:22 capital 68:12 capping 19:18,19 20:2,17 carbohydrents 91:13 carcinogens 19:3 53:5,12 63:19 64:5 card 76:8 92:17 cardiac 66:2 cards 3:23,24 4:21 68:25 74:14 78:3 care 28:18 37:18 51:24 76:13 83:18 86:17,23 carey 23:10,11 carriers 46:5 caruso 16:5,10,10 26:10 44:10 46:16 case 16:13 39:17 64:19 67:17 cat 45:16 cathy 80:19 cats 28:21	cause 63:14 caused 13:8 24:6 34:13 65:16 causes 8:24 caution 45:22 cell 78:11 79:2 cells 66:4 78:17 center 3:8 16:21 44:9 47:2 86:13 87:14 certain 34:18 certainty 67:24 certification 95:2 certify 95:6,12 cervical 66:15 chairman 31:15 chairs 32:4 challenge 42:6 challenges 37:10 champions 85:24 changed 15:5 24:2 chapter 62:19 character 42:21 charged 7:3 charts 69:17 check 33:9 chemicals 54:23 55:6 57:6 63:11 64:4 66:24,25 67:12 70:9 71:14 chemistry 56:17 cherry 1:12 children 43:16 53:9 55:10 58:8 71:2 79:11 80:25 81:2,22 82:21 chlorinated 85:17 85:18 choanal 66:18 choose 5:17 chosen 21:22 christopher 60:10 90:22 chromium 45:11	chuck 27:14 circles 88:10 circumstances 34:5 34:18 cirrhosis 65:24 citizen 2:7 citizens 42:10,25 68:8 civil 26:7 claim 9:14,25 claimed 9:7 clarity 52:22 class 67:14 classified 63:18 67:14 clause 63:5 clay 48:4 clean 16:18 18:2,6 18:18 22:17,20 47:7 50:9 53:14 54:24 55:8,14,14 89:16 93:25 cleaned 23:7 47:6 57:4 75:25 cleaning 27:24 29:16 56:22 cleanup 19:14 27:5 91:17 clear 47:18 48:14 66:24 cleft 66:14 clock 76:9 close 10:16 closed 14:16 closely 77:7 closer 32:23 closest 5:18 coincides 37:4 collective 87:10 college 93:9 colon 81:11,14 colonel 72:14 come 5:16 12:8 16:23,24 27:2 31:7 32:22 33:19 40:24
c			
c 95:4,21 california 93:13,15			

<p>59:23 82:23 83:18 84:6 85:7 88:16 89:9 92:4 comedy 72:3 comes 60:24 63:21 83:4 coming 6:22 16:9 28:3 46:20 56:19 73:22 86:6 87:16 92:21 94:4 comment 3:21 4:19 4:22,23 commented 9:7 commenting 89:25 comments 3:1,21 4:1,10,25 5:1,7,12 6:1,2,15 7:1 8:1 9:1 10:1 11:1 12:1 13:1 14:1,4,7 15:1 16:1 17:1 18:1 19:1 20:1 21:1 22:1 23:1 24:1 25:1 26:1 27:1 28:1 28:12 29:1 30:1 31:1 32:1 33:1 34:1 35:1 36:1 37:1 38:1 39:1 40:1 41:1 42:1 43:1 44:1 45:1 46:1 47:1 48:1 49:1 50:1 51:1,21 52:1 53:1 54:1 55:1 56:1 57:1 58:1 59:1 60:1 61:1 62:1 63:1 64:1 65:1 66:1 67:1 68:1 69:1 70:1 71:1 72:1 73:1 74:1 75:1 76:1 77:1 78:1,5 79:1 80:1 81:1 82:1 83:1 84:1 84:24 85:1 86:1 87:1 88:1 89:1 90:1 91:1 92:1 93:1 commingled 25:4 commissioner 11:7 16:11,15,17 26:9 28:9</p>	<p>commissioner's 80:15 commit 40:14 42:11 commitment 42:20 committed 37:12 committee 31:17 40:3 common 88:18 89:8 commonality 85:10 communities 42:9 community 3:8 6:5 6:7 7:8 42:16,25 49:24 71:6 78:21 80:6 86:13 87:13 company 85:22 93:14,15,18 complete 39:20 42:8 45:18 completed 16:22 completely 48:13 compliance 54:10 compliant 39:12 complied 20:4,14 compliments 48:21 compounds 40:9 45:11 63:13 compromise 42:7 computer 89:11,14 computers 89:11 concentration 8:17 9:4 concept 9:18 conception 66:8,9 concern 7:8,12 32:9 87:5 concerned 10:15 18:3,9 41:23 51:17 55:22 64:23 70:24 70:25 72:5,6 87:18 88:7 concerning 62:16 conclusion 14:25 conditions 8:8,10 conduct 62:11</p>	<p>conducted 3:4 confidence 41:5 congress 60:3 consequences 40:2 consequently 11:24 conservation 2:16 2:19 61:4 conserve 61:7 63:3 consider 21:3 consideration 38:13 53:22 considered 39:15 constant 72:23 constituents 18:17 38:15 constructed 13:18 37:11 construction 8:21 consumer 52:13 consumers 10:24 56:24 consumption 39:25 62:16 contact 59:23 60:3,3 contacted 76:25 92:9 contain 31:24 32:8 32:20 36:3 contained 26:16 containing 56:16 containment 9:9,18 9:21,25 23:23 27:4 34:22 35:20 36:5 41:19 42:23 contains 10:23 contaminant 48:13 contaminants 10:24 20:19 30:15 40:11 54:16,18 contaminated 9:13 19:18 20:15 21:6 26:19 50:11 71:3 73:20 contamination 7:25 9:10,15 10:4 14:13</p>	<p>20:9 24:14 30:18 33:17 38:24 39:21 58:20 59:8 87:22 continue 32:10 53:10 continued 9:13 continuing 48:6,7 control 61:10 65:3 convey 3:18 convinced 32:6,7 cook 56:3 copy 8:13 11:4 corner 78:22,23 79:20 corp 88:15 89:13 corporation 60:21 correctly 60:6 cost 13:25 19:13 22:9,21 23:23 33:25 35:16 38:6 costly 67:20 68:4 costs 68:13 counsel 30:4 60:4 count 79:3 country 45:25 72:17 county 1:8 14:11 16:16 31:11 32:3 44:5 47:22 48:16 49:2 50:16 51:22 57:12,22,23 58:12 59:3,20 86:4 couple 6:14 24:25 48:10 55:24 71:10 course 33:25 courses 63:23 court 5:20 crazy 88:6 create 39:21 created 54:3,13,15 crisis 67:20 criteria 54:11 critically 8:5 crosses 74:2 crowd 69:11</p>
--	--	---	---

<p>cuomo 18:5 23:6 cuomo's 18:25 current 12:13 32:3 currently 62:9 cut 5:25 cutaneous 78:11</p>	<p>decade 11:21 73:4 declared 40:16 45:19 dedicated 41:6 42:24 62:22 deep 7:12 deeply 36:25 37:18 41:23 44:13</p>	<p>destroying 45:4 detectable 30:17 development 10:18 31:16 diagnosed 78:10 79:25 80:12 81:9 82:7,10</p>	<p>40:5 58:13 district's 7:19 districts 17:16 22:25 27:18 58:2 59:5 divided 87:11 dividing 87:8 division 12:15</p>
d			
<p>dad 93:2 daily 51:19 88:3 damn 46:14 danger 45:6 47:18 48:14 51:7 dare 52:9 data 7:20 8:7,24 11:9 72:22,24 date 15:8 daughter 82:16 dave 31:11 57:22 dawson 80:16 day 8:3,3 27:5 40:24 41:16 56:7 64:15 71:23 80:5 83:19 95:18 dc 27:16 dead 83:6 92:25 deal 8:3 14:9 dealing 6:4 35:24 deals 63:7 death 63:21 66:10 76:6 deaths 63:23 dec 6:13,19 8:4,12 9:7 10:7 11:8 14:14 14:23 18:14,24 22:8 24:7,9,18 29:4,20 34:8 38:7 39:13 41:5,10 51:25 52:7 58:12 61:6,7,18 64:17 67:11 68:14 68:22 73:24 86:3,15 90:7 dec's 61:5 64:25 67:3,5</p>	<p>deer 71:25 default 12:3 defect 66:3 defects 66:2,12 defense 15:9 43:6 defenses 88:14 deference 85:5 definite 63:19 degree 16:12 50:19 delay 7:13 8:20 delayed 66:8 delineate 24:12 31:23 32:21 48:9 delineated 32:6 delineation 27:20 34:23 36:6 delivered 79:24 demand 22:25 demanded 20:3 demonstrate 9:24 denenberg 31:10,11 57:22 denied 41:12 department 2:16,18 18:15 21:25 47:22 50:16 61:3 79:13 85:15 86:4,5 depth 50:2 depths 10:2 described 65:9 deserve 34:22 deserves 36:8 designs 22:20 desperately 84:14 destroyed 44:17 46:6</p>	<p>die 64:8 died 80:15,22 difference 23:20 different 21:8 70:9 75:12 91:12 difficult 64:20 difficulty 10:8 dig 9:25 55:19 dime 13:13 dinner 56:4 directed 12:17 directly 11:6 61:17 61:19 67:24 director 2:4 57:19 dirt 70:15 disability 82:4 discharges 12:20 discussion 49:17 disease 66:17 dismay 7:13 disorder 65:22,24 disorders 66:14 disputes 9:12 disrespect 69:11 dissect 62:25 distinct 60:24 distressful 53:21 distribute 10:22 district 4:4,5,6 5:16 5:23 6:19 7:12,23 8:2,2,11,19,25 9:6 9:12 10:14,22 11:10 11:19,25 12:17,24 13:7,16 14:10,18 16:4,7,12 17:23 19:25 20:11 22:3 23:12 27:22 28:10 29:7,12 33:2 39:8</p>	<p>dna 66:3 doctors 78:12 documented 9:16 dog 84:20 doh 18:24 90:6 doing 29:23 31:2 34:9 44:7 45:20 53:6 60:16 75:4,15 76:4 77:3 dollars 13:2,12 22:9 22:11,12,13,14,16 30:11 91:18,23 92:2 92:12 93:17,17,19 donate 78:16 door 81:14 double 62:4 77:8 doubt 8:25 68:5 77:19 dove 70:15 dozen 15:22 dozens 44:16,16,16 48:11 64:2 dr 83:2 dramatic 8:17 drank 70:13 71:8 81:4 drawing 21:8 46:4 59:15 drawings 21:7 drawn 88:10 drink 56:10 83:12 85:11 drinking 19:8 24:15 41:20 53:10 71:12 driven 68:3 drove 60:17 drug 66:7</p>

<p>due 40:21 71:13 duly 95:8 dumped 28:18,25 29:19 duper 57:2 duty 38:12 43:16 dying 63:25 81:16 dynamic 22:2</p>	<p>endeavored 38:2,5 endicott 64:9,11 67:13 enemies 54:6 energy 38:6 39:24 enforced 60:4 engineer 26:7 85:9 engineering 16:13 31:18</p>	<p>evaluation 9:17 evening 16:5 27:12 28:6 31:10 36:19,25 37:3,8 43:24 72:11 84:25 90:2,21 event 10:19 28:23 everybody 29:20 57:24 58:7 71:9 evident 37:17</p>	<p>faces 84:8 facilities 12:19 13:3 facility 1:6 26:12 47:3 facing 67:19 fact 9:21 12:24 15:7 16:18 19:18 21:4 26:9,14,17 37:16 40:21 41:10</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">e</p>	<p>engineers 9:6 91:25</p>	<p>ex 20:18</p>	<p>facts 19:13</p>
<p>e 51:20 ear 81:8 earlier 5:11 72:22 early 11:4 earth 86:20 91:5 east 90:23 eat 45:5 52:7,8,9 91:12 92:8 eating 53:11 55:24 ecology 63:24 economic 61:14 65:7,13 ed 14:17 57:13 69:2 72:10 edge 24:12 27:5 effect 16:18 effects 19:2 66:23 efficient 13:25 effort 30:20 41:13 58:4 eight 21:14 60:17 either 88:17 elected 14:9 eliminate 48:13 ellinger 28:6,8 emanating 12:21 emergency 45:18 employ 38:21 employed 8:6 employees 29:13 employment 39:11 enable 68:19 enclosed 8:13 endanger 37:23</p>	<p>enhance 61:11 65:4 enormous 31:5 ensure 41:8 entering 17:20 18:12,19 19:7 enthusiasm 58:4 entire 36:3 73:17 entrepreneurs 38:7 envelope 77:24 environment 13:24 37:19 45:4 58:20 61:9 63:5,8 environmental 2:16 2:19 12:5 26:7 31:13,16,19 37:10 37:14,22 47:17 61:3 62:5,6,21 environmentalists 58:7 59:7 environmentally 41:15 epa 16:22 19:22,24 20:3,8,13 25:13 epidemic 90:10 equipment 28:23 43:4 eric 69:2,7 esophageal 66:14 especially 51:25 establishing 62:18 estimated 9:3 22:8 estimates 19:13 22:7 estuaries 41:7 evaluate 8:5</p>	<p>exact 64:10 exactly 48:10 example 40:4 47:2 89:8 exception 61:4 execute 67:25 executive 32:3 58:12 59:21 executive's 49:3 57:12,24 exist 48:18 55:7 existent 32:8 expect 42:2 90:12 expedited 40:6 expend 34:20 expense 42:13 expensive 20:24 experience 50:14 experienced 8:10 expert 11:9 30:5 explained 52:21 exposure 7:10 express 7:12 37:6 extent 68:13 extremely 8:19 eye 51:18</p>	<p>failed 10:3 25:9 fails 19:17 failure 66:21 fair 57:17 fairness 9:22 false 24:3 famay 47:23 family 79:21 fancy 52:12 fans 70:20 far 18:3,9 20:24 22:6 23:4 35:20 40:23 42:7 68:11 75:11,13 89:8 farmingdale 43:8 50:12 fast 22:7 father 93:8 fault 88:20 fear 81:21 feasibility 9:16 feasible 23:24 federal 14:11 34:4 50:7 59:4 60:2 62:9 65:20 93:20 feel 35:5 38:19 67:2 85:24 feet 17:4,6 21:12 46:17 fellow 20:7 85:6 90:3 fetal 66:10,11 field 10:19 30:5 31:14,19,20,21 80:8</p>
		<p style="text-align: center;">f</p>	
		<p>f 45:21 46:13,14 f4 46:14 f6 28:20 45:21 46:3 46:13 face 78:9 79:16 85:3 faced 37:11</p>	

<p>fifth 80:13 82:13 fight 37:22 38:2 figure 13:5 59:17 filled 3:23 57:6 filter 53:19 filters 57:2 filtrate 20:18 final 74:14 finally 20:13 28:2 82:9 financial 13:17 14:20 find 8:13 38:5,21 finding 64:14 fine 4:23 finest 28:16 finish 4:15 finished 50:15 fire 79:13,15 fireman 44:8 46:25 79:12 80:21 firemen's 16:20 first 3:14,25 4:8,21 5:25 16:25 17:12 26:10 28:13 31:15 31:23 37:21 39:11 46:13 59:18 60:6 61:21 87:15 fish 45:6,8 49:7,15 50:20 52:7,8 fit 28:24 five 5:24 19:17 20:21 42:2 73:21,23 76:7 79:3,22 92:5 92:13 fix 64:18,21 68:14 84:5 89:4 fixing 58:6 fleet 46:10 flew 72:14 flocked 43:9 flood 16:17 floral 48:17 flowed 50:12</p>	<p>focused 3:22 folks 3:5 90:7 follow 11:8 49:6 51:16 following 25:22 65:22 fonda 2:6 3:5 5:4 16:2 25:20 36:13 48:25 60:8 68:25 69:7 72:9 74:14 78:2 84:22 89:19 92:17 94:3 food 53:11 55:23 fool 19:6 football 81:7 force 44:3 46:7,7 83:17 forced 54:24 85:16 forcing 50:8 foresight 88:19 forget 34:2 58:21,23 forgive 76:5 form 65:10 78:11 79:2 formed 29:3 former 1:7 16:15 63:5 forming 82:7 forth 95:8 fortunately 51:6 forward 5:16 35:13 81:7 82:22 forwards 80:10 fought 27:21 found 29:15 45:8 63:14 77:11,14 founded 6:11 four 4:2,8 17:15 22:4 32:25 35:2 36:17 68:25 74:22 75:12 77:4,5,5,6 79:3,4 85:23 fourth 82:12 fraction 67:18</p>	<p>fran 74:15 78:2,7 frank 16:17 freak 52:16 free 92:8 freedom 43:5 freshwater 40:19 friday 90:25 91:6 92:13 friend 47:23 69:20 69:21,22 77:12 friends 44:25 50:5 51:15 62:19,20 72:7 frivolously 38:18 front 3:10 15:4,6 49:19 51:14 fs 24:7 46:3 full 9:9,14,17,18,21 9:24 23:22 80:3 fully 8:9 32:21 35:21 36:2 41:16 43:10,14 funding 27:21 funny 79:21 89:13 further 7:16 18:10 32:16,17 48:6 51:9 95:12 future 41:22 59:11 88:22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">g</p> <p>gallon 29:3 gallons 21:18 garage 16:19,21 17:2 garden 52:15 55:19 56:5 gas 56:17 gasoline 91:5 gems 47:17 generation 42:15 81:24 generations 41:22 genes 71:2 gentleman 32:25 33:3 75:18 89:20</p>	<p>90:6 91:7 92:9 gentlemen 9:22 15:4 28:7 47:9 49:18 52:18 74:6 getting 54:7 56:12 58:5 87:3 giant 80:8 gigantic 64:6 girls 79:23 give 30:14 43:19 77:14 84:2 given 95:10 glacial 48:2 glad 85:18 gloves 37:21 go 6:15 21:16 34:6 36:9 48:2,3 49:21 59:9,15 75:16 81:21 82:22 83:24 85:14 89:20 92:6,15 goal 23:17 goals 60:25,25 goes 50:3 76:11 going 3:6 4:10,15 13:6 20:23 21:17 22:4,6,15 26:15,18 30:10 31:2,14 33:10 33:14 35:13,16 44:14,20 46:4,20,22 49:9 50:11,24 51:4 51:8,16 54:16 55:13 55:19 56:19,24,25 57:8,15 61:19 63:21 67:16 68:16 69:10 69:15 70:5,8,22 73:12 80:10 81:22 85:19 86:2 90:16 92:2 93:4 good 6:13 16:5 27:12 28:6 31:10 34:9 36:19,25 40:18 42:16 43:7,24 46:14 64:2,13 68:23 69:20 69:21,22 72:11 81:3 84:25 90:21</p>
--	--	--	---

<p>goofing 75:14 gotten 73:10 government 50:8 53:23 54:21 57:25 59:4,17 60:2,12 62:9 68:19 76:3 82:17 93:21 governmental 51:13 governor 18:5,25 23:6 52:2 governor's 17:25 18:15 gradient 32:11 33:11 35:8 grandchildren 43:17 55:11 grants 62:11 grasp 89:6 grass 55:21 56:8,20 gratitude 37:7 great 21:17 31:2 37:24 40:20 52:19 72:21 86:8 greatest 83:8 greco 60:10 69:2,5 green 36:17 52:11 52:12 greenpoint 91:4 grew 69:13,18 gross 45:9 61:25 93:5,6 ground 7:7,9,14,21 18:18 20:19 45:12 50:3 52:25 53:2,4,5 70:10 91:12,19 groundwater 8:22 9:2 group 15:6 60:22 73:10 grown 53:12 growth 66:11 grumman 1:6,7 6:24 8:21 12:22 13:9,12 13:21 14:15,18 15:10 20:16 22:9</p>	<p>28:14 45:14,20,23 46:2 54:3 58:18 75:20 83:17 88:15 88:15 93:7,9,10,12 93:12 guess 54:7 guidance 54:11 gulf 87:25 88:5 guy 74:25 76:9,24 guys 29:23 46:5 53:16 56:2 69:14 70:3 71:21 72:4 75:15 76:5,12,22 77:3,4,5,6,15 93:4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">h</p> <p>habitats 38:10 half 15:22 60:17 76:10 hand 95:18 handed 4:21 handle 67:6 hands 15:9 68:10 88:2 hangars 43:10 happen 24:13 58:9 81:24 happened 64:8,19 71:19 74:25 87:2 happening 35:11 44:21 happiness 67:8 68:21,24 hard 4:16 49:5 harm 42:11 harming 85:20 harrington 2:4 hartman 69:2,7,8,9 hazardous 26:8 head 38:22 39:12,14 39:18 81:7 headed 45:7 49:7,15 health 2:11 7:5 18:15 19:2 37:14,19 42:14 51:17 52:16</p>	<p>54:10 61:12 63:17 65:5,12 68:23 74:10 85:16 86:4,5 healthiness 67:8 hear 51:21 70:5 75:7 93:14 heard 31:22 33:8 57:18,19 60:16 63:11 85:23 88:14 hearing 24:21 33:5 49:24 90:2 hearings 32:2 heart 71:4 held 10:4 88:13 hell 28:20 hello 52:11 help 7:2 86:7 hempstead 15:14,15 15:16 74:2 hepatitis 66:19 hereunto 95:17 herman 86:17 hi 78:6 hicksville 71:7 high 56:17 highly 19:4,14 history 6:11,12 10:25 11:23 12:12 hit 22:4 30:10 hits 73:18 74:5 hodgkin 66:16 hold 4:11,13 12:15 16:12 30:3 home 55:18 56:3 75:17 homeowners 38:6 homepage 61:6 homework 73:11 91:6 hooked 29:8 hope 3:11 27:8 hopefully 25:17 31:3,7 horns 75:4</p>	<p>horrible 45:9 hot 11:13 hotspot 19:5 hour 3:17 hours 60:18 house 30:16 52:16 57:3 83:7 84:17,19 84:19 86:25 houses 83:9,14 hug 86:18 human 7:10 53:22 54:10 64:24 66:25 67:8,21 hundred 93:16 hundreds 64:3 92:11 hung 81:5 hurt 73:16 hydraulic 41:18 42:23</p> <p style="text-align: center;">i</p> <p>ibm 64:9 ice 80:7 idea 29:9 ignore 12:23 ignored 44:17 image 88:11,11 imagine 29:17 immediate 51:7 immediately 41:24 impact 7:22 11:21 impacted 25:7 33:7 33:7 35:5,9 impacts 67:12 impaired 66:8 imperative 35:10 implement 41:18 important 6:6 7:17 39:2 47:11 59:25 67:10 74:18 impossible 46:10 improve 61:8 63:3 inadequate 12:10 15:19</p>
--	--	---	---

<p>incite 39:5 include 7:20 including 58:2 inconsistent 32:14 incorporate 17:14 18:23 increase 8:17 increased 39:23,24 66:4,6 indicate 8:16 indicating 60:13 indication 25:8 indifferent 34:10 individual 3:11,13 92:19 individuals 41:16 industrial 20:9 industry 26:9,13 ineffective 10:20 infeasibility 6:23 inflammatory 66:19 information 3:19 17:7 49:20,21 87:3 90:9 informational 3:7 24:20</p>	<p>internally 44:6 international 63:15 internet 88:4 intersection 21:10 invented 89:12 investigation 6:4 9:6 10:9 investigations 12:9 12:11 invite 56:3,7 involved 44:14 50:25 59:21,22 90:24 92:12 involving 58:18 iron 53:18 irresponsible 40:13 island 38:6 44:2 47:12 54:18 67:18 73:17 76:20 issue 15:9 57:14,17 58:5 59:22,23 60:17 61:17 68:2,15 82:7 issues 7:17 38:3 ite 93:9 item 5:10 73:15 ivy 36:17 52:12</p>	<p>jobs 58:19 joe 36:15,22 57:21 john 2:15 14:12 16:10 36:16 43:25 52:5 john's 49:6 join 38:7 joseph 11:7 43:22 journals 65:20 66:23 judged 88:23 juice 54:5 june 1:9,13 3:7 95:18</p>	<p>known 19:2 25:5 26:4 77:12 kyle 25:23 27:13 57:19</p>
<p>informed 25:2 inherit 76:21 initial 8:7 initiate 90:18 inject 86:20 innocent 13:22 installed 11:20 24:11,16 instance 39:23 intellectual 31:20 intellectually 38:19 intensity 66:5 interaction 63:24 intercepting 47:4 interest 5:6 38:15 43:5 60:22 interested 95:15 interim 8:22</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">j</p> <p>j 36:14 james 2:4 62:19,21 62:23 japanese 45:16 46:6 46:9,10 japs 28:20,22 jaws 85:13 jc 80:21 jefferson 68:17,18 jeopardize 27:8 jet 17:2 jfk 17:2 job 16:7 31:2 34:9,9 42:22 46:14 72:21 74:6 75:5,15 76:6 76:12 93:8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">k</p> <p>karpinski 2:11 keep 5:24 38:8 51:18,20,24 52:15 62:7 77:23 85:4,19 93:12,23 keeping 68:7 kelly 83:2 kettering 78:13 kidding 29:23 kidney 66:21 kids 55:12 75:17,17 kind 49:5 76:14 kindly 10:20 knew 29:4 31:22 73:2 83:21 knocked 54:4 know 6:6,16 10:7 16:25 21:9 24:8,23 26:18 34:16 35:8,19 35:20,22 37:20 47:10 48:5,11 53:4 54:12 55:6,25 63:12 65:15,18 69:14 70:7 70:19 71:14,21 73:7 76:14 77:7,9,10 79:14 85:3 88:22 93:11 knowingly 19:12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">l</p> <p>labored 38:9 43:10 laced 54:19 lack 53:22 88:18 lacking 17:8 lacrosse 81:10 ladies 28:7 85:5 land 61:10 65:3,10 landscape 62:12 landscapes 63:10 lang 80:18 language 47:5 large 44:10 larger 67:20 91:17 largest 26:23 50:22 late 11:4 71:18 law 31:18 34:4 lawns 55:4 layout 31:6 leading 24:12 leaking 88:6 leave 68:16 leeching 19:21 left 4:12 11:25 12:12 23:25 legal 34:16 legislator 25:25 31:12 34:2 57:23 60:5 legislature 32:4 lens 48:4 lessen 11:21 lesser 20:6 letter 14:8 17:16 36:23 letters 17:19,21 18:12,23 22:24 73:4 87:4 letting 10:7</p>

<p>leukemia 66:21 level 7:6 10:23 12:3 14:11 39:4 levels 40:23 47:24 57:25 59:16 levittown 43:9 liberty 19:23 20:8 44:15,15 45:3 50:4 50:7,10 52:3 lieutenant 72:14 life 26:13 41:3,4 53:22 59:10 61:23 64:24 66:25 68:10 80:4 93:6 light 40:2 limited 10:12 line 47:3 85:12 linked 65:21 lips 66:14 list 54:15 55:2 listen 4:24 5:8 listened 77:8 listening 57:9 literature 65:19 little 21:8 52:21 53:9 55:15 60:13,20 91:15 live 36:20 52:13 53:16,17 58:24 59:8 60:14 68:20,22 70:3 70:23 71:25 72:5 76:15 78:19,22 79:19 80:2,25 82:20 83:9,11,11 84:10,16 86:17 lived 60:15 61:22 70:11 72:12 80:3,24 81:12 84:12 91:3 92:24 liver 65:24 66:4,7 69:21 81:9 lives 28:4 58:15 67:21,21 living 34:17 56:25 70:13</p>	<p>lobby 92:18 local 58:2 59:24 60:4 located 11:12 64:10 long 5:9 27:19 35:15 38:6 40:4 42:10 44:2 47:12 51:2 54:18 64:20 67:18 73:17 76:19 80:2 93:6 look 19:22 21:7 32:12 42:3 88:8 91:22 93:11 looked 31:25 32:5 losing 45:15 loss 58:19 66:13 68:9 lot 10:8 30:20 32:23 54:2 57:18 63:11,22 63:25 65:15 70:18 70:19 71:23 74:19 74:20 77:8,16 93:18 low 38:5 65:25 lower 9:3 40:23 lubricated 28:25 lull 28:7 lung 66:7 lymphoma 66:16 78:11 79:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">m</p> <hr/> <p>machine 30:23,24 machines 54:4 magothy 47:25 mailing 51:20 main 62:23 68:2 maintain 38:9 maintained 50:21 major 64:12 73:15 majoring 62:4 making 5:6 46:2 man 74:7,8 manager 2:9 mangano 14:17 57:13</p>	<p>map 88:9 maps 72:21 marine 40:25 marriage 95:14 martens 11:7 mass 11:14 massapequa 4:5 16:4,11 17:23 19:25 20:11 22:3 23:12 36:21 39:8 41:2 43:8 44:18,22 45:5 47:14 49:8,12 50:6 50:13 51:6,9,15 52:4 60:15 61:23,25 72:13 73:19 74:8 massapequa's 41:20 massive 36:2 64:7 match 86:21 matter 1:4 36:9 67:6 67:9 68:12 95:16 mead 80:13,17 meadow 90:23 mean 33:19 measure 8:23 39:16 measures 39:10 meet 25:25 27:11 meeting 2:14 24:22 28:8 37:4 73:22 84:7 meetings 86:12 87:6 87:12 melanoma 82:13 memory 66:13 mentioned 23:17 25:14 73:3 mentioning 50:23 90:3 merely 42:6 merrick 34:24 merry 21:16 message 73:11 met 14:17 58:12 86:15 metal 29:17</p>	<p>method 40:15 mexico 87:25 miami 70:19,22 michael 89:19,21,22 microphones 5:17 mid 4:16 middle 4:14 92:24 midst 11:12 midway 46:12 migrate 32:10 migrating 32:16 migration 15:12 33:13,15 mike 5:3 mile 21:14 69:24 miles 75:12 military 28:16 million 12:25 13:5,6 13:11 22:9,11,12,13 22:14,14,15,22 30:10 35:14,15,16 91:18,23 92:2,12,14 93:17 millions 93:23 mind 41:14 42:14 mine 69:22 86:10 mingled 25:13 minimum 23:19 53:8 minute 4:12 76:8,9 minutes 5:24 miscarriages 66:11 misrepresents 19:13 mission 61:2,5,20 62:25 63:6 65:2 67:3 mistake 35:13 mistakenly 87:8 mitchell 44:3 mitigation 17:14 mitsubishi 45:17 model 8:5,9 9:19 14:23 21:21 22:2 47:21</p>
--	--	--	--

<p>modeling 7:21 9:2 moment 9:19 monetarily 68:3 money 30:8,9 31:4,5 34:7,13,19,21 35:7 36:9,10 53:8 58:6 58:24 75:8 76:4,14 84:5 91:24 93:18,22 93:24,25 monitor 10:2 monitoring 24:11 24:14 months 18:11 33:5 morally 38:19 morbid 12:8 mother 80:3 81:3 82:12 motor 10:11 move 9:5,14 82:19 moved 28:14 moves 7:24,25 movie 71:24 85:13 moving 88:11 msba 16:19,21 44:9 47:3 mutations 66:4 myopic 40:13</p>	<p>nature 63:24 naval 46:7 navy 12:22 13:9,12 13:21 15:11 22:11 27:22 42:13 43:3,13 75:21 near 59:8 71:25 81:12 necessarily 88:20 necessary 12:20 15:23 necessity 37:5 need 7:17 30:2,2,8 35:14 36:5 52:6 55:14 75:14 84:14 88:25 needed 43:4 82:25 91:23 needs 21:19 46:24 59:19 negative 67:12 neighbor 85:6 neighborhood 83:4 neighborhoods 83:10 neighbors 58:8 87:5 neural 66:12 never 24:2 49:7,14 81:3,4 new 1:12 2:16,18 4:6 10:10,18 25:21 25:24 26:3 27:20 34:11 39:13 43:21 59:3 61:6,8 63:4 64:9 67:13,13 71:12 71:19 76:20 86:3,21 91:10 95:5 newly 13:18 newsday 22:10 nice 27:10 49:17 nine 37:25 non 66:16 nondetectable 12:3 nonprofit 62:6</p>	<p>normal 81:18 north 78:23 84:17 86:17 northrop 1:6 12:21 13:20 88:15 93:13 notary 95:4 noted 5:10 94:6 notes 3:6 59:13 notice 74:21 86:11 notices 86:24 notified 29:19,20 notorious 90:4 notwithstanding 35:3 number 1:6 44:11 73:18 numbers 28:4 32:2 32:5,12,14 nysdec 2:4,7,9,11 nyu 83:2</p>	<p>opinions 51:14 opportunistic 58:24 opportunity 58:21 oppose 39:10 opposed 6:16 optimization 21:23 23:17 order 61:11 65:4 organic 40:8 52:15 55:19,21 56:4 organisms 91:10,11 organization 60:23 62:22 63:18 organizations 28:16 62:7 ou 6:3,8,8,9,11,17 9:5 11:3,12,13,16 12:5,9,9,18,22 13:10 22:7 23:4 24:22 25:3,5,11,12 25:15 33:9,16,17,18</p>
<p>n</p>		<p>o</p>	
<p>name 5:19 23:10 26:2 27:13 28:8 36:20 43:25 52:11 61:21 69:4 78:6 79:16 89:13,22 93:5 names 4:9 nassau 1:8 16:16 21:24 31:11 35:5 44:5 48:16 49:2 50:16 57:12 58:14 59:3,20 86:4 nation 43:2 68:20 national 43:5 62:10 62:11,13 natural 61:8 63:4,9</p>		<p>obligated 38:20 obviously 4:14 ocean 38:8 40:24 office 17:25 18:16 18:25 49:3 57:12,20 57:24 58:17 official 14:9 51:13 officials 59:24 60:2 offs 64:8 offsite 6:21 11:20 oil 88:6,11 okay 69:17 70:6 78:21 old 9:8 84:11 once 4:19 46:3 74:5 ones 75:16 ongoing 10:10 16:20 open 7:17 operable 1:6 3:22 operational 86:14 87:4,7 opinion 11:9</p>	<p>outcome 95:15 outline 39:9 outweighs 68:11 ovals 88:10 ovarian 66:6 overall 61:13 65:6 65:13 overboard 28:18 29:2,19 overview 40:3 oyster 59:2 75:23</p>
			<p>p</p> <p>p.e. 2:4,9,15,18 p.m. 1:14 94:6 pace 12:8 pages 5:25 paid 13:13,13 24:9 panic 39:5 paper 62:15 papers 64:3 paramount 43:7 pardon 47:4</p>

<p>parents 80:24 84:11 92:23</p> <p>parisei 72:11,12 73:6</p> <p>parish 2:18</p> <p>park 6:5,7 14:14,15 61:23 62:10 71:25 78:21</p> <p>parks 44:23 62:13 70:14</p> <p>parkway 10:11 15:18 21:11 46:18 74:4</p> <p>part 17:21 30:21,21 48:16 75:25 76:2,4 87:7</p> <p>partial 39:18</p> <p>participants 2:14</p> <p>participation 2:7</p> <p>particular 15:6 55:12</p> <p>particularly 47:25</p> <p>parties 34:14 95:13</p> <p>parts 47:15</p> <p>pass 69:6</p> <p>passed 84:12</p> <p>passing 70:25</p> <p>pasta 56:6</p> <p>pathway 7:11</p> <p>pathways 7:11</p> <p>patience 3:16 92:21</p> <p>patrick 83:2</p> <p>patriotism 43:14</p> <p>pay 12:19 22:16,19 34:10,12 74:18 75:8 76:14,17</p> <p>paying 34:11</p> <p>pce 19:3,5 21:13 63:19 64:4 65:16,21</p> <p>peace 42:14</p> <p>peer 66:23</p> <p>people 4:19,20 13:13 17:9,17 20:7 30:8 31:3 42:17 43:7 44:11 45:13</p>	<p>48:15 49:11 51:23 54:5 57:6,18 59:6,7 61:13 65:6,15,18 68:19 70:18 71:18 73:13 75:4 79:4,22 81:6,16 82:5,23 83:17,19 87:11,16 88:2 90:19</p> <p>people's 83:13</p> <p>percent 23:18,20 26:15 27:4 33:12,14 36:5,6,6 38:14 70:6</p> <p>perception 66:3</p> <p>percolating 51:3</p> <p>perform 40:6</p> <p>period 88:17</p> <p>permits 41:12</p> <p>person 18:4 77:19 81:3 82:3 85:11</p> <p>personally 73:24 86:2</p> <p>petitions 17:24</p> <p>petty 58:22</p> <p>philadelphia 91:8</p> <p>philippines 46:11</p> <p>phone 86:9</p> <p>phonetic 28:9 47:23 91:13</p> <p>picture 75:13</p> <p>piece 88:9</p> <p>pilot 72:15</p> <p>pipe 55:16</p> <p>pipes 30:17 55:9</p> <p>pits 17:5,6 93:10</p> <p>place 13:17 76:15 83:8</p> <p>places 45:25</p> <p>plan 1:5 9:8 10:22 11:4 15:21 20:6 23:5 25:9,10 32:15 38:21 87:4</p> <p>planes 43:4 46:9</p> <p>planning 31:16 50:25 89:24</p>	<p>plans 10:10 32:7 46:3 68:3</p> <p>plant 8:15 9:8 86:18 86:18</p> <p>plants 11:11</p> <p>play 55:11</p> <p>player 12:5 81:10</p> <p>playgrounds 70:15</p> <p>playing 70:16 80:9</p> <p>please 5:19 56:8 71:3 79:9 84:4</p> <p>pledge 43:19</p> <p>plenty 58:22</p> <p>plethora 44:23</p> <p>plume 11:14,22 12:5 13:8,10 14:20 15:3 15:12 18:2,7,7 19:5 19:15 21:6,15 23:7 24:13 26:15 27:24 29:4 32:16 36:2,3 39:6 40:25 41:19 45:3 46:19,19,20 50:22 51:8 52:14,17 59:9 63:9,14 64:6,8 65:8 67:14 68:4,11 69:24 72:2 73:18 74:2 75:11 91:2,3 92:24</p> <p>plumes 11:13 32:9 44:20 50:15</p> <p>pocket 92:3</p> <p>point 7:19 51:10 85:2</p> <p>pointed 23:25</p> <p>points 21:23</p> <p>poison 83:22</p> <p>poisoned 54:8</p> <p>police 80:14</p> <p>politic 58:23</p> <p>political 76:25 77:20</p> <p>politics 58:22</p> <p>pollution 61:11 62:17 65:4,11</p> <p>pollutions 24:6</p>	<p>pond 50:17</p> <p>ponds 1:7 50:18</p> <p>pool 80:6 83:20</p> <p>portion 63:7 64:25</p> <p>position 12:7</p> <p>positions 41:11</p> <p>positive 37:12</p> <p>possibility 11:23</p> <p>possible 5:9 40:15</p> <p>possibly 3:19</p> <p>post 65:23</p> <p>posters 3:9</p> <p>potential 37:14 42:10 64:7</p> <p>powerful 38:17</p> <p>practical 53:7,7,13</p> <p>practically 44:17</p> <p>practices 62:16</p> <p>prap 6:17 11:3 17:12,18,22 18:9,21 19:11 23:3 24:7,10 24:21 25:15</p> <p>predictions 9:20</p> <p>predominantly 19:4</p> <p>prefer 27:2</p> <p>preferred 11:19</p> <p>present 6:21 47:18 48:14</p> <p>presentation 1:20 3:3,17 7:14 21:24 52:19 72:24</p> <p>presented 17:24 75:5</p> <p>presenting 72:21</p> <p>preserve 44:18,22 44:24 45:5 47:15,15 49:8,13 50:6,13 51:11,15,18 52:4</p> <p>preserving 62:22</p> <p>president 26:3 45:19 49:12 50:5</p> <p>pressing 67:7</p> <p>pressure 51:25</p> <p>pretty 49:25 59:14</p>
--	---	---	---

<p>prevent 33:12,14 61:10 65:2 preventive 68:11 price 68:7 primary 34:14 print 93:24 printing 93:23 prior 86:12 private 26:23 34:25 pro 12:4 probably 73:8 83:21 92:5 problem 35:23 48:9 50:3 64:11,18 67:24 81:20 86:25 89:5 90:24 problematically 40:12 problems 39:22 44:8 49:16 72:18 87:22 90:4 proceeded 28:15 proceeding 7:2 process 19:20,21 20:2 64:16 67:16 processing 10:12 product 61:25 professionals 47:9 professor 62:14 profile 21:9 program 7:15 9:23 45:23 project 1:7 2:9 promptly 67:25 proof 40:20 proper 20:24 properties 12:22 13:9 property 26:5 31:20 proposal 91:16 proposed 1:5 11:15 15:21 25:11 38:21 39:10 68:3 proposing 9:23</p>	<p>proposition 38:13 prostate 66:15 93:2 93:3 protect 36:11 37:13 37:19 38:23 41:13 41:21 43:4,11 61:8 63:4 protected 38:9 protecting 7:4 43:15 protection 39:20 40:10 41:8 54:9 64:24 prove 13:23 provide 7:10 9:17 13:3 provision 10:18 prp 36:10 prps 12:15,17 14:2 20:3 24:6 34:6 public 1:18 2:11 3:1 3:6,20 4:1 5:1 6:1 7:1,5 8:1 9:1 10:1 11:1,11 12:1,2 13:1 14:1 15:1 16:1,15 17:1 18:1 19:1 20:1 21:1,4,25 22:1 23:1 23:24 24:1,19,25 25:1,6 26:1 27:1 28:1 29:1 30:1 31:1 32:1,17,23 33:1 34:1,15 35:1 36:1 37:1 38:1 39:1 40:1 41:1 42:1 43:1 44:1 45:1 46:1 47:1,22 48:1 49:1,19,21 50:1,16 51:1 52:1 53:1 54:1 55:1 56:1 57:1 58:1 59:1 60:1 61:1 62:1 63:1 64:1 65:1 66:1 67:1 68:1 69:1 70:1 71:1 72:1 73:1 74:1 75:1 76:1 77:1 78:1 79:1 80:1 81:1 82:1 83:1 84:1 85:1 86:1 87:1 88:1</p>	<p>89:1 90:1 91:1 92:1 93:1 95:4 publications 65:20 publish 62:15 pull 33:16,19,23 pulled 70:21 pump 29:13 33:11 33:15,18,21,22 pure 13:3 purpose 42:5 60:23 60:24 68:18 pushed 27:19 48:6 pushing 34:3,5 77:24 put 14:3,6 16:18 17:5,5 23:15 45:12 48:8,12 52:7 53:19 55:3,21 57:3 58:3,6 73:15 76:7 79:16 83:13 90:13 91:11 putting 45:21 72:17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">q</p> <p>quality 38:3 39:3 60:19 62:13 question 24:5 41:14 71:13 89:25 questioned 80:11 questions 3:11,13 23:13 90:15 92:19 quick 76:7 quickly 42:22 quote 68:17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">r</p> <p>rab 24:22 race 76:7 radius 69:24 raised 28:14 74:7 79:11 ran 58:16 rare 78:11,14,18 79:2 rate 69:16 raw 8:14</p>	<p>ray 36:20 raymond 36:14 reach 26:22 90:6 reached 3:20 39:4,7 82:9 reaches 40:25 41:20 reactions 66:5 read 6:14 36:23 52:6 65:19 86:24 reading 90:25 real 8:10 22:7 realize 19:23 20:10 45:14 47:12,21 48:22 50:2 really 32:20 35:25 71:4 reason 20:17 21:21 50:23 69:9 reasons 39:9 58:16 86:8 received 18:11 recognized 8:8 recognizes 54:21,22 recollection 87:24 recommended 19:16 recommending 19:20 record 17:21 18:13 18:20 23:15 36:24 90:14 95:10 recovering 78:15 recovery 11:20 15:20 rectal 66:10 reference 25:12 references 25:4 referencing 86:25 referred 89:10 reflected 60:25 regarding 18:16,25 19:14 regions 37:23 regret 36:25</p>
---	--	--	---

<p>regulations 39:13 reimburse 24:7 rejected 17:13,22 18:10,21 19:11 related 61:19 95:13 relieved 31:4 relinquishing 26:17 remedial 1:5 2:5 6:23 remediate 13:8 14:19 68:4 remediation 7:7,15 7:22 8:22 10:10,13 12:6,14 13:19 24:16 27:20 31:23 42:12 42:23 64:16 67:15 67:17 remedy 6:10 11:15 11:16 12:10,18,23 13:25 15:18 42:5 remember 48:23 71:10 73:22 78:9 79:9 84:3,9 reminded 85:12 reminds 71:23 removal 20:6 23:18 remove 11:14 13:21 20:3,16 48:12 70:6 removed 20:15 removing 20:23 renal 66:17 repair 88:6 repay 43:14 repeat 35:12 repeated 34:3 repeatedly 41:11 report 21:22,23 23:17,18 24:2 51:21 54:25 75:2 reported 66:22 reporter 5:20 reports 51:19 represent 8:9 17:17 22:15 58:14</p>	<p>representative 4:3,7 5:15 25:24 36:15 representatives 4:4 16:3 85:22 representing 5:22 requested 24:19,25 required 24:18 30:22 requirements 17:15 research 63:16 78:17 91:7 reserve 51:7 resident 26:11 42:15 74:18 78:7 85:8 89:23 92:23 93:6 residents 13:4,22 27:23 37:7,12 40:9 41:21 59:6 90:3 resisted 20:13 resolved 58:5 resort 39:16 40:17 resource 41:9 62:11 resources 26:25 41:4 42:4 61:9 63:4 response 5:11 responses 66:20 responsibilities 61:18 responsibility 7:4 19:9 67:6 responsible 34:14 41:15 44:6 74:9 responsive 15:8 73:9 responsiveness 5:13 rest 14:3,6 54:23 72:19 restoration 50:17 restored 50:18 result 12:8 45:10 64:7 results 6:22 8:14,16 8:25 retardation 66:12</p>	<p>retired 72:13 returned 22:22 reunion 82:2,3 review 66:23 rich 49:9 richard 36:16 richmond 60:14 62:4,20 richmond's 62:23 riddled 75:19 ride 28:21 ridiculous 32:18,19 83:16 right 20:12 21:12 28:22 33:3 35:24 43:12 47:11 50:19 59:19 76:3,11 84:4 93:13 rink 80:7 rise 77:23 rises 56:18 risk 42:14 river 62:24 road 35:17 41:17 55:5 rob 48:25 57:11 robot 88:5 rod 12:18 24:8 25:12 room 15:4 28:24 68:6 71:9 85:11 rooney 80:19 roosevelt 45:19 rosenfeld 69:3 72:10 roughly 15:13 route 21:10 46:18 routine 71:17 ruco 25:13,14 rule 30:19 run 30:23 35:15 55:5 rw 11:15</p>	<p>s sabino 5:21,21 16:8 30:4 73:3 safe 68:8 85:14 safety 61:12 65:5,12 68:20,23 saladino 36:16,22 43:22 57:21 salaries 34:10 salary 34:12 saltwater 41:7 sanity 40:22 sarcoma 66:10 sat 32:4 75:6 saw 11:17 71:21 sayers 89:19,22,23 saying 17:25 26:14 26:17 35:25 93:12 says 75:20,21 91:22 91:24 scanned 81:23 82:24 scans 83:5 scenarios 7:21 scharf 2:9 23:16 86:15 94:5 schary 36:16 49:5,9 schedule 74:17 schizophrenia 65:25 school 56:17 schools 61:24 70:14 schumer 14:22 23:4 25:23 27:15 34:4 40:3 schumer's 57:20 science 31:22 40:18 51:13 56:21 scientist 30:7 scleroderma 65:25 scott 60:10 69:2,5 screen 3:5 11:17 sea 41:3 seal 20:22 second 4:22 74:17 80:13</p>
---	--	--	---

secondary 39:22 seconds 76:10 section 3:21 13:10 security 68:23 see 3:10 20:10 22:3 30:23 42:17,21 43:20 51:7 52:16 53:21 58:9 70:22 75:10 91:17 seeing 92:11 seen 11:20 46:16 49:7,14 67:11 87:16 selected 6:10 17:19 selection 12:18,23 selections 12:10 15:19 senator 14:22 23:4 25:23 27:14,16 34:4 57:20 send 30:16 47:6 sense 33:24 sent 14:9 17:16 18:24 77:4,20 86:24 sentence 4:17 series 18:12,23 serious 37:10 served 44:25 service 26:6 62:10 79:15 services 82:24 session 3:7 34:15 37:5 49:20,22 set 24:20 47:3 60:24 95:8,18 settling 1:7 seven 50:25 79:21 severely 17:8 sexual 66:8,9 share 85:10 shit 47:5 shocking 84:6 shooting 46:8 80:9 shore 44:24 47:16 73:17	short 15:14 66:13 83:12 86:11 shortsighted 88:24 89:2 shoulders 13:20 show 6:20 24:14 64:5 88:2 92:16 shower 56:13 showers 83:13 shows 47:24 sick 57:7 75:18 side 15:15 sign 4:11,13 76:10 significant 7:8 11:9 12:4 26:25 signs 30:18 52:6,7 75:9 similar 3:9 45:10 46:24 simon 74:15 78:3 84:23,25 85:2 87:21 simple 19:17 25:10 simply 17:13 68:12 sincerely 43:21 single 68:10 80:5 singular 42:5 sit 51:23 83:20 site 1:8 5:13 7:25 8:15 9:3,9,14,14 10:5 19:23 20:8,9 25:14 30:13 44:15 44:15 45:3 50:11 67:15 72:2 sites 9:4 10:9,16 11:22 16:19 30:12 68:8 sitting 3:16 53:10 74:24 situation 58:17 67:20 six 5:25 79:3 size 89:10,14 skating 80:7 skeptical 65:18	skin 56:14 78:12 79:2 slide 77:16 sloan 78:13 smaller 89:15 social 61:14 65:7,14 soft 66:9 softball 70:16 80:8 soil 19:18 20:4,5,12 20:15,16,23 sole 38:22 47:13 solution 27:3 38:23 39:19 40:14,16 91:21 solvent 29:17 someone's 92:3 son 79:12,24 82:11 soon 31:3 sooner 41:25 82:19 sorry 55:10,17 69:3 78:8 86:10 sort 84:18 90:9 sounding 89:13 source 47:13 south 21:18 32:10 37:24 40:20 41:2 44:23 46:20,21,22 47:16 48:7,7 51:9 73:17 86:19 southeastern 48:16 southern 15:17 21:11 46:18 74:4 southward 44:19 spare 41:8 spared 42:9 speak 28:5 59:14 70:8 speaker 5:2 23:9 25:20,22 48:25 49:4 57:21 69:6 72:9 73:5 74:16 76:17,19 79:19 84:10,16 87:19 92:22 speakers 1:18 4:2,8 16:3 36:14,18 60:9	speaking 7:11 89:24 special 60:21 specialist 2:7,11 speech 60:14,20 spend 30:9 35:2,15 50:8,9 53:7 spending 34:7 93:22 spent 12:25 22:11 22:12 35:7 80:4 sperry 89:13 spices 56:4 spill 87:25 spilling 88:11 spoil 46:22 spoiled 47:19 spoken 38:18 51:12 sports 81:6,11 spots 11:13 sprayed 55:4 spread 44:20 spreading 65:9 square 17:4,6 20:14 staff 44:5 51:14 staff's 30:21 stage 66:17 stand 22:24 27:7 standards 24:15 54:11,12,14 standup 71:16 stanley 23:10 start 44:21 started 15:13 57:15 state 1:7 2:16,18 5:19 12:13 14:11 15:18 18:14,24 21:11 25:25 34:11 37:25 38:11 39:3,13 39:14 43:21 46:18 53:6 54:20 59:3,24 59:25 61:6,13 65:6 65:13 71:12,19 74:4 76:18 95:5 stated 23:16,21 39:6 statement 23:22 24:3 61:5,20 63:2,6
---	---	---	---

<p>63:7 65:2 67:4 statements 24:4 61:2 states 11:8 23:19 24:10 28:17 43:3,13 45:15 static 21:24 stating 9:21 stay 4:23 5:4,8 59:21,22 92:18 step 18:5,6,6 43:13 46:13 steve 47:23 steven 2:9,11 stewardship 41:6 stimulus 93:21 stop 4:13,16 15:11 17:25 18:7 19:21 22:16,19 23:5 44:19 46:21 48:23 56:20 72:23 73:20 75:14 76:22 82:5 stopped 19:7 23:2 45:20 stranger 26:6,8 street 78:19,24 79:5 81:15 82:14 84:17 strength 42:21 stress 65:23 stretch 68:14 strictly 63:8 strober 25:23 27:12 27:13 57:19 strong 41:11 stuck 50:7 studies 29:23 62:5 64:5 90:17 study 6:23 9:16 64:12 90:10 studying 30:6 stuff 28:25 52:23 75:5 85:20 92:8 stupid 77:15,17 submit 36:24</p>	<p>submitted 25:16 successful 42:8 succumbed 79:6 suck 47:5 86:19 sucks 76:3 suffolk 35:6 suggest 49:20 sulfur 53:18 sum 68:11 summary 5:13 summer 80:5,6 93:8 sump 80:8 sun 56:8 sunny 56:7 super 57:2 superfund 1:7 19:23 20:8 67:15 superintendent 23:11 supervisor 44:5 supplier 26:24 supply 11:11 12:2 19:8 21:5 23:24 25:6 29:8 32:17,24 37:24 68:9 85:17 supposed 33:6 supposedly 56:16 sure 10:4 27:17 32:15 35:9 36:2 53:3 surgery 83:3 survive 57:3 susan 95:4,21 swartwout 2:15 swimming 83:22 sworn 95:8 system 13:19 39:23 systems 24:17</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">t</p> <hr/> <p>t 78:11 tackapausha 44:24 45:2 47:15 tag 85:12</p>	<p>tail 52:14 take 20:12 48:10 51:2,22,24 59:12 64:20 67:16,18 70:17 72:24 73:25 74:11 75:3 78:4 81:22 83:12,18 84:24 87:24 taken 37:16,21 41:11 61:16 63:23 86:16,23 takes 30:20 talented 42:25 talk 20:5 54:2 60:18 69:12 77:9 83:22 85:7 talked 91:9,14 talking 29:9 45:13 81:20 tap 39:4 56:6 task 11:25 tattoos 93:22 tax 34:12 75:8 93:21 taxes 74:19 76:18 taxpayers 6:25 tce 6:20 8:18 19:3,5 21:13 63:18 64:4 65:17 teaches 56:17 team 81:8 technical 18:16 technology 26:25 75:7 89:4,9 91:10 tell 23:6 38:20 42:19 51:12 58:11 60:11 69:16 72:4,16 90:8 telling 57:4 tells 40:18 ten 12:25 70:21 72:25 73:4 92:13 tenth 80:23 82:9 tenths 21:14 term 42:11 66:13 tertiary 39:22</p>	<p>test 6:22 8:14,24 17:5,6 29:10 tested 40:15 testified 50:6 testimony 95:7,10 testing 30:22 thank 3:15 5:23 14:12,17 15:24 16:6 16:8 25:18 27:10 28:2 31:8,12 36:11 43:23 48:19,24 52:10 57:9 68:24 72:7 79:16 83:23 84:21,22 85:21 87:17 89:18 90:20 92:15,20 94:2,3,5 thankful 83:20 thanks 60:7 thing 3:14 17:9 20:25 32:7 46:15 47:11 52:5 53:17 59:19 60:5 76:25 81:19 things 30:25 33:8 44:13 45:9 47:14,20 48:2,3 51:2 52:20 53:24 55:3,4,5 77:16 88:21 think 15:2 17:7 47:10 56:23 57:16 59:13 61:15 64:19 70:2 71:22 73:10 86:7 87:8,21 89:16 thinking 37:9 third 4:22 42:15 49:3 78:23 79:5 80:17,18 83:24 84:17 thomas 68:17,17 78:22 79:4 82:12,14 83:24 thought 4:14,15 32:24 85:13 86:16 86:22</p>
--	--	--	--

<p>threat 42:12 threaten 41:3 68:9 threatened 67:23 threatens 65:11 threats 37:15,22 three 14:19 36:13 45:7 49:7,15 60:8 78:20 79:3 85:23 92:5 threw 45:22 throw 14:22 thumbnail 89:15 thumbs 82:6 tied 15:10 time 3:12 4:10 6:15 7:23 10:3 15:5 22:6 25:7 27:10 28:4 29:21 37:3,17,21 42:3 48:20 51:2,5 54:6 58:3,23,25 59:18 60:6 67:19 72:19,23 73:8 74:10 79:17 80:3,11 81:6 87:15 88:18 89:11 90:18 94:6 timed 4:11 times 14:19 25:2 35:2 tired 72:17 73:13 tissue 66:9 title 52:13 today 27:15 32:13 48:4 49:24 59:5 89:3,16 91:9,14 told 54:22 78:13 80:2 tom 93:5 ton 29:2 tonight 3:12 11:17 16:9 17:21 23:15 37:4,17 38:20 42:18 46:16 69:10 73:11 75:5 94:4 tons 29:18</p>	<p>tony 30:9 top 81:10,10,13 total 8:18 42:12 67:22 tough 55:16 tower 86:21 town 44:12 53:16 59:2 75:23 toxic 19:5,15 53:4 68:8 toxicologists 64:12 traces 6:20 track 81:13 training 16:21 44:9 47:2 79:14 transcript 1:18 95:9 traumatic 65:23 travel 21:16 treat 30:14 31:24 33:11,16,21,22 35:21 63:21 treated 30:13 treating 12:2 35:23 treatment 10:19 12:19 13:2,19 24:17 36:7 38:22 39:12,15 39:18 tremendous 29:4 trend 8:19 trichloroethylene 29:16 trotter 74:15 78:2,6 78:7 83:25 84:3 trouble 48:20 trout 50:20 true 95:9 truth 82:23 try 9:24 14:19 trying 47:10 48:22 71:16,17 72:3 86:7 88:5 tube 66:12 tumor 69:20,21,23 79:23 80:20,22 81:8 81:16</p>	<p>tumors 69:18 83:5 turn 71:16 72:3 81:17 86:8 turning 85:4 turnpike 15:15,16 15:17 74:2 tv 75:2 88:4 twelve 18:11 twenties 57:7 twenty 14:24 twice 29:11 two 4:4,9 5:17 6:8 6:19,19 16:2,19,22 17:20 22:10 69:24 74:5,14,23 78:3 79:4 82:6,8 86:22 90:19 types 45:10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">u</p> <p>u.s. 40:3 42:13 46:5 umm 56:20 unacceptable 36:4 38:25 53:25 73:14 unanswered 90:16 unbelievable 73:16 uncompriseable 67:10 underflow 21:19 40:22 understand 10:21 19:17 61:16 72:20 understanding 41:9 54:14 understatement 62:2 undertaking 50:22 undetactable 30:15 unenviable 12:7 unequivocally 38:25 unfortunate 58:18 58:19 unfortunately 6:12 27:15</p>	<p>unidentifiable 82:15 unidentified 5:2 23:9 69:6 73:5 74:16 76:17,19 79:19 84:10,16 87:19 92:22 unit 1:6 3:22 86:14 87:7 united 28:17 43:3 43:13 45:15 units 87:9 univac 89:12 university 62:3,20 91:8 unrealistic 68:5 untreated 63:20 upgrade 13:2 upgrades 40:6 upstate 53:17 urgency 67:7 urges 13:17 urinary 66:17 use 5:2 20:20 22:2 66:7 usual 6:25 uterus 82:10 uteruses 82:8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">v</p> <p>valenski 60:9,11 61:22 valid 6:21 value 67:7 van 83:3 vapor 80:20 vapors 56:15,18 various 47:24 varley 26:2,3 vendetto 14:12 vertical 21:9 vested 4:25 5:6 viable 40:16 vicinity 46:17 view 7:19 8:4</p>
---	--	--	--

<p>virginia 60:14 62:8 62:24 visible 87:23 visual 66:3 87:24 vitality 67:9 vocs 8:18 40:8,10 voice 38:11 voices 87:10 voit 60:10 90:21,22 volatile 40:8 volumes 28:5 volunteer 79:12 vulnerability 39:24</p>	<p>13:16 14:10,18 16:4 16:6,11 17:15,23 18:18 19:8,25 20:11 20:20 21:4 22:3,25 23:12,24 24:15 25:6 25:21 26:4,5,12,20 26:23 27:18,22 28:10 29:6,7,8,11 29:12 30:14 32:17 32:24 33:2,4,4 34:25,25 35:3,4,4 36:11 37:23 38:4,23 39:3,8 40:5 41:20 47:7 50:19,21 53:11 53:11,12,19,20 54:16,19,24 56:6,10 56:11 57:3 58:2,13 59:5 60:19 61:10 62:12,15 65:3,10 68:9 70:14 71:8,12 71:22 83:12 85:11 85:14,17,21 86:19 91:2,20</p>	<p>41:21 47:4 48:8,12 73:19,19 went 20:6 22:9 29:6 35:21 61:23 74:25 81:7 82:2 wetlands 41:7 wheelchair 82:4 whereof 95:17 whichever 5:18 wholeheartedly 37:13 wife 69:14,18,19 80:15 wild 45:16 wildlife 38:10 willing 4:18 wind 6:25 45:22 winter 80:7 wish 37:18 39:9 83:10 witness 95:7,11,17 woman 82:13 women 82:8 won 71:10,11 wonderful 16:7 wondering 16:13 90:5 91:25 word 38:17 87:2 words 27:17 work 19:19 20:2,18 27:2,8 43:20 44:7 48:21 55:17 59:16 60:12,16 worked 31:21 44:4 44:10 47:21 58:11 62:6,8 71:6,7 93:7,9 working 15:3 45:24 62:10,14 80:3 works 16:15 21:25 40:19 47:22 50:17 59:25 82:16 world 63:17 71:22 77:20 worried 51:11</p>	<p>worry 53:18 worth 93:16 wound 81:11 writing 14:7 25:17 25:18 73:3 writings 25:16 wrote 6:18 7:6,16 8:12 9:12 10:6,17 11:6 17:20 60:13,19</p>
<p>w</p>			<p>x</p>
<p>wait 34:20 80:13 waited 72:25 wake 71:18 walker 49:2 57:11 57:11 walking 82:21 walter 2:18 want 3:15 4:19,22 6:14 17:9 20:20 23:7 28:2 34:12 49:6,14 52:24,25 53:2,3 54:12 55:13 56:2,2 72:16 78:9 79:15 83:13,14 84:8 wanted 28:19 50:9 74:12 wants 23:5 76:15 89:20 war 43:6 54:4 warren 74:15 78:3 84:23 85:2 waste 26:8 29:2 51:5 wasting 93:21 watching 76:8 88:3 water 4:3,5,6 5:15 5:22 7:7,9,14,18,21 7:23 8:11,14,14 9:11,13 10:8,14,21 10:23 11:10,18,24 12:2,16,24 13:3,7</p>	<p>waters 41:2 waterway 62:23 way 6:25 14:8 16:9 21:17 32:23 34:22 40:4,20 42:6 52:2 61:15 69:11 72:4 85:3,4 95:15 we've 72:25 87:9 weakened 87:10 website 24:20 61:7 64:17 weight 66:2 weird 82:6 welfare 61:12 65:5 65:12 74:10 wellhead 24:17 wells 6:20 8:2 10:2 11:11,20 21:5 23:24 24:11,14,16 25:6 26:18 27:8,21 29:10 32:18,24 33:6 35:8 38:23 39:7 40:7</p>		<p>x 1:3,11</p> <p>y</p> <p>yards 20:14 year 46:6 80:23 82:10 85:15 89:5 years 6:19 14:24 16:14,22 20:21 21:15 22:4,5,10 29:22 30:6,6 31:14 32:25 34:17 35:11 35:13,17 37:25 42:2 44:16 49:13 50:10 50:24,25 54:15,17 55:20,25 57:5 64:13 64:17 65:9 67:16 71:6,10,20 72:13,25 73:4,5,6,21,23,25 74:5 77:13 78:8 84:11 88:23 92:6 yellow 17:2 yesterday 57:15 86:10 york 1:12 2:16,18 4:6 25:21,25 26:4 34:11 39:13 43:21 59:3 61:6 64:9 67:13,13 71:12,19 76:20 86:3 95:5 york's 61:8 63:4 young 58:8 72:15 74:7,8</p>

z
zone 80:20 92:24