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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Naval Wapons Industrial Reserve Plant

Bethpage, New York

Restoration Advisory Board

INFORMATION MEETING

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6:00 P.M.
May 24, 1999

Bethpage Public High School
Bethpage, New York

P R E S E N T:

Judithanne Hare United States Navy
 Naval Air Systems Command

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MS. HARE: Good evening, ladies and
3 gentlemen. I'm Judith P. Hare, director of
4 government-owned contractor operated facilities for
5 the Naval Air Systems Command, US Navy, and that
6 includes the facility here in your community, the
7 facility at Bethpage known as the Naval Weapons
8 Industrial Reserve Plant.

9 Since the weather has sort of hampered
10 people arriving, namely myself instead of flying in,
11 we had to quick change plans, get a rental car out
12 of Washington, D.C. and drive up. But we made it.

13 I'll give our meeting maybe another five
14 minutes for folks to arrive, I don't know if folks
15 are having problems getting home tonight if they are
16 coming back in from the city, or what. We
17 encountered heavy traffic getting through. We'll
18 give it another five minutes and then we'll begin.

19 (Brief recess)

20 MS. HARE: I think we'll get started,
21 ladies and gentlemen. I've already introduced
22 myself. I'd like to thank you for coming here this
23 evening. The purpose of the meeting this evening,
24 is to offer to you, the community, a Restoration
25 Advisory Board. We do this as a form of linking

1 the Navy and what the Navy is doing, with the
2 Installation Restoration Program, the clean-up
3 program, if you will. We link the Navy then with
4 the community, and this is a method of having really
5 strong communication going back and forth on what is
6 going on in that program. And how you can give your
7 input to that program, which is the important thing.

8 So what is a RAB, or Restoration
9 Advisory Board?

10 It is a forum for discussion and
11 exchange of information, which is the real key to
12 having a Restoration Advisory Board.

13 You know, EPA says that we are mandated
14 to offer to our communities, where we are doing
15 clean-up, a Restoration Advisory Board and the Navy
16 is funded to hold these meetings. But even if that
17 weren't true, I would want to do something like
18 this, because I think it is so terribly important to
19 bring the community and the Navy together in this
20 process.

21 It is not a decision-making organization
22 or group, and it consists obviously of community,
23 government agencies and all members, obviously, are
24 equal.

25 Why do we need one? Well, it

1 encourages the dialogue among the stakeholders. It
2 fosters a partnership, if you will, between the
3 community and the government agencies involved. It
4 has a shared chairmanship. In other words, I would
5 be the Navy co-chair, because I'm the overall
6 property owner representative, and you would elect a
7 member from the group and that person would serve as
8 the community co-chair. There is an equal member
9 status, and meetings are always open to the public.

10 What is the community involvement? It
11 is a two-way communication, as we've stated before,
12 between government decision makers and the
13 community, and participation obviously in the
14 clean-up process, which is probably your primary
15 concern, I would think, from planning to final
16 execution.

17 Who is the community? Well, actually,
18 it can be anyone who is out there, including local
19 residents, Northrop Grumman employees, current
20 technical review committee members, local
21 government, business community, school district,
22 local environmental groups, homeowner associations,
23 religious communities, civic organizations, and so
24 on.

25 Responsibilities of the Restoration

1 Advisory Board, are to provide advice to the Navy
2 and federal and state regulatory agencies, and to
3 consider the important issues related to clean-up,
4 such as scope of the studies, clean-up levels, waste
5 management, and remedial actions. Reviewing and
6 evaluating documents, is an important part of this.
7 I can't stress that more, because the Restoration
8 Advisory Board members must be informed when we
9 produce documents after we've gone through our
10 studies and are ready and pass them forward, then,
11 to the regulatory agencies.

12 Responsibilities of a RAB member:

13 Obviously, you have to attend the meetings. That is
14 very important. If we have people on the
15 Restoration Advisory Board who aren't there very
16 often, we are not going to have a very effective
17 group.

18 Reviewing and commenting on reports to
19 the Restoration Advisory Board, updating community
20 members and bringing their concerns to the board.

21 For instance, if you are a board member
22 and you know people in your community who say for
23 instance could not attend the meetings but want to
24 know what is going on, we would want you to try to
25 get that word to those folks and maybe get their

1 concerns and bring them back to the meetings.

2 How about benefits? Well, for the
3 Navy, it is increased credibility and the improved
4 community acceptance and support, and more
5 responsive clean-ups.

6 For the community, I think all of these
7 things listed, I don't even have to read them, are
8 pretty self-explanatory.

9 There is equal leadership. As I
10 explained before, I am the Navy co-chair and you
11 would elect a community co-chair. That individual
12 then is an individual that I work closely with, in
13 planning the meetings and putting the agendas
14 together, and so on.

15 What does this mean? It actually means
16 environmental partnership. I don't have to read all
17 of that, but I think you would readily agree that
18 that is a pretty good reason why we need to have a
19 RAB. Let me say something right at this point:
20 The Navy offers the RAB to a community. If your
21 community decides that no, they're not interestd in
22 having a RAB, that they would rather not, then the
23 Navy would drop the issue right there at that point.

24 How do you become a member? Everyone
25 is eligible. If you live near the facility or

1 represent a group affected by the facility,
2 applications -- and I believe the applications went
3 out to everyone on our mailing list. However, if
4 you don't happen to be on the mailing list, there
5 are applications at the outside of the auditorium on
6 the table. And you can pick up those applications
7 as you leave, fill them out and mail them in to us.
8 They have to be in to us by the 24th of June, that
9 is our cut-off date. And then what we do, is go
10 ahead and review the applications that have come in.
11 If we get no applications, obviously we would not
12 have a Restoration Advisory Board and we would send
13 out a letter stating that to the people, at least
14 that are on the mailing list, the current mailing
15 list that we have.

16 I have a feeling that in this community,
17 we probably will have a Restoration Advisory Board,
18 because enthusiasm has always been pretty high with
19 our public meetings.

20 So if you did not get an application,
21 please remember to pick one up. Pick up a couple if
22 you know somebody that you think might be
23 interested. There is also a fact sheet out there
24 that explains the basic things that I'm going over
25 in this briefing. So if you need to take an

1 application and would like to take one of those, as
2 well, to someone you know that might be interested
3 in serving.

4 What is the next step? Well, the
5 community interest forms, as I indicated, will be
6 reviewed. Generally speaking, we try to keep all of
7 the restoration advisory boards down to
8 approximately 22 to 23 members. Anything larger
9 than that and the group becomes so large, you find
10 that you're not able to get a lot done under those
11 circumstances.

12 If we get, for instance a tremendous
13 number of applications that come in. Say we would
14 get 50 applications. What we do is we go through
15 those, review those, and try to get a good
16 cross-section of the community. In other words, we
17 would want all interests in the community
18 represented as -- to the degree possible, every one
19 from say regulators, to maybe professional people,
20 to women who work in the home, women who may work
21 outside the home. All different areas of the
22 community which would represent a cross-section of
23 the community.

24 Letters would go out informing those
25 people of the fact that they have been selected for

1 the Restoration Advisory Board, and if we do have a
2 tremendous number of applications that come in, then
3 obviously there would be letters going out to the
4 folks that did not make it as a board member, but we
5 would encourage them to come, because everybody in
6 the community is invited. The meetings are open to
7 the public.

8 That is really all I have at the moment.
9 Are there any questions on the Restoration Advisory
10 Board at this point? How to apply and so on? The
11 applications look like this (indicating). It is a
12 sheet that you fill out. And this is the fact sheet
13 that talks about the Restoration Advisory Board and
14 basically goes over the same information I've just
15 given you.

16 We have some very successful RABs in
17 other parts of the country. At our Dallas facility
18 and also at our McGregor, Texas, facility. Our
19 McGregor, Texas facility, I believe is one of the
20 oldest if not the oldest. We also have one here on
21 Long Island that has been functioning extremely well
22 at Calverton, they're a very active Restoration
23 Advisory Board group.

24 So if you were thinking for instance
25 that you would like to become the co-chair and maybe

1 you wanted to know firsthand from somebody what that
2 entails and so on, I would be more than happy to
3 pass on to you where to contact the other co-chairs
4 of the restoration advisory boards that we currently
5 have ongoing. I'm sure they would be more than
6 happy to talk to you and let you know what their
7 experiences have been.

8 If there are no other questions, at this
9 time I'm going to turn the meeting over to Jim
10 Colter, who is going to give you a brief overview of
11 the Installation Restoration Program.

12 Jim?

13 MR. COLTER: As Judith said, I'm Jim
14 Colter. I'm with the Navy's Northern Division of
15 the Naval Facility Engineering Command. We are
16 located down in Philadelphia.

17 The way the Navy's Northern Division is
18 set up, we have seven engineering field divisions
19 around the country that are in charge of the
20 clean-up programs at various naval installations.
21 The Northern Division installations are basically
22 the 10 Northeast states. I am the remedial project
23 manager for Bethpage, as well as Calverton, and my
24 job basically is to work with the local and state
25 regulatory officials, come up with a plan of action

1 for investigation, try to get those plans funded
2 through congressional funds and get the plans
3 implemented.

4 So what I'm going to do tonight is
5 basically give you a little history of how the
6 Navy's restoration program came about and where we
7 are at today for Bethpage.

8 Just as a quick rundown of the mission
9 of Bethpage for those of you -- you probably know
10 better than I do -- but it was to basically
11 assemble, test and retrofit naval aircraft, as well
12 as support design and production. Most of the
13 engineering and things were done at the Bethpage
14 facility, the parts were then sent out to the
15 Calverton facility for final assembly and flight
16 testing.

17 Bethpage is owned by the Naval Air
18 Systems Command. As Judith pointed out, it was
19 built back in the 1940s, at which time Northrop
20 Grumman Corporation, formerly Grumman Aerospace,
21 entered into a long-term lease with the Navy to do
22 its defense contracting.

23 Right now, the Navy is preparing to
24 transfer the property, as you probably have read in
25 several newspaper articles, to Nassau County.

1 However, the Navy's clean-up program will be ongoing
2 through that transfer process.

3 Basically the reason that the
4 Installation Restoration Program was developed was
5 back in the war time years, I guess our national
6 defense was a top priority, and we are now finding
7 out that the way we handled and disposed of
8 chemicals, and things like that, we know a lot more
9 about them, we know a lot more about their chemistry
10 and things like that, and we are finding out that
11 some of the things we did, environmentally, we're
12 kind of paying for today.

13 So back in 1975, the DOD took the first
14 step to create a program to start indentifying some
15 of these problem areas and get them cleaned up.
16 Shortly thereafter, Congress enactd laws, and the
17 most famous one I guess is CERCLA, which stands for
18 Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation &
19 Liability Act, this was a federal program to clean
20 up hazardous waste sites, and things like that,
21 nationwide.

22 Based on that enactment, the DOD then
23 restructured its program to comply with the new laws
24 of CERCLA, and that is the initiation of the
25 Installation Restoration Program.

1 For Bethpage specifically, the IR
2 Program began in 1985.

3 We basically conducted an initial study
4 to try to identify where problem areas may have
5 occurred, due to handling practices, storage of
6 chemicals, and things like that. That report was
7 called an Initial Assessment Study. It was
8 completed in 1986.

9 Based on those findings, the Navy put
10 together what is called a Remedial Investigation and
11 we funded that in 1991, 1992. We got a lot of
12 environmental information from that report, and we
13 presented it to the regulators.

14 Their recommendation was we did a good
15 job but we missed a few things and there is probably
16 some data gaps that we could fill. We took their
17 suggestion, we put together what is called a Phase
18 II Remedial Investigation and we tried to fill in
19 those data gaps to the satisfaction of the New York
20 State DEC and local health department.

21 Based on what we found, we then wrote a
22 feasibility study in 1994 to try to present what we
23 thought were several alternatives to address the
24 problems that we had discovered, and try to
25 collectively pick the most -- the one that made

1 sense not only by cost but by implementability,
2 time, and several other factors. That led to what
3 is called the Proposed Remedial Action Plan, that we
4 signed. We wrote that in 1994 and it basically
5 outlined -- I'll go through a little bit of the
6 details in a minute. It basically outlined our plan
7 of action to clean up the soils at Bethpage. That
8 is what led to the Record of Decision, for what we
9 call Operable Unit 1, which is nothing more than
10 soils. Operable Unit 2, is groundwater, and we are
11 dealing with that as a separate issue, with Northrop
12 Grumman, and the New York State DEC.

13 Basically, after you sign the Record of
14 Decision, then you design your preferred alternative
15 and then you implement that, which is called the
16 remedial action.

17 Back in 1994, we had a public meeting
18 here at Bethpage, which some of you may have
19 attended, where we proposed our preferred plan and
20 we asked for your comments.

21 Basically what the RAB will do; we'll
22 get those concerns, instead of last minute during a
23 public meeting when we are pretty much ready to
24 implement a design, we are going to present these
25 alternatives up front to the Restoration Advisory

1 Board members. Hopefully we'll get your concerns
2 but not at the 11th hour. We'll get them up front,
3 and we'll be able to to work with you, we'll try to
4 answer your concerns and try to work those concerns
5 into our decision making process.

6 This is basically a site map of the
7 Navy's property. Most of you will know that
8 surrounding the Navy's property is Northrop
9 Grumman's property.

10 And basically around here, the most
11 affected community is over here to the east.

12 Basically the IR Program identified
13 three sites, Site No. 1, is the former drum
14 marshalling area, Site No. 2, is a recharge basin
15 area, Site No. 3, salvage storage area.

16 As many of you know, Northrop Grumman is
17 making plans to vacate the Navy's property and they
18 have been doing an extensive environmental
19 investigation and clean-up program. As part of this
20 program, they, in addition to the work that they
21 completed, identified three areas where there is
22 probably going to be some longer term clean-up
23 actions, more so than what Northrop Grumman was
24 doing. There was a couple month dig and haul
25 basically. They did a lot of that.

1 These areas, here, are more complex.
2 They are a little bit deeper and they're going to
3 take more than a couple months to figure out what to
4 do. They requested the Navy take these extra areas
5 into the restoration program and continue the
6 clean-up of these into the out years.

7 Those sites, are Area of Concern 20-06,
8 Area of Concern 34-07 and Area of Concern 22, which
9 is a former site of some underground storage tanks.

10 So these six areas, are what comprises
11 the Navy's Installation Restoration Program at
12 Bethpage. We are at various stages at each of these
13 sites.

14 A MAN: What was in those storage tanks
15 on the ground.

16 MR. COLTER: To the best of my
17 knowledge, they were No. 4 fuel oil.

18 A MAN: And they were removed when?

19 A MAN: Late '70s.

20 MR. COLTER: Late '70s.

21 A MAN: How big was the tank.

22 MR. COLTER: These were three 25
23 thousand gallon tanks.

24 A MAN: What about the rest of the
25 storage tanks in the ground. What was in the

1 ground.

2 MR. COLTER: Well, the rest of the
3 storage tanks, we have a comprehensive list of them.
4 I can't really remember each one right now.

5 A MAN: How big were those tanks.

6 MR. COLTER: Throughout the whole
7 facility.

8 A MAN: Those wells that concerned --
9 you put down the great concern -- the other area,
10 the drywells show great concern.

11 MR. COLTER: Yes, the drywells.

12 A MAN: Were you using any
13 trichloroethylene?

14 MR. COLTER: Yes, on the facility. That
15 is one of our main contaminants of concern.

16 A MAN: What happened to those tanks.
17 What were they made of.

18 MR. COLTER: Basically steel.

19 A MAN: Were they ruptured, leaking,
20 not leaking?

21 MR. COLTER: I don't have any
22 information on those. Those were removed in the
23 late '70s, that was well before my time. What
24 Northrop Grumman found was evidence that there was a
25 release there and that is what we are pursuing

1 today.

2 Basically, our contaminants of concern
3 here are solvents, as you mentioned
4 trichloroethylene, perchloroethylene, things like
5 that. Basically degreasers, things like that. We
6 have inorganics, metals is a better name for those,
7 primary cadmium and chromium and PCBs,
8 polychlorinated biphenyls, we have those here as
9 well.

10 The affected media is basically soils,
11 which we termed as Operable Unit 1. And our
12 groundwater, which is Operable Unit 2.

13 The total area of our active IR sites is
14 basically about five acres out of the 105 acre Navy
15 property. A small component of which is being
16 proposed for transfer to the county.

17 For the Operable Unit 1 soils, like I
18 mentioned earlier, we issued a ROD back in 1995,
19 basically called for technology known as air
20 sparging/soil vapor extraction, for volatile organic
21 contaminants, VOCs, contaminated soils at Site 1.
22 That installation was completed in June of 1998. It
23 is operational today. It continues to clean up the
24 VOCs at that site. That site was over to the east,
25 easterly part of the Navy's property. We are

1 expecting to run that system through the summer of
2 2000.

3 At the end of that system, the ROD calls
4 for us to excavate and dispose of metals that are
5 considered to be hazardous waste and also the PCBs
6 that are in excess of a 10 part per million
7 threshold, which is typical for industrial settings.

8 That excavation as I said is to be
9 implemented upon the completion of our air sparging
10 system.

11 The ROD also called for excavation and
12 off-site disposal of PCB contaminants that you had
13 at Site 2. We completed that work back in June of
14 1996 and issued a report to the regulatory agencies,
15 with basically successful clean-up of that site.

16 The third part of that Record of
17 Decision, was an Interim Remedial Measure for
18 groundwater that said that the Navy would fund a
19 construction project for a treatment system for the
20 Bethpage water district, one of their supply wells,
21 that was also completed a year and a half or so ago.

22 For groundwater, we have been working
23 since about 1994 with the New York State DEC and
24 Northrop Grumman Corporation to come up with a
25 three-party plan, if you will, that would address

1 groundwater concerns in the regional area. We put
2 together a preliminary report of what we thought
3 were some good alternatives back in 1996. Northrop
4 Grumman took one of those ideas, thought it was a
5 pretty good idea, that it would do a lot of good,
6 and actually constructed what we call an Interim
7 Remedial Measure in 1997, basically consisting of
8 four deep extraction wells, three new ones and one
9 existing, connected to a water treatment plant.

10 Since that has been running, we have
11 been trying to finalize that feasibility study,
12 outlining what the alternatives are going to be, the
13 final alternatives. We kind of think it will be the
14 Interim Remedial Measure plus some sort of long-term
15 monitoring to make sure the system is working
16 properly.

17 That draft report was submitted to the
18 DEC this past February. We expect that to be
19 finalized later this month. And a Record of
20 Decision is to be issued by the DEC sometime this
21 fall.

22 The reaction to this would be the
23 construction of some additional monitoring wells in
24 the local community, again, to monitor the
25 performance of the system, and we would expect those

1 to be installed sometime during the year 2000.

2 So what is next for the Bethpage IR
3 Program? Basically, we will establish a
4 Restoration Advisory Board. That is what we are
5 here tonight to do. We are going to continue our
6 remedial actions for the soils and groundwater on
7 the Navy property. And we are going to continue our
8 transfer process to Nassau County. Again, the
9 clean-up program will continue even after transfer
10 occurs, during the transfer discussion, as long as
11 it takes to meet the goals set by the DEC.

12 Part of the Navy's IR Program is to keep
13 the community involved and informed of what we have
14 been doing. The way we used to do it, is after we
15 came to a decision period, we would hold a public
16 meeting, announce those decisions and hope you
17 didn't have anything bad to say about it or we would
18 have to basically start over. We found that it is
19 probably better to get the community involved up
20 front to hear their concerns, again, so things don't
21 come up at the 11th hour. As Judith mentioned
22 before, it makes for a more responsive clean-up.

23 What we do in the IR Program is we put a
24 report together called a Community Relations Plan,
25 we did one back in 1992, basically saying who are

1 the local community that was affected, who was on
2 our mailing list and how are we going to get
3 information to the public. Because of this new
4 requirement and that we are establishing the
5 Restoration Advisory Board, we will be revising that
6 report to include the steps of the RAB and our
7 community relations information.

8 This revised document, as well as all
9 other IR documents that we have been writing and
10 putting out since the early '90s, will be made
11 available for public review for anybody that wants
12 to take a look at them, at the local information
13 repository that the Navy has set up.

14 A WOMAN: Is that reference material
15 that cannot be checked out of the library.

16 MR. COLTER: That is correct.

17 A WOMAN: Is it possible that we could
18 have multiple copies so that one would not have to
19 spend such a huge amount of time in the library or
20 have them available in the library through the
21 Internet?

22 MR. COLTER: In Calverton, we made a
23 copy of the repository contents and they reside at
24 one of the RAB members' houses that is on the
25 Calverton RAB. For those RAB members or local

1 community people that don't want to go to the
2 library or want to take something home, they have
3 that option. I would see no reason why we couldn't
4 set up a similar thing here for Bethpage.

5 A WOMAN: The library hours are a little
6 constricting.

7 MR. COLTER: As far as things on the
8 Internet, Northern Division has not gone too far
9 down the road with putting things on the Internet
10 but we are starting to do that at some of our
11 facilities. It was a request made at the Calverton
12 RAB, and I'm looking into getting that started. If
13 it is a request of the Bethpage RAB members, we
14 would probably look into doing that, as well.

15 MS. HARE: I would just say one thing
16 about inputting on the Internet. It also depends on
17 resources. We don't get a lot of funding to do
18 these RABs. So we have to watch that pretty
19 closely. We don't have documents put on the
20 Internet at our other restoration advisory boards.
21 Jim is looking into it where Calverton is concerned.
22 We also try to accommodate the public as much as we
23 possibly can to get the information to them. And
24 certainly if it is feasible and we can keep it
25 within the amount of resources that we get to do the

1 restoration advisory boards here in Long Island, we
2 will certainly do that.

3 MR. COLTER: Just finishing up on the
4 information repository, it currently resides at the
5 Bethpage Public Library. Part of our community
6 relations process will be to go up and update that
7 repository, make sure it is in good shape, make sure
8 it is accessible. If for some reason the library is
9 not willing to put our information on display, or
10 things like that, we will look into trying to find
11 another publicly accessible facility, maybe some
12 type of township building or county building or
13 something like that. We would probably look to you
14 as a community to help us out with that. But we'll
15 try to see how the library is working out first.

16 A MAN: The next time you have one of
17 these meetings, why don't you have some out there so
18 we can grab a copy, of the impact study, which you
19 have on the groundwater.

20 MR. COLTER: Well, those documents --
21 they are very voluminous. That is part of getting
22 to be a RAB member, you would get on the
23 distribution list for those documents. Just to put
24 them out here, they are just really too voluminous
25 for the public to take and copy. That is the whole

1 point of becoming a RAB member, is to get access to
2 those and give us comments and concerns that we can
3 incorporate into our decision making process.

4 There is a fact sheet out there that
5 basically gives you the overview I've given you for
6 the IR Program. I want to stress tonight, this is
7 basically just to give you a flavor of the work the
8 Navy has been doing, some of the work that we have
9 left to do, and that your role as a RAB member, will
10 be semi-extensive. It will be a commitment on your
11 part, as well as ours. Just wanted to give you a
12 flavor of what you'll be doing. Details and
13 specifics of the IR Program, what we have done in
14 the past, we will bring the RAB members up to speed
15 on what we have done at the subsequent actual RAB
16 meetings. Tonight we are trying to get that
17 established.

18 My name and address is here. My phone
19 number. I have business cards in the back. If you
20 need to write me or give me some comments. That is
21 basically all I have.

22 A MAN: I have one question. Have
23 these sites been capped or anything like that as of
24 yet, have they been covered.

25 MR. COLTER: No, basically our

1 contamination is subsurface. We do have some
2 surficial contaminants at Site 1, that site has been
3 restricted access, there is a fence around it and
4 things like that. The other site, Site 2, our
5 remedial action was completed back in '96. Our
6 third site, we really didn't find anything in the
7 surface. That was mainly a groundwater issue.

8 A MAN: Are you interacting in any way
9 with the Nassau County Department of Public Works,
10 to do test work.

11 MR. COLTER: Yes. They are informed and
12 a copy of stuff is sent to them. They are a member
13 of our Technical Review Committee, which basically
14 those members are going to be brought into this
15 Restoration Advisory Board. Part of the RAB is the
16 Navy and its regulatory community, DEC, local health
17 departments, state health department, public works
18 department, will meet separately and make decisions.
19 They'll tell us what we are doing wrong, they'll
20 tell us what extra work they want us to do. Those
21 decisions that we make collectively, between the
22 regulatory agencies and the Navy, then become agenda
23 items at the Restoration Advisory Board. We will
24 announce those decisions and try to get your
25 feedback on them.

1 MS. HARE: I was just going to say
2 before we take some more questions, there are a lot
3 of things that we do early on, for instance, with
4 the first Restoration Advisory Board meeting. At
5 that meeting of course the community has to elect
6 their co-chair and we have to get our charter
7 established. We come to you with a charter that we
8 think fits probably most restoration advisory
9 boards, and then it is up to you to review it and
10 make any changes to it. It is just a guideline of
11 rules to be followed.

12 One of the other things that we
13 sometimes do very early on with RABs, is conduct a
14 tour of the facility for the RAB members and anyone
15 else that would like to go, and generally we get a
16 bus, a van, whatever we need, for those people that
17 want to go. And Jim is the tour guide and points
18 out all of the IR sites on the property. That
19 sometimes helps you if you have not had a chance to
20 be on the property at all, or maybe for many years
21 or whatever. This sort of orients you and you can
22 then know a little bit better about where these
23 sites are and what is being done.

24 In addition to that, some restoration
25 advisory boards elect to have like a subcommittee

1 within their restoration advisory board, and that
2 committee meets in between meetings to review
3 documents. So to satisfy the concerns of the
4 gentleman back here, that is another helpful way in
5 which some of the advisory board members can come
6 together and plow through these documents. Because
7 as Jim said, some of these documents are very thick
8 documents. There is a lot in those documents.

9 I did neglect before to say that the
10 restoration advisory boards meet quarterly. Once a
11 quarter, I would like to try to coordinate maybe
12 within the same week, the Restoration Advisory Board
13 for Bethpage with the Restoration Advisory Board
14 Board at Calverton. That simply saves on resources,
15 and frankly speaking allows us to spend those
16 resources where they really count and that is
17 getting information to you. If Jim and I don't have
18 to make two trips as opposed to just one, it serves
19 better, I think all of the Restoration Advisory
20 Board members. We have not established a date for
21 the first Restoration Advisory Board at this point,
22 because we have to have the applications from you
23 come in, to determine, number one, that there will
24 be a Restoration Advisory Board for this facility.
25 And number two, to select the membership that would

1 comprise the board.

2 Now, questions?

3 A MAN: Do any of the sites presently
4 present a risk to the public's health.

5 MR. COLTER: No.

6 A MAN: Could you expand on that?

7 MR. COLTER: Basically, to -- I don't
8 want to get into the Navy's definition of risk, but
9 you need a chemical, you need a pathway, and you
10 need a receptor. Right now we have the chemicals at
11 various concentrations, but we don't have the
12 pathways or receptors as the sites are restricted
13 from use. The chemicals that we have in the
14 groundwater are actually being contained on what we
15 call the Navy/Northrop Grumman property, through the
16 Interim Remedial Measure. Those chemicals that are
17 south of that system, as obviously these chemicals
18 have been here several years. The Navy and Northrop
19 Grumman have put treatment systems on the Bethpage
20 water supply wells. There are no private wells in
21 the area extracting groundwater. You get your
22 groundwater, as you know, through the Bethpage Water
23 District. They are mandated obviously to give you
24 safe water. They have worked closely with the Navy,
25 to make sure that has happened.

1 Again most of our contamination is
2 subsurface with no direct access. Even the
3 occasional person walking on the site is not at
4 risk.

5 A MAN: Can you give an estimate to the
6 depth, the depth where it starts.

7 MR. COLTER: It varies. Over at Site 1,
8 it is basically zero to eight feet. But at some of
9 those Areas of Concern, those dry wells and UST
10 sites, they extend down as deep as 50 to 55 feet.

11 A MAN: The surface areas were cleaned.

12 MR. COLTER: On the drywells and the
13 AOCs, yes. Site 1, we still have some surficial
14 contamination there, that is why the area is fenced
15 off. After we get done with our subsurface system
16 that is at Site 1, we will move into the excavation
17 of the surface to eight feet or so depth and remove
18 that.

19 A MAN: Said the area is fenced off.
20 What is it, what is in there?

21 MR. COLTER: Volatile organic
22 contaminants, basically breakdown products of your
23 solvents, your degreasers, and things like that.
24 Some metals, cadmium, chromium.

25 A MAN: Are there any cyanides.

1 MR. COLTER: No.

2 A MAN: The storage tanks, is it
3 possible from the early '40s that they were not
4 monitored say for 20 years, and there is no
5 knowledge, or they just were placed there. When
6 did they actually start detecting them, the last 15,
7 20 years?

8 MR. COLTER: Basically, they were found
9 during the closure process that Northrop Grumman
10 went through.

11 A MAN: Conceivably, they were in the
12 ground and nobody monitored them.

13 MR. COLTER: Yes, that is possible.

14 A WOMAN: As interesting as a tour might
15 be, I would like to know the history of the piece of
16 property even back to the '70s. I can't believe
17 you're telling me you don't know what is there.

18 That is how you become an effective RAB
19 member.

20 MS. HARE: I'm sorry, I didn't hear what
21 part of that.

22 A WOMAN: You have to know the history
23 to become an effective RAB member.

24 MR. COLTER: Part of our first few RAB
25 meetings, when we actually establish the membership,

1 one or several RAB meetings will be devoted to
2 bringing you up to speed on what the Navy has been
3 doing since the mid '80s. It is extensive. We'll
4 have to spend a little bit of time to bring you up
5 to speed on what we've done before we can get into
6 what we are currently doing, to get your input.

7 I agree with you, you must know what
8 we're up to to be an effective RAB member. We will
9 dedicate our meetings to doing that.

10 MS. HARE: The other thing I would like
11 to point out, too. This is going to be your RAB
12 once it is established. So whatever you want to see
13 appear on the agenda for these RAB meetings, then
14 that is what will appear. For instance, obviously
15 we would have to do a lot of bringing you up to
16 speed, and we can go through as much of that as
17 possible. I mentioned the tour only as something
18 that you might want to do. If the RAB members don't
19 care to do it, then we won't do it. Really, this is
20 your RAB. You can do pretty much what you want.
21 You can have on the agenda what interests you the
22 most. With the documents that we have already
23 filed, those documents are sometimes hard to wade
24 through, and that is why we have Jim and his
25 contractors, and they can brief the RAB on those

1 documents. And get it boiled down so that it's a
2 little more user friendly, if you will.

3 A MAN: These contractors that are
4 working on the property, are they licensed, where do
5 they get licenses from, are they tested, how do they
6 get their experience?

7 MS. HARE: These contractors are all
8 licensed environmental contractors. Their
9 credentials are impeccable, actually. The Navy
10 would not be hiring any contractor that did not have
11 the best of credentials, I'll put it that way. And
12 of course testing. You have to remember, testing is
13 done by independent laboratories, there is a chain
14 of custody on testing, and so on.

15 A MAN: Can you explain a little bit
16 about you're discussing the Navy's property, the 108
17 acres. How is the Northrop Grumman property? They
18 have quite a bit more. How does the Navy's
19 coordinating with Northrop Grumman's clean-up have
20 they identified sites and are they doing it as a
21 private sector? How are you coordinating with them.

22 MS. HARE: Are you talking about the
23 clean-up of their own property now.

24 A MAN: Of their own. You're talking
25 about a small portion that is the Navy portion. How

1 are you coordinating with Grumman themselves?

2 MS. HARE: Grumman is responsible for
3 their own property and the clean-up of their own
4 property. However, because Grumman was the
5 operator, Grumman Aerospace and then later Northrop
6 Grumman, because they were the operator
7 continuously, we are holding Northrop Grumman
8 responsible to participate, if you will, in this
9 process, which they have more than gladly
10 volunteered to do on their own, in their own right,
11 and have really done already a very extensive job.
12 So we have coordinated with them and actually I
13 would say partnered with them in this effort.

14 Northrop Grumman felt that it was better
15 to go ahead and get this done now as opposed to wait
16 until later. I know that you probably heard of
17 other facilities in other states where the
18 contractor who has operated the property just gets
19 up and leaves. And whoever the owner is, if it is
20 the Army, the Air Force, the Navy, whoever, is left
21 holding the bag and has to proceed to clean up the
22 property. That is not to say that the services
23 don't do a cost recovery, but it certainly is better
24 when a contractor cooperates and says, you know, we
25 are interested in doing our fair share and we are

1 going to proceed to do that.

2 A MAN: I just wanted to add a couple of
3 things to that. I'm Bill Gilday, I'm with the New
4 York State Department of Health. One of the issues
5 as far as the laboratory, independent laboratories,
6 they have to be approved for work that is done in
7 New York State, that either the Department of
8 Environmental Conservation or Health signs off on.
9 There is a proficiency exam these laboratories have
10 to take, and they have to pass. If they pass, then
11 they can do environmental investigations in New York
12 State. And a lot of the other investigations have
13 to happen by a licensed engineer.

14 As far as the health and safety aspects,
15 they have to be signed off by a certified industrial
16 hygienist, a CIH. So there is some professionalism.
17 There are standards that the state, in its work on
18 these sites, holds the people to who are doing the
19 work, the investigations, to.

20 As far as a question here about
21 coordinating the different.

22 A MAN: Who makes the standards?

23 MR. GILDAY: As far as?

24 A MAN: The amount the body is supposed
25 to take, the chemicals the body is supposed to

1 absorb. Who makes the standard.

2 MR. GILDAY: By and large, it is a
3 multi-agency effort. And there's -- depending upon
4 the chemicals, EPA has done some. New York
5 Department of Health has done some. We have done
6 them in conjunction with the Department of
7 Environmental Conservation. Often times,
8 environmental conservation has done their own where
9 perhaps an endangered species might be more
10 sensitive to a particular level of chemical and they
11 are more stringent than human protection. There are
12 a number of different agencies involved in
13 establishing the clean-up levels.

14 A MAN: You work for them.

15 MR. GILDAY: I'm with the Department of
16 Health. As far as the different operations between
17 Northrop Grumman and the Navy, there is a lot of
18 different activities that have gone on for years.
19 In the '70s, when the agencies were becoming aware
20 of the problems with hazardous wastes, there is two
21 ways of attack: One was dealing with those
22 companies that were still in operation and they
23 establishd a program known as the RCRA program.

24 Those operating facilities had to become
25 permitted, if they were using significant quantities

1 of hazardous materials. A lot of Northrop Grumman's
2 operations were RCRA permitted.

3 As far as the other issues, the things
4 that weren't going on but there was contamination
5 from so-called sins of the past, that was being
6 addressed under the state Superfund Program or
7 federal EPA Superfund Program.

8 More recently in areas where groundwater
9 is a concern because of the sole source aquifer,
10 where for people, that is their only water source,
11 on Long Island the groundwater is precious here, we
12 need that water for our water source. The EPA has a
13 UIC program, Underground Injection Closure, I
14 believe is what it stands for. Anything that goes
15 into the ground that has leaked in the past that has
16 contaminated groundwater, has to be properly
17 closed-out to make sure it is not a continuing
18 source of groundwater contamination. All three of
19 those programs are operating at the various plants
20 of Northrop Grumman, the Navy properties, the whole
21 parcel, 600-plus acres in Bethpage.

22 In April, I believe it was, a number of
23 the agencies involved got together the RCRA program,
24 the UIC people, DOH, and the Superfund Program, DEC,
25 and we wanted to make sure that there were no areas

1 of the plant that weren't covered by one of these
2 programs. We wanted to make sure that every part of
3 the plant was properly closed-out, investigated and
4 remediated. So there are a number of different
5 programs that are addressing these different areas.
6 There is a lot of different areas, and for someone
7 like me, who is coming on board and learning these
8 different areas, as that gentleman was asking, who
9 is covering this and on which basis, that is one of
10 the reasons we got together, to make sure that
11 everything is being effectively addressed.

12 MS. HARE: Thank you, that was
13 excellent.

14 A MAN: I think we need to mention that
15 a lot of work has already been done at the Grumman
16 Bethpage facility and Navy facility.

17 My name is Steve Scharf and I'm the
18 project engineer from DEC under the state Superfund
19 Program. A lot of work has already occurred in
20 Plant 3. I think Jim briefly touched on it. But I
21 think just to put it in dollars, I think Grumman
22 spent over 10 million dollars to date in Plant 3
23 alone, moving contaminated soils to meet the DEC and
24 DOH soil clean-up criteria for protection of human
25 health. So a lot of work has occurred to date.

1 There is still more to be done, as Jim mentioned.

2 The groundwater, we are at the stage now
3 where Northrop Grumman is assembling a feasibility
4 study to address the groundwater plume that is
5 underneath the Grumman Bethpage facility, as well as
6 that has migrated off-site and has affected the
7 Bethpage water supply wells. Keep in mind those
8 wells are monitored routinely and Jim briefly
9 touched on the mechanism that is used, air stripper.
10 He didn't go into detail, but there is a technology
11 in place that will clean that water to pristine
12 conditions. And those are in place. And they are
13 sampled I believe monthly,.

14 MR. GILDAY: That is correct, monthly.

15 A MAN: Where is the Bethpage wells.

16 MR. GILDAY: There are three wells of
17 concern, plants number four, five and six, and they
18 are located south of the Bethpage facility, east of
19 the Oyster Bay Expressway and north of Hempstead
20 Turnpike, Central Avenue, even.

21 A MAN: Are those wells in use.

22 MR. GILDAY: Yes, that is correct, they
23 are in use today. Two of the wells show levels of
24 contamination, Plants 4 and 6. Four, I believe has
25 higher concentrations -- six has higher

1 concentrations. Five, to date, has always been
2 non-detect, it has had a detection limit of less
3 than one part per billion, and the groundwater
4 standard for all these examples is five parts per
5 billion for TCE, DCE, and their breakdown products.

6 Those wells are routinely monitored. We
7 are in the process now of reviewing a feasibility
8 study that has been presented to the department to
9 address the groundwater contamination.

10 A MAN: When you talk about dry
11 cleaning, you're talking, like chemicals from dry
12 cleaners, what type.

13 A MAN: Same type of solvent,
14 degreasing vapor degreasers, presently they use TCE.
15 Perchloroethylene is used as a coating solvent for
16 high quality paints for finishings and coatings on
17 aircraft.

18 Coming up to the history of it, as Jim
19 has said, they used to dispose of these down
20 drywells, and we are here now and the department has
21 been overseeing this work for the last eight years,
22 to clean this up. Both under the RCRA and also the
23 state Superfund Program, which is overseeing the
24 closure of the plant with respect to the hazardous
25 waste disposal.

1 Keep in mind that some of the areas
2 Grumman no longer owns. Plant 2, for example, has
3 been transferred to a company called Steel-Los III,
4 and there has been an agreement made between Grumman
5 and Steel-Los III, as to who would be responsible
6 for certain aspects of the clean-up there. And
7 that is an ongoing thing. There is an ongoing
8 developing long-term monitoring plan for the
9 groundwater, as well as an operation and maintenance
10 plan for the IRM, consisting of four extraction
11 wells pumping 4,000 gallons a minute, treating
12 water, and the recharged, clean water goes back into
13 the ground , basically flushing the groundwater in
14 the area.

15 A PERSON: How long before you think the
16 groundwater will flush out and clean itself up
17 naturally, or whatever.

18 MR. GILDAY: That is a good question, it
19 depends. In all honestly, underneath the Grumman
20 facility, it may take a long time, if ever.

21 A PERSON: How long is a long time.

22 MS. HARE: We don't know, that is the
23 answer.

24 MR. GILDAY: We don't know, right. That
25 is what we are looking at right now, actually.

1 But the important thing I think to
2 mention here, is that what Jim mentioned as an IRM,
3 what we call an interim, or remedial measure, is
4 working quite well from the initial testing that we
5 are getting back.

6 The groundwater wells, are shallow
7 wells, and they are downgradient of the IRM.

8 A MAN: Ruptured pipe, God forbid. We
9 have to make sure. Nobody knows what we may be
10 drinking down the road.

11 MR. GILDAY: These contaminants are
12 really deep.

13 A MAN: You said they were between zero
14 and eight feet, if I'm not mistaken. If it ruptures
15 and it gets into the pipe, we are still drinking it.

16 MR. GILDAY: You're talking at least
17 100 feet where contamination begins. Once we get
18 off the property. It is really deep. It then
19 extends down to 600 feet.

20 A MAN: What is the wells down to.

21 MR. GILDAY: 400-- there is one at 700
22 and it is clean, and I pray it stays clean.

23 A PERSON: Why do you pray it stays
24 clean? It has all the filters on it.

25 MR. GILDAY: I still don't want it to be

1 contaminated. I want the contamination to be
2 contained and addressed where it is.

3 MS. HARE: I might suggest that these
4 are the kinds of issues that are going to be
5 discussed extensively in the Restoration Advisory
6 Board meetings. I would encourage you to fill out
7 an application if you're interested in serving on
8 the board. If your work schedule does not permit
9 for you to serve on the board but you can at least
10 come to some of the meetings, I'd encourage you to
11 do that.

12 A WOMAN: How long do the meetings
13 generally run and where do you meet.

14 MS. HARE: It depends on what is on the
15 agenda.

16 I have some restoration advisory boards
17 that go till 10:30 at night, because each agenda is
18 fairly well packed. I try not to overload any
19 agenda and try to guide that with the Restoration
20 Advisory Board members. So you just don't get too
21 many things on one agenda. If people end up having
22 to stay really late consistently, depending on the
23 group that you're working with, some people just
24 can't do that. And so it kind of -- we kind of
25 structure it to the group. But I do try to keep it

1 reasonable, as far as time is concerned.

2 There is one Restoration Advisory Board
3 seems to not have a problem in going that late, and
4 of course we'll stay. We aren't opposed to that.
5 But for other groups, it's harder to do that. So we
6 keep the agenda to whatever the group can handle,
7 whatever they desire, really.

8 A WOMAN: Where do you propose it will
9 meet in Bethpage.

10 MS. HARE: I don't know that we have
11 that information yet.

12 A WOMAN: Would it be local.

13 MS. HARE: That is something... We
14 would like to hold it here for instance at the high
15 school. We don't know yet. We have to work with
16 the high school. If that is not available, then we
17 try to go to some other civic building or meeting
18 place. Generally we have been pretty fortunate in
19 being able to tap into some resource like that in
20 the other advisory boards.

21 MR. COLTER: We would probably ask for
22 some input from the community members if they have a
23 preference or a setting that they feel comfortable
24 in. A setting like this isn't real conducive to
25 opening books.

1 MS. HARE: It is a little big, for one
2 thing.

3 MR. COLTER: And presenting information.
4 You might want to look into some other type of
5 community centers, and we would like to ask the
6 community for some help on that, actually.

7 MS. HARE: The worst of all possible
8 worlds would be if we have to rent a place
9 somewhere. That takes resources away from what we
10 can do with the RAB, and that is not a good thing.

11 A MAN: We have a community center.

12 MS. HARE: Yes, thank you.

13 A MAN: There is something I would like
14 to add. This Restoration Advisory Board, this is
15 something, a public relations outreach of the
16 Department of Defense, and it is not to be confused
17 with CP, which the New York State DEC, which I work
18 for, runs. It is a separate process. It is a
19 feasibility study and the proposed treatment for
20 Operable Unit 2, or the groundwater, will be run by
21 the department and that is totally separate from
22 that entity. We will take comments from there --
23 the Navy might present us with comments that they
24 received through the advisory board. We also will
25 be holding a public meeting probably right here to

1 discuss the groundwater issues at a later date,
2 hopefully within the next three to four months is
3 what the schedule is calling for.

4 MS. HARE: We also from time to time
5 hold other public meetings on various issues. I'll
6 just site an example. We have an active Restoration
7 Advisory Board in McGregor, Texas. We have one
8 constituent down there that has received a lot of
9 nationwide attention because it does affects other
10 parts of the country and several other states, as a
11 matter of fact. And there is-- that constituent is
12 called perchlorate. Perchlorate is found where you
13 have a facility that is involved in explosive
14 materials. That is the only facility I have where
15 that is the case. We just recently held a very
16 large public meeting in that area, just to talk
17 about that constituent.

18 So that is something we would do outside
19 the scope of the RAB, although obviously our RAB
20 members participated. As a matter of fact our RAB
21 co-chair was involved in the poster board session
22 that we had initially. And represented the
23 community in that manner. I think she was
24 interviewed by the press in her capacity. So there
25 will be from time to time probably other public

1 meetings that will take place.

2 Any other questions.

3 MR. MANGANO: Judith, if I can just
4 summarize it as this -- This is my understanding of
5 the RAB:

6 The Navy has done an extremely thorough
7 job indentifying the spots of contamination, the
8 areas of contamination on this site, this 105 acres
9 and actually with Building 5 and 20. Very thorough.
10 There were 300 sites, or somewhere in that area,
11 that were identified. Many of them are already
12 cleaned up. But -- because there is so much
13 information, just volumes of it, to participate on a
14 RAB, you'll have the opportunity to focus on what
15 you want to focus on. And then access the data that
16 they have been collating and storing, and address --

17 MS. HARE: I think that is really what
18 the RAB does, is give those that have an interest in
19 really identifying those technical issues, like Ed
20 was mentioning, how much was there, and what is
21 there, and what is that chemical and how much of
22 that chemical. That information to a large degree
23 is already there.

24 MR. MANGANO: And they will show you,
25 Ed, how to get to what you want.

1 Rosemary, if you want to focus on
2 something else, they are more than happy to give you
3 that information. They have that information. Then
4 you can share it with your fellow residents.

5 I don't think anybody, at least from my
6 experience, from the meetings that I went to, is
7 looking to shirk any responsibility or not clean it
8 up. As a matter of fact.

9 MS. HARE: We can't.

10 MR. SCHARF: They can't by law.

11 Appears to be clean it up as quickly as possible and
12 the best way as possible and as practically as
13 possible. And at the same time, reuse the areas
14 that can be reused. And there are many -- out of
15 105 acres, only five acres are affected. So that is
16 100 acres of land that can be used, that can return
17 monies to the school district, and create jobs.
18 That is what it really is all about. You'll find
19 out much of the contamination isn't where it is in
20 public harm's way. They go through great effort so
21 that it doesn't get in harm's way. When they do a
22 clean-up, it is very thorough. From what I've seen,
23 it's very safe.

24 Then there is a check and balance
25 systems. For New York State, there is the New York

1 State Department of Health, Nassau County Department
2 of Health. The Navy, I think you have about five
3 levels of people that check on each other.

4 MS. HARE: Absolutely.

5 MR. MANGANO: Surprised if something
6 could go by. I wouldn't want to go on record but
7 I'd be surprised. That is what a RAB is about, if
8 you're a concerned resident and want to spend some
9 time finding information out, specific information,
10 it is there, it is there for you, to join the RAB.
11 Put in the time, as Judith says. If you're going to
12 do it.

13 MS. HARE: Thank you, very well said,
14 Mr. Mangano. I appreciate everybody who attended
15 this evening on this kind of stormy night. Please,
16 again, fill out the applications. If you have them
17 already filled out and if you want to turn in some
18 of your applications tonight, we'll take them.
19 Other than that, you have until the 24th of June to
20 get them into us. Thank you.

21 (Time noted:)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK)

I, JENNIFER MAUE, a Registered
Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that
the foregoing Matter, taken at the time and
place aforesaid, is a true and correct
transcription of my shorthand notes.

I further certify that I am neither
counsel for nor related to any party to said
action, nor in any wise interested in the
result or outcome thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand this 27th day of May, 1999.


JENNIFER MAUE