



THE MEMPHIS DEPOT TENNESSEE

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

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TASK FORCE MEMBERS:

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MS. PATRICIA A. RIVERS
Defense Environmental Response Task
Force, Executive Director;

MR. DAVID WANG
California Environmental Protection
Agency;

MR. WILLIAM D. GRAY
The Environment and Energy Study
Institute;

MR. BRIAN K. POLLY
Assistant Commissioner
U.S. General Services Administration

MS. ANN C. HURLEY
Acting Counsel for State and Local
Affairs, Environment and Natural
Resources Division, United States
Department of Justice;

MR. JIM WOOLFORD
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency;

MR. SAMUEL W. GOODHOPE
State Attorney General's Office,
State of Texas;

MAJOR GENERAL ALBERT J. GENETTI, JR.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;

MR. PAUL O. REIMER
President, Reimer Associates
Representative of the Urban Land
Institute;

* * * * *

1 On the 18th day of September, A.D. 1996, the
2 above entitled meeting came on for discussion before said
3 PATRICIA A. RIVERS, and the following proceedings were had:

4 MR. CHOUDHURY: Please take your seats.
5 Madam Chair, this is the time the agenda is set aside for
6 public comment.

7 MS. RIVERS: Good evening, everyone. I'd
8 like to welcome the members of the public to the ninth
9 meeting of the Defense Environmental Response Task Force to
10 be held outside Washington, D.C., otherwise known as the
11 tenth meeting of the Task Force.

12 This is the time in our schedule set aside specifically
13 to listen to what the members of the communities affected by
14 base closure and realignment are saying about environmental
15 cleanup. The goal of this Task Force is straightforward:
16 Recommend ways to expedite and improve environmental
17 response actions at closing and realigning military bases.

18 Your comments can provide our Task Force an insight
19 into the steps that are being taken to accelerate the
20 cleanup and prepare property for redevelopment at
21 installations such as the Defense Depot Memphis, Tennessee.
22 This insight can be very valuable as the Task Force develops
23 recommendations that may affect cleanup at all our closing
24 and realigning installations.

25 I'll now turn the meeting over to
26 Shah Choudhury, Executive Secretary of the

1 Task Force, who will address administrative matters for the
2 public comment period.

3 MR. CHOUDHURY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just
4 as a reminder, again, this is a meeting of the Defense
5 Environmental Response Task Force, an open meeting under the
6 requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. All
7 portions of this meeting are being recorded.

8 When you address the group, it is very important that
9 you use the microphone provided and state your name and
10 organization before asking your questions or making your
11 comments. The Federal Register notice for this meeting was
12 published June 26th, 1996, and requested that registered
13 statements be provided by
September 5, 1996. We received none.

15 Those wishing to address the DERTF may speak from the
16 microphone in the aisle or from the podium. Please limit
17 your remarks to five minutes to allow time for everyone to
18 address the Task Force. I will announce the name of the
19 individuals who have requested to speak before the Task
20 Force.

21 I will be calling the people out in alphabetical order.
22 The first person that has requested to speak before the Task
23 Force is Ms. Doris Bradshaw.

24 MS. RIVERS: Ms. Bradshaw, please come on
25 forward.

26 Welcome.

1 MS. BRADSHAW: Hi. My name is Doris
2 Bradshaw. I'm with the Defense Depot Memphis, Tennessee,
3 Concerned Citizen Committee, and I live in the impacted
4 community. One of my concerns is health and it seems like
5 that everyone is so -- in such a rush to redevelop the
6 Defense Depot that they have forgot about the environmental
7 health impact in this community.

8 Years ago, these ditches -- drainage ditches -- that
9 came from the Defense Depot used to be dirt -- and at the
10 time when they did the excavation, they put this dirt on the
11 grounds of peoples' yards when they was digging. The
12 sediment, at this time -- I -- The community did not know
13 that the Defense Depot was contaminated and that things was
14 poured in these ditches that ran out into the community.
15 So, people who gardened -- and they have fruit trees and
16 orchards -- and things began to happen in our community.

17 One of the things that -- is a -- a massive rate of
18 cancer. I stay on Mallory Avenue and my block -- I'm
19 counting from Corry to Sparks. The cancer rate is twice as
20 high and the cancer fatalities is twice as high as houses on
21 this street. And, yet, ATSDR is going to tell us that the
22 short-term effect doesn't hurt us. But the majority of
23 these people that have lived in our community has been there
24 40 and 50 years, since the Defense Depot even started -- and
25 no one -- no one -- wants to address the long-term effects
26 and -- I mean, things that may have evaporated in the air,

1 now.

2 My concern is for my children, my community, the
3 elderly people that are sick and so many young women that
4 have had hysterectomies before they're 30 years old,
5 children born that can't develop their learning -- and,
6 also, we have been watching -- at the school -- the rate of
7 -- of -- the TCAP scores has been dropping over a period of
8 years. This is personal to me, because within the last
9 year, I have lost my grandmother and my grandfather -- and
10 that was mom to me -- and my grandmother loved her garden
11 and she fed these vegetables to her children and to her
12 grandchildren and at the age of 23 -- I have a niece that
13 had to have part of her -- had to have a partial
14 hysterectomy -- and I also have had one -- and, now, I'm
15 worried about my daughters that is eleven and nine. Is this
16 going to be the same pattern along with the other young
17 ladies that live in our community?

18 I also have a health report that states that in the
19 Defense Depot area there is twice the rate of cancer than
20 anywhere in
21 Shelby County. So, this needs to be addressed and this
22 needs to be looked at because cervical cancer is the highest
23 in our community -- and, also, we have -- not that I can
24 recall -- we have had no hearings on OU-1, OU-2, OU-3 or
25 OU-4, and we would like to have a workshop set up to
26 educate the community to let them know so we won't have to

ask these questions.

At a RAB board meeting early this year, one of the members of my group -- they wanted "yes" and "no" answers, because there was questions that they wanted to ask and they were humiliated because the co-chair told them that if they keep disrespecting the board that she would no longer allow them to ask questions and I thought that's what the RAB board was for -- the community to come in and ask questions -- and, also, I feel like the RAB board is not playing the part that they're supposed to play in the community, because the majority of the people that's on the RAB board either work -- the people from the community either work for the Defense Depot and is not a good representative of the impacted community. If you've got to have those type of people on there, then bring more people in from the impacted community so that they can understand what's going on and they won't have so many questions to ask -- and the community should sit at the table at all decision-making -- all -- from the beginning to the end -- and we're tired of being left out in the dark.

Thank you.

MS. RIVERS: Thank you.

MR. GOODHOPE: Ms. Bradshaw?

MS. RIVERS: Ma'am?

MR. GOODHOPE: Ma'am?

MS. RIVERS: Would you be willing to answer

1 questions from the Task Force members?

2 MS. BRADSHAW: I sure will.

3 MS. RIVERS: Thank you.

4 MR. GOODHOPE: How are the members of the RAB
5 selected?

6 MS. BRADSHAW: Well, from my understanding,
7 they were selected from the RAB board. But I received a
8 document from EPA stating how the RAB board was supposed to
9 have been organized. But, from my understanding, it wasn't
10 organized the way that it was supposed to be.

11 The people are -- The majority of the people on the RAB
12 board is not from the impacted community. I can understand
13 you have a person representing the city, the county and
14 different positions, but we need -- it needs to be more
15 people from the impacted community, not on the outside of
16 the community -- and that's -- that's what has happened with
17 the RAB board in our community.

18 MR. GOODHOPE: Thank you.

19 MS. BRADSHAW: You're welcome.

20 MS. RIVERS: Anyone else, please? Don?

21 MR. GRAY: You were talking about this
22 contaminated soil that was removed from drainage ditches,
23 was it?

24 MS. BRADSHAW: Yes -- and my son was real
25 young. It was -- I think it was 1980, when they dug these
26 ditches up -- and these are the ditches that run from the

1 Defense Depot back -- in the back of the communities where
2 children used to play in these ditches. Years ago, I guess
3 they didn't know that these toxics would hurt us, but
4 children played in these ditches -- and now friends of mine
5 are dead or sick -- and when they dug up the ditches, they
6 threw the dirt on the ground -- on each side -- that's the
7 procedure. I was looking at another procedure -- not too
8 long ago -- they dig up the dirt and they throw it on the
9 ground, so the sediment -- if it's poison or whatever that
10 is left there, it's in the peoples' yards and the runoff is
11 all over the community.

12 MR. GRAY: Has any analysis been made, that
13 you know of, of that soil to determine what toxins are
there?

15 MS. BRADSHAW: Well, they found toxics in the
16 ditches when they dug up under the concrete -- but I felt
17 like that wasn't the right source. They should have went on
18 the side of the ditches in the community yards with -- along
19 -- the way the ditches run. I feel -- felt like they
20 probably would have gotten more -- probably more toxics --
21 and I feel like that -- I have addressed this to the RAB
22 board several times. This was one of my concerns because I
23 know friends now that are -- is -- where the family never
24 had diabetes, nor the mother or the father, and four sons
25 have diabetes -- and they -- they feel like -- they used to
26 swim in these ditches and they was wondering, "Why do we

1 have diabetes?" And it's the same thing with cancer in the
2 families. Cancer has never been in my family and my people
3 live until they get 104 and 80, 98, and they never die of
4 anything but old age. But my grandmother died of cancer
5 eating fresh vegetables -- and I can vouch by -- we got a
6 health report that said that the reason why people are sick
7 in our community is because we eat pickled food and salted
8 meat, but no one asked me what we eat in our community --
9 and I felt like they were stereotyping us and I felt like
10 that we were humiliated by that statement being made by the
11 health department. We eat fresh vegetables and we love
12 fresh vegetables in our community. This is an old -- older
13 community, so people have their pride in sharing tomatoes
14 and okra and different things in the community, where if
15 someone else didn't raise anything, they would pass it all
16 on to the next-door neighbor and to the children and the
17 same way with the fruit. So, if these items are
18 contaminated, we're passing poison along to our children and
19 not even knowing that it's happening.

20 MR. GRAY: Let me just follow up briefly on
21 the question that Sam Goodhope raised. When you talk about
22 the affected community, you mean the people that live right
23 around the --

24 MS. BRADSHAW: Yes, sir, the impacted
25 community.

26 MR. GRAY: Is that community primarily a

1 minority community -- people of color?

2 MS. BRADSHAW: It is a black community, sir.

3 MR. GRAY: And how many black people are on
4 the RAB?

5 MS. BRADSHAW: Very few.

6 MR. GRAY: And is there a reuse authority to
7 determine the future use of the property?

8 MS. BRADSHAW: Yes, there is, sir.

9 MR. GRAY: And how many people of color are
10 on that body?

11 MS. BRADSHAW: Well, on the redevelopment
12 board, I -- I'm dissatisfied with this because as far as the
13 people that is -- I don't know the name of the people that
14 wears the badges. Representatives from each business, they
15 have four people of color and I think about 24 white people
16 making the decision -- or either gathering information for
17 our community -- and we have a lot more big, black business
18 people than that. We even have a black bank and they're
19 using First Tennessee -- and I thought that was kind of
20 irate.

21 MR. GRAY: And do you know how the members of
22 the LRA were selected?

23 MS. BRADSHAW: No, sir.

24 MR. GRAY: One final question. Has any of the
25 information that's been done in connection with the --
26 assessing the -- the environmental condition of that

1 property -- does it -- does it mention any specific toxics
2 by name that you know of, like trichlorethylene or --

3 MS. BRADSHAW: Dry cleaning fluid. I know
4 that under the street called Rozelle -- I was alarmed and
5 appalled that in the groundwater, they found -- I think it
6 was
7 750 parts per billion and the threshold amount is five --
8 and I felt bad, because in that area -- on Bridgeport, nine
9 women in a row died of breast cancer.

10 MR. GRAY: That was perchloroethylene?

11 MS. BRADSHAW: I -- I can't recall the name
12 of it, sir, but it means the same as dry cleaning fluid.

13 MR. GRAY: Thank you very much.

14 MS. BRADSHAW: You're welcome, sir.

15 MR. WOOLFORD: I have a question.

16 MS. RIVERS: I'm sorry. Ma'am?

17 MR. WOOLFORD: Ms. Bradshaw?

18 MS. RIVERS: Ms. Bradshaw? They aren't done
19 with you, yet.

20 MR. WOOLFORD: I'd just like to return to one
21 suggestion that you made and that was to hold a workshop to
22 educate the community. Could you elaborate just for us what
23 you would like to see in that workshop?

24 MS. BRADSHAW: I would like to see the
25 community working with the agency and telling the agency
26 what their needs are and what their wants are. Because it

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1 seems like everybody has been telling us what they're going
2 to do and it -- I feel like that -- We know how to contact
3 our people. The agency has done a very, very poor job of
4 contacting people of color -- I'll put it like this -- in
5 our community, they have had a problem getting people out.
6 But I don't have that problem when it comes to meetings,
7 because I will walk, pass out flyers, talk on the phone -- I
8 know how to reach my community -- and the best way to reach
9 to our community is through the church. This is a southern
10 community so a majority of the people are religious and the
11 minister can reach the community a lot better than -- you
12 know, with you-all sending out official flyers and they look
13 at them and say, "What is this," and throw it over to the
14 side -- and -- and the message could get out better through
15 the churches.

16 The newspaper is a poor source -- very poor source,
17 because in the notices in the back of the paper -- and it's
18 about this small -- and no one ever pays any attention to it
19 -- plus, I don't even like the paper that we receive. I
20 don't even buy it -- our major paper -- Commercial Appeal.
21 I -- I refuse to get it, because it's so biased.

22 Another source in getting information out is through
23 the schools. That's the way that I function, is through my
24 PTA and you can reach families because parents are concerned
25 and they worry of what is happening to their children and
26 their children's development -- and you can reach many

1 people through PTA -- and I think that if you worked with a
2 grass root organization, such as our group in the community
3 -- just a grass root environmental group -- you will get the
4 information that you need and we'll be willing to work with
5 the agency because we feel like that this is important and
6 our people need to know.

7 MS. RIVERS: Ma'am, before you sit, let me
8 ask if there are any other questions.

9 I'd like to thank you and let you know that as many
10 questions as you were asked tonight, I suspect at least the
11 same number will be asked of the people that present
12 information about the depot tomorrow. So, you've provided a
13 lot of food for thought. Thank you for your comments.

14 MS. BRADSHAW: Thank you.

15 MR. CHOUDHURY: The next person that has
16 asked to speak is Mr. Kenneth Bradshaw.

17 MR. BRADSHAW: My name is
18 Kenneth Bradshaw and I, too -- I'm with the environmental
19 group DDMTCCC. It's an environmental group going on when
20 we were notified that -- that the defense depot was closing
21 and that's the time we found out about all the environmental
22 damage that had been done to our community and our community
23 is really a group of communities surrounding the Defense
24 Depot and it's 99-point-something black. The only white
25 residents are actually businessmen who give their business
26 as their home addresses and things like that.

1 Our group has been having a lot of contention with the
2 Defense Depot and the administrators over there. First of
3 all, I would like to say that Colonel Kennedy is a man of
4 honor and integrity and in all my dealings with him, he has
5 been real fair and been real truthful. But, as far as
6 government agencies -- regulatory agencies -- I can't say
7 the same thing about them. ATSDR, EPA, CVC, DTEC, all of
8 them -- it seems like whatever the BRAC team told them, they
9 responded. It seems like a cover-up or something -- a
10 whitewash.

11 Now, our community is really very contaminated. We've
12 got dioxins that is above New York State levels -- whatever
13 that means -- because we don't have a state level for
14 dioxins in Tennessee. We've got heavy metal contamination,
15 mercury, lead, arsenic and chromium -- and we've got PCBs,
16 BOCs -- and we've got a lot of complicated poisons that --
17 some of them, I can't hardly pronounce too good -- but it's
18 a mixture of them -- and these poisons are in our
19 groundwater and we believe this -- all this -- this deadly
20 mixture of poison is responsible for the cancer epidemic in
21 our neighborhood and -- and for the residential area around
22 the Defense Depot -- we're supposed to be number two in the
23 state. Number one is Oak Ridge, Tennessee -- and -- and
24 they deal with nuclear stuff. They've got plutonium and all
25 this -- and everything -- and some of our concerns -- our
26 groundwater, as you-all know about the plumes of

1 contamination. Now, our plume is mostly lead. It's above
2 EPA action levels. That's why, I guess, we're here today.
3 That's why the base is closing because there's a potential
4 threat to all the -- to the city drinking water in Adam Well
5 Field, which pumps to a black area and everything and we --
6 we really think that our drinking water is actually
7 contaminated by this plume, because the plume theory, as it
8 exists, theoretically, to us, it doesn't make any sense,
9 because to have a well-defined plume without a source and
10 without a destination, it's not geologically accurate and
11 everything. Because beneath this plume -- I think that the
12 clay barrier of -- the clay barrier is only 15 feet thick in
13 places and they've got a hole in the bottom. They call it a
possible leakage.

15 Now, what we think is happening because of the
16 excessive pumping of the Adam Well Field is actually drawing
17 this plume down into our drinking water supply of the deeper
18 aquifer at Memphis' aquifer when they -- they are pumping it
19 to us -- and because we are a black neighborhood, nobody
20 really seems to care. We called it environmental racism and
21 genocide -- toxic genocide -- things like that.

22 Now, the primary purpose of our group is to educate the
23 community. Now, the Army has access to all the information,
24 all the residents and everything. I think, out of a mailing
25 list of 35,000 people, they actually notified 300 people
26 that they was closing because of this contamination and

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1 everything. Now, our group -- we have flyers and sometimes
2 we'll slant it and bias and everything, because we think
3 we're not getting a fair deal from the Defense Depot and the
4 BRAC team and all this -- and we are actually informing more
5 people about the contamination and the depot than the depot
6 has -- and they're a government agency. They've got the
7 massive funding and the power of the United States
8 government to let everybody in the background to know, yet,
9 they don't -- and, to date, we have informed more people
10 about the health problems, about the plume, about the cancer
11 rate, than they have -- and, so, we think we need some
12 health intervention. We need a free health clinic and we
13 need free medicine, free doctors and everything, but we
14 don't just need any doctors like these current programs
15 have. We need toxicologists. We need specialists to deal
16 with chemical-induced poisons and everything -- and we've
17 been talking -- we've been -- the thing about the BRAC team
18 -- they're doing a good job. If that place is not
19 contaminated at all, they're going to do a marvelous job.
20 But if it is, like we think it is, they just ran right over
21 the black community because they haven't addressed any
22 health concerns. We don't have health surveys or nothing.

23 Now, they've got all these legal justifications for not
24 giving us one. They had a geologist go out to make the
25 determination not to give us a health survey and we think we
26 need an M.D. doctor to do that. If the decision was going

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1 to be made not to give us one, we need a medical -- a
2 qualified medical doctor -- and not a geologist -- to
3 determine that we have some -- have some kind of medical
4 health intervention -- and the several major concerns now is
5 that the Defense Depot is an NPL Superfund site, but when
6 you go over there tomorrow, you look around, you will not
7 see a sign saying NPL Superfund site. You won't see nothing
8 that says "Cautious." You won't see anything -- any kind of
9 signs that they've been having any kind of environmental
10 problem that's a risk to anybody on the base or the people
11 immediately surrounding the base. You won't see that -- and
12 for the last four or five months, I've been corresponding by
13 letter with

14 Mr. Tim Fields of the Solid -- Office of Solid Waste and
15 Emergency -- thing -- and I'm asked -- I asked him in
16 Pensacola, "Why do the other communities that we go to that
17 were NPL Superfund sites have signs posted" -- "and visible
18 signs" -- "that they have an environmental problem"?

19 Mr. Tim Fields said he's going to get back with me, and
20 he did, and he told me -- Now, other people told me some
21 reasons why we didn't have the signs up -- and Mr. Field
22 said because the Department of Defense -- because it's a
23 federal facility, that the Department of Defense has say-so
24 authority over it -- even EPA can't go tell the Department
25 of Defense to put up a -- some NPL Superfund signs not only
26 around the installation, but part of the installation is a

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1 dump. It's not only a dump, it's a toxic waste, solid
2 waste, hazardous waste dump where they buried chemical
3 warfare weapons, all kinds of DDTs and everything over there
4 and we have a residential area around there.

5 And, so, that brings me to another point. We want
6 relocation for the people immediately surrounding that
7 impacted area, but we want the signs -- if they don't put
8 them up around the whole base, we want them up around the
9 toxic dump to let people know -- because I thought about
10 making some signs and putting them up myself. But we need
11 some signs around there. We need relocation for those people
12 because those health risks in that area are great and
13 everything -- and I've got two more comments. I know I'm
14 getting a little long, but I hope you-all will bear with me
15 and let me make these couple of points.

16 Okay. As far as the Freedom Information Act -- Now,
17 pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act -- Community
18 Right-To-Know Act -- we request all files, documents and
19 records that relates to air, soil or water pollution at the
20 base -- and we got a reply that we thought we were denied --
21 because we didn't get all files -- but when I said all -- I
22 requested all, I meant we need all -- because we're the
23 black impacted community -- a minority community -- and I
24 thought we need that information if we're going to try to
25 accomplish the presidential executive order that got the
26 government cooperating with the -- with the impacted people

1 -- and they said I need to apply for specific documents --
2 and as a community -- on the behalf of the community -- we
3 want all the documents, because we -- some documents we
4 don't know how -- the names of them, do they actually exist
5 or anything. We think we should have a repository in the
6 black community. They said that the documents -- You were
7 denied because the documents are in the public domain. But
8 we think they are in the white domain, because they are not
9 in the black community at all -- and all we want is a
10 repository so we have the information, so people who are
11 interested can come by and check out the information,
12 because we are not any geologists, toxicologists and all
13 that. Those documents -- We just can't go to the library
14 and look at it and two seconds later know what they mean.
15 We have to sit down and study and then discuss them and
16 everything. Because the government didn't do -- for 54
17 years, just never told us they had this kind of
18 contamination over there. They operated in a veil of
19 secrecy. We didn't know what was going on. Then, all of a
20 sudden, they said it was contaminated and everything -- and
21 we need -- we need the information just to be a part of the
22 process -- and I got one more issue, I think.

23 It's about the technical assistance -- like a TAG
24 grant. That's a grant they give you for -- for you to hire
25 -- like a community like we are -- that's the grant they
26 give you so that you can hire a reliable expert in that

1 field to break down the information and explain it so we can
2 understand it on the grass roots level and everything -- and
3 that -- that -- we got one, but the thing is so complicated
4 and everything and the requirements and stipulations and all
5 of that -- it's just too complicated -- and, then, another
6 thing is since we've been educating the community, we think
7 the government ought to reimbursement us for our paper, our
8 copying and all of that, because we've reached more people
9 than they have. Even if the people don't agree with our
10 position on everything, we do bring them the issues.

11 It is a problem about the groundwater. There is a
12 problem about the cancer. We try to explain what relocation
13 means. We try to explain something that's real difficult
14 to tell them about, contamination. Something they can't
15 see, they can't feel, they can't taste, but, yet and still,
16 it's all around us -- and it's difficult for us -- and it's
17 also difficult to try to tell them about aquifers and
18 things, because in Memphis we've got a recharge aquifer
19 called an alluvial aquifer, and then we've got the actual
20 aquifer that we get our water -- and we try to -- people
21 with limited educations and the people that's trying to
22 explain it to them got limited education -- and the
23 government didn't do anything. They didn't educate us. They
24 just contaminated us and then the BRAC team came along and
25 just corrupted the whole system, because everybody is afraid
26 to go against them. They've got EPA in the pocket -- and

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1 that might be the wrong choice of words -- maybe I'm using
2 too strong words, because I'm so emotional about this -- but
3 we don't think we're getting a fair deal -- and that's the
4 end.

5 If you've got any questions, I'll try to answer them.

6 MS. RIVERS: Don?

7 MR. GRAY: Let me just ask you: I take it
8 most of the drinking water in the area is from groundwater.

9 MR. BRADSHAW: Yes, sir, artesian wells. All
10 Memphis's drinking water is artesian wells.

11 MR. GRAY: Are they individual private wells
12 or is there a community water system?

13 MR. BRADSHAW: Basically, light, gas and
14 water is owned by the people of Memphis -- they said -- but
15 the City of Memphis actually owns --

16 MR. GRAY: It's actually city water?

17 MR. BRADSHAW: Yes, sir, it's city wells.
18 Yes, sir,, it's both of them.

19 MR. GRAY: Both.

20 MR. BRADSHAW: Yes, sir.

21 MR. GRAY: Some people are on the city water
22 and some people are on private wells?

23 MR. BRADSHAW: No, sir. Memphis is a urban
24 -- 95 percent of it is urban, although, we have people with
25 shallow wells or private companies or something, 100 percent
26 of the people get their water from artesian wells that's

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1 supplied by the City of Memphis. I might be confusing you
2 or something.

3 MR. GRAY: The people that live right around
4 the base don't have their own wells?

5 MR. BRADSHAW: No, sir. No, sir. No, sir.
6 The base is an urban area. It's residential -- Well, it's
7 urban and everyone surrounding -- I think it's about 30 or
8 40,000 people get their -- their water from the contaminated
9 -- the aquifer beneath the contaminated plume -- and the
10 thing about the plume is --

11 MR. GRAY: But that city water system should
12 be subject to the Safe Drinking Water Act and report to the
13 state agency that administers it.

14 MR. BRADSHAW: Yes, sir. I understand what
15 you're saying. I agree with that 100 percent. But we --
16 The Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act -- we cite
17 all these when we correspond and everything -- the Freedom
18 of Information Act -- We're told this Congress enacted these
19 laws to protect us. All we want them to do is go by them
20 and respect them.

21 MR. GRAY: Well, one thing that might help
22 you a little bit is they just enacted the Reauthorization of
23 the Safe Drinking Water Act, which requires -- among other
24 things -- that they will have to give public notice to all
25 the people that are customers of that water company about
26 any contaminants that are found in that water.

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1 Am I right, Jim?

2 MR. WOOLFORD: I believe --

3 MR. BRADSHAW: It's one thing to have a law.
4 It's another thing to enforce it.

5 MR. GRAY: Well, this one was just passed --

6 MR. BRADSHAW: In a minority community, we
7 find enforcement is very slack. I mean, if it was an
8 affluent white community, I know they would -- they would do
9 all these things you're saying.

10 MR. GRAY: Well, this one was just passed
11 within the past month -- and I guess EPA is working on
12 regulations that will apply to the state agency that
13 administers the Safe Drinking Water Act.

14 MR. WOOLFORD: I'm talking outside of my
15 area, but I believe that that's -- that would be a logical
16 conclusion of doing that.

17 MR. GRAY: I realize it's not much comfort to
18 you at the moment, but, at least as that law is implemented,
19 they will be required -- anybody who is a customer of that
20 drinking water system -- if they find any contaminants in
21 that water, they will be required to notify you -- it's
22 something they will send to you with your bill, so you will
23 know --

24 MR. BRADSHAW: Yes, sir. Not to be
25 argumentative, but it's like the Constitution of the United
26 States guarantees us all these rights and everything but

1 there are instances every day where people of color -- or
2 black people -- disenfranchised people -- are not getting
3 the benefit of these same laws -- and I think that's a major
4 part of our problem. If we had been an affluent white -- I
5 hate to be redundant -- but if we had been in an affluent
6 white neighborhood, it wouldn't have happened in the first
7 place -- second place, when it happened -- or first occurred
8 -- they would lead us under a remedy situation. They
9 wouldn't go 54 years before they tried to address the
10 problem.

11 MR. GRAY: Well, if this works the way it's
12 supposed to, it won't have anything to do with where you
13 live or what color you are. It will be whether you're a
14 customer of that water company or not. If they send you a
15 bill, they're supposed to send you the notification just
16 like everybody else.

17 MR. BRADSHAW: We certainly would appreciate
18 it if the law would work like it's intended to.

19 Any more questions?

20 MR. GOODHOPE: Do you know -- Is the RAB
21 receiving documents and can you go to the RAB to try to get
22 -- to review some of the documents?

23 MR. BRADSHAW: Well, let me give you a little
24 background. When we filed that Freedom of Information Act,
25 it wasn't because the RAB didn't have the reports or
26 anything. It was because a member of our group that's on

1 the RAB board requested specific documents and they never
2 give him those. They gave him something else. That was the
3 complaint -- he came to me -- and I had just come from an
4 environmental conference at the University of Missouri in
5 St. Louis where they teach us how to write the colonel in
6 the proper format, with the proper respect and -- and --
7 like he's a good neighbor agreement or something -- and we
8 asked for these things -- because we don't want -- we can't
9 compete with the U.S. military. The Department of Defense
10 could wipe us out any time they want. All we can do is ask
11 these people to obey the same law the Congress of the United
12 States enacted for the freedom of information. They've got
13 all the information. We don't have access to it in the black
14 community. We don't have a library in our community -- and
15 that may be a part of it -- but we are trying to get
16 something set up where, if the colonel does decide that we
17 can be privy to this information, we'll have a place to put
18 it and everything, but -- it's a low-income community. I
19 think per cap income is \$10,900. The people are real proud.
20 They keep up their yards, their homes and everything and --
21 it looks beautiful on the surface -- but the contamination
22 is just -- it's too much.

23 MS. RIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Bradshaw.

24 MR. GRAY: Let me just ask you a question:
25 Is there anything in the regulations about the information
26 having to be in a public library? The previous speaker

1 mentioned that major source of information in the community
2 -- churches. Is there any reason that the repository for
3 the information couldn't be in the church?

4 MS. RIVERS: To my knowledge, there is
5 nothing that would -- that says that a particular kind of
6 location has to be the location that says a library, for
7 example, is the only option -- and I -- again, tomorrow, I
8 think we can ask the depot how they've tried to make
9 information available through the repositories to the
10 community. Because there's nothing that would say a church
11 couldn't have a repository.

12 Jim just asked if I knew of any examples where a church
13 acted as the holder of the information. I'm not familiar
14 with any, but that doesn't say anything --

15 MR. GRAY: It's a possibility worth exploring
16 if that is the major repository -- or source of information
17 in the community.

18 MS. RIVERS: That's a good question for
19 tomorrow.

20 MR. CHOUDHURY: Madam Chair, I would like to
21 just remind the Task Force that it's 6:45 and there's four
22 other speakers that would like to address the Task Force.

23 MS. RIVERS: We picked up another one. Okay.
24 Go for it. The next person?

25 MR. CHOUDHURY: And I think, if everybody
26 tries to stick to the five minutes, it will give everybody

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an opportunity to be heard.

The next --

MR. GRAY: Well, I'm afraid the members of the Task Force are more at fault than the speakers.

MR. GOODHOPE: Certain members of the Task Force.

MR. GRAY: I will willingly accept the blame.

MS. RIVERS: Shah?

MR. CHOUDHURY: The next person on my list is Mr. Earl Dearhart.

MR. DEARHART: Hello. My name is Bobby Dearhart. Ms. Rivers and the Task Force, I'd like to thank you-all for letting me address for the second time the Task Force. The first time I addressed was in January of 1995, in Charleston. I was the BRAC environmental coordinator at the time for Naval Base, Charleston. Since then, I've changed jobs. I'm now the Director of Supervisory Shipbuilding, Conversion and Repair, Suit Ship Corpsman, Environmental Detachment, Charleston.

Two concerns. Mine don't have -- or comments don't have to do directly with the Defense Depot up here, but they have to do with you-all's overall goals, I hope. I hope it will maybe give you-all some -- some ideas and some recommendations.

First of all, I'd like to confirm Shah's statement

1 today about the importance of the BRAC Cleanup Team. I
2 think that's the key to making this thing a success -- the
3 working relationship between the agencies and the Navy --
4 but of -- even in -- the same importance is something that
5 you-all are working on and I think you-all really need to
6 resolve -- is the retention of the members, especially on
7 the Navy side.

8 Charleston has -- Since August of 1993, we are now
9 working on our third BRAC environmental coordinator.
10 There's a tremendous loss of continuity and history of
11 policies and decisions that were made -- and for about the
12 last year, Charleston has been stumbling -- and one of the
13 reasons is because we're having to make back up time and --
14 and decisions that were made. The state and EPA has been
15 constant and they've been working very well.

16 The second issue has to do -- or kind of has to do --
17 with an initiative. It's a
18 Naval C Systems Command Initiative with Maryland Naval
19 Shipyard and Charleston Naval Shipyard to establish these
20 environmental detachments. On April the 2nd, 1996, they
21 established an environmental detachment in Charleston that's
22 made up of 170 people. It's made of engineers,
23 environmental protection specialists, mechanics, equipment
24 operators, industrial hygienists, safety and health
25 specialists, chemists -- you name it -- former shipyard
26 workers that have been training for the last year and half

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to do environmental work at the naval base.

Mayor Allen has a very similar detachment on the west coast cleaning up Vallejo's detachment -- cleaning up -- Mayor Allen. Prior to April 2nd, there was basically no cleanup work done at Charleston Naval Base. We did a lot of studies. We did a lot of investigations -- and still we're doing investigations, but there was no cleanup work done. As of April the 2nd, we've actually gotten out and we've started cleaning up the naval base. We've -- and one of the reasons I'm bringing this up is -- is -- I wasn't planning on addressing this at you-all's meeting tonight -- but with Mr. Woolford and -- and Shah's comments this morning -- or this afternoon -- I thought it was something that might be of importance -- because some of the concerns that came up are what to do to speed up cleanup, what to do to save money -- those were some of the Fast-Track indicators -- and the need to figure out more efficient ways to do the cleanup.

Well, in Charleston, we're finally doing something and we are re-inventing the way that we Fast-Track these detachments. These are going to be specific to Charleston -- the Charleston detachment. Mayor Allen is doing something very similar. But to give you an idea of what we've accomplished since April the 2nd -- and this is the general idea, so -- I mean, it could be applied anywhere at any time. We've removed 48 of 200 underground storage tanks. We've accomplished two major asbestos abatement jobs and

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1 we've started another one last week and we've got two more
2 on the agenda to start within the next couple of months.
3 We've implemented five interim measures in the RCRA world at
4 -- at some of the 400 solid waste management units that we
5 have. We have 40 of those on the agenda that we're working
6 with EPA and the state to get started on.

7 We've done -- We've completed the radiological surveys
8 and we've been released from -- for unrestricted use at
9 Charleston. We're doing sampling, groundwater monitoring,
10 waste management. We're getting ready to implement a major
11 bioremediation project to try and cut down on the cost of
12 waste disposal -- petroleum and contaminated disposal --
13 which I'm sure you-all know -- that's one major cost of
14 doing environmental work -- is the -- getting rid of your
15 waste -- lead-based paint -- it just goes on and on what
16 this detachment is capable of doing.

17 We're doing this work with full buy-in of EPA and the
18 state. We meet on a regular basis. We meet -- This past
19 week, we met two full days just discussing jobs that we can
20 do. Doing this, we're able to scope the jobs, go through
21 all the details and make the decisions -- and when we do the
22 work plans, they're basically approved at the time we get
23 out in the field and implement it. That's how we've been
24 able to accomplish so much so far. It's a very good team
25 approach.

26 Some of the reasons that this detachment is successful,

1 we feel like, is that it's made up of local residents.
2 These are former shipyard employees. They have pride in the
3 -- in the area they live -- communities. Most of them have,
4 at least, 18 years within the communities. They're all
5 skilled workers. They're -- We're funded based on work
6 accomplishment. We're not funded a batch amount of money
7 and just a -- if we get work, we do it. We have to
8 accomplish the work and get paid for it to pay the
9 individuals. If not, they go home on a non-pay status.

10 There's no profit involved. If we do a job for
11 \$100,000 less than we estimate it -- and we have to estimate
12 every job to make sure we come under the government estimate
13 before we even get -- it goes back into the coffers and gets
14 applied to additional jobs. So, it's a continual process.
15 Every penny that is put into our pot is spent on
16 environmental cleanup at the naval base.

17 One of the other reasons is because there's a large
18 number of nuclear workers within the detachment. They have
19 a nuclear mentality. They were in the naval nuclear
20 propulsion program. They are very serious about quality
21 control, quality assurance, safety -- and they understand
22 do-it-right-the-first-time. There's not a second time. We
23 don't want to go out and waste the taxpayers' money.

24 We're also starting to expand. There's a -- We're
25 working on some asbestos jobs at Cecil Field in Florida.
26 We've got nine tanks we're bidding on right now in Orlando,

1 Florida. We're going to be doing groundwater monitoring work
2 at the naval weapon station in Charleston and we're also
3 doing environmental baseline surveys for transfer at some of
4 the naval air stations around the country -- Key West, some
5 in Texas, Idaho, Wisconsin and so forth.

6 I'd like -- If you can bear with me for about two
7 seconds here, I'd like to read something -- a couple of
8 comments here. This was a letter that was sent to me August
9 the 2nd from a senior remedial project manager,
10 Mr. Doll Britain, which -- also addressed to you-all in
11 January of '95. It was addressed to the detachment on
12 reflections of the environmental detachment Charleston --
13 and without going through all the details -- he hit several
14 points here. He said, "Perspective" --, "What's" -- "It's
15 been very refreshing to the see detachment approach work
16 from the perspective of what is the best interest of the
17 Navy and what's the best interest of the taxpayer and what
18 is the best interest of the community?"

19 He also discusses the dedication and commitment by
20 these workers -- the insight, the planning -- in fact, we
21 don't do rework -- the performance and he also addresses the
22 future -- and he states, "Given the past performance of the
23 detachment, assuming that it remains constant in the future,
24 I am confident that the environmental investigation and
25 cleanup at
26 Naval Base, Charleston, can be performed more efficiently,

1 expediently and easier with the detachment."

2 He also continues to say that in the public address to
3 Mr. Bill Quaith (phonetic)[?] who is one of the senior
4 civilian employees ^{SET} -- or, I guess, is the senior civilian
5 employee at NAVFAC headquarters in Washington, "At that
6 recent East Coast Base Realignment and Closure Conference in
7 Charleston, I think the detachment is the best thing that
8 has happened to BRAC in innovative contracting. With all
9 the environmental cleanup to be done at Charleston Naval
10 Weapon Station, Charleston Air Force Base on the DoD
11 activities, I see a great opportunity." I just wanted to
12 bring this up, because I think this is a great opportunity
13 for the Department of Defense to do things cheaper, faster
14 and better. So, I hope that -- maybe this will give you-all
15 some ideas to be discussing on some of the initiatives in
16 the future.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. RIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Dearhart.

19 MR. WOOLFORD: Bobby, if I may, please. I
20 missed this -- I just may have missed this -- and you may
21 have said it. The detachment, is -- are those Navy
22 employees or are they on a contract basis?

23 MR. DEARHART: No.

24 MR. WOOLFORD: How are they constituted as --

25 MR. DEARHART: These are former shipyard
26 employees who are on what they call seasonal-term

1 appointment to a supervisor shipbuilder in Portsmouth,
2 Virginia. Being long-term, that allows us to send them home
3 on a non-pay status if we don't have work to do. That's why
4 it's such a -- there's such a push -- and -- and they work
5 real hard to do such a good job. They are civilian -- civil
6 servants.

7 MS. RIVERS: Thank you.

8 Shah?

9 MR. CHOUDHURY: The next person that asked to
10 speak is Mr. Lee Johnson.

11 MR. JOHNSON: My name is
12 Lee Johnson. I grew up at 1835 Rozelle, which is one of the
13 properties most adjacent to the Defense Depot. I'm one of
14 the people that
15 Ms. Bradshaw referred to that grew up playing in the
16 drainage ditches that ran off from the depot.

17 I think my family moved in the area about 1945 or '46
18 -- somewhere during that time -- and to address one of the
19 questions that you had earlier about the common choice of
20 drinking water. That's true today, but that has not always
21 been the case.

22 During that time, people had the old pumps that most of
23 the communities drank from. So, all of the water is not
24 from the source of water that we have today -- and, during
25 that time, everybody had -- tried to have vegetable gardens
26 -- fruit trees. I remember when they first started the

1 investigation -- one of the questions I remember most -- my
2 father was cutting grass on the property, which is directly
3 adjacent to the drainage ditches -- and one of the questions
4 they posed to him was, "Why wasn't your fruit trees
5 growing?" I won't ever forget that question.

6 But -- To address some of the other concerns that I had
7 -- We've had a number of meetings over the past two years,
8 but I don't feel like we really have any real communication
9 between the public and the Defense Depot. We never really
10 had any real communication -- any real dialogue -- because
11 the format was such that we were always steered away from
12 certain discussion or steered toward certain discussions.
13 We never were really able to address our real concerns.

14 I know of several times that we did propose that a
15 health survey be done, but we were simply told there was no
16 need -- they didn't see a need to address that issue. I
17 don't know how they could determine there's no need for a
18 health survey with no data -- you know, because at one time
19 I think we were told that some data was taken maybe a decade
20 or -- ten or fifteen years ago -- but I can't see that as
21 being any real data when nobody living in the area can ever
22 recall being surveyed or being -- answering any
23 questionnaires. So, I don't know how they went about
24 collecting the information -- the data on the survey to make
25 a -- some kind of health assessment -- and even if that were
26 true -- I mean, most of the effects of these toxins are

1 cumulative. Any data collected ten or fifteen years ago
2 would have no real effect -- no meaning today -- because
3 some of these things that were taking place at that time
4 would not have taken place until now -- at later date -- and
5 when we tried to address some of the questions about some of
6 the chemicals that were found in the area, we were simply
7 told things like the commercial usage, not how they would
8 affect you health-wise -- but, "This is found in the
9 cleaning fluid, this is found in antifreeze." Well, these
10 are the type of questions we -- answers we would get
11 whenever we posed any questions. So, I don't really feel
12 like we had a real dialogue -- any real communication --
13 and we really wanted to see a health survey.

14 If we're mistaken and far afield or exaggerating, we
15 were looking for -- maybe the data would have proven that
16 out -- you know, I don't feel like -- if you had nothing to
17 fear, why -- why couldn't we have had a health survey -- you
18 know, that was never answered -- and, as I said before, now
19 -- now we have a common source for drinking water -- and
20 that was the defense that we got any time we proposed any
21 questions about any health hazards. We were always told
22 that the drinking water is safe, though, that would only
23 mean the -- contamination is the only thing we could be
24 exposed -- through our drink watering. That was always the
25 defense -- the drinking water has been proven safe -- you
26 know, so no other means of -- we could not be exposed by any

other method.

Do you have any other questions?

MS. RIVERS: Any questions?

MR. GRAY: Who did you make that request of?
ATSDR?

MR. JOHNSON: We had -- Like I said, we had a number of meetings and the different speakers or the different experts that they presented -- you know, we -- on a number of occasions, we did request a health survey or -- you know, something of that sort -- and any time we brought up any particular chemical or maybe some kind of organic chlorides where -- we would ask about -- maybe the health effect or some of those concerns, we were always told that there's no problem. We were always given some example of how it's used commercially. We've never really been told how it could effect you in terms of your health.

We -- Like I said, the format was such that we were always steered in a particular direction toward certain discussions or away from certain discussions. If you got away from this discussion, we were simply told, "We're not here to discuss that tonight. That will be discussed at a later time," and we -- that's pretty much the way it went for the last two years.

MS. RIVERS: Paul?

MR. REIMER: Mr. Johnson, your residence is just north of the base; is that right?

1 MR. JOHNSON: It's -- Well, I grew up on
2 Rozelle -- Rozelle -- the drainage ditch that's -- there's a
3 drainage ditch, and if you were to look at it, you will see
4 that's --

5 MR. REIMER: Are there schools in the area in
6 these --

7 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, there are. I guess there
8 are a number of schools. Alcy Elementary, for one --
9 Magnolia Elementary, Corry, Norris -- There are a number of
10 schools in the area.

11 MR. REIMER: There are a number in the area?

12 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah.

13 MR. REIMER: Thank you.

14 MR. JOHNSON: And your question about the --
15 how the members of the committee were selected -- that
16 selection process has been somewhat suspect, because I think
17 if you check the members on that board you won't find any
18 member on there from the community that I feel -- community
19 that I feel like is most impacted by these toxins --
20 although, I know a lot of them submitted applications to sit
21 on that board.

22 MR. CHOUDHURY: Mr. Johnson, just for
23 clarification, that's the Restoration Advisory Board you're
24 talking about?

25 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

26 MR. GOODHOPE: So, there was notice given

1 that people could apply?

2 MR. JOHNSON: Right -- and a lot of
3 applications were submitted that I know of -- and the one --
4 that I know of, but not selected. I don't know what the
5 selection process was, but they never explained it -- and I
6 still don't understand it.

7 MR. WOOLFORD: I'd like to talk about what
8 you said about not having a real dialogue about what's going
9 on at the base and the contamination and all that. How
10 would you like to see that happen? How would you like to
11 have that set up so there could be more --

12 MR. JOHNSON: Well, I would like to think
13 that we would have had some input on what the format would
14 be, what questions we'd be asked and how we'd be asked. It
15 would -- We would work together and decide. It wouldn't be
16 one-sided either way -- you know, we were just looking for
17 some answers -- and I think we've had a lot of meetings,
18 but I don't think we've had any real results from the
19 meetings.

20 MS. RIVERS: Thank you. We appreciate your
21 time, Mr. Johnson, and your comments.

22 MR. CHOUDHURY: Madam Chair, it's 7:00
23 o'clock. We still have two speakers. I would suggest that
24 the Task Force continue until everyone has spoken.

25 MS. RIVERS: Carry on.

26 MR. CHOUDHURY: The next person is Mr. Seth

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1 Kirshenberg.

3 MR. KIRSHENBERG: Thank you. I'm Seth
4 Kirshenberg from ICMA. I asked to speak during the public
5 comment period because I wanted to make sure some of my
6 comments are heard. I'm a member of the DERTF Future Land
7 Use Work Group, which is dealing with a lot of different
8 issues.

9 First, I'd like to thank the members for inviting a
10 local government representative to be sitting on that board.
11 I think it's been very helpful. It's been a good way to
12 communicate a lot of different ideas that are coming out of
13 the DERTF to local governments in a way that gets them
14 involved to help them understand a lot of these future-use
15 issues that a lot of them would have never even thought
16 about before until they got up to that process -- and, Sam,
17 with this institutional control issue, we just recently sent
18 out a survey to our members and most of them aren't thinking
19 about institutional controls, yet, and we're just starting
20 to open a dialogue so they can think about those issues and
21 the impacts that they have may have.

22 And I guess my comments really come out of the
23 questionnaire that we sent to our members and -- ICMA,
24 first, has a base-use consortium that represents about 100
25 -- it has about 110 local government officials who are
26 members representing about 70 different localities around
the country. Local governments, as they are looking at

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1 future-use cleanup and are looking at institutional control
2 issues realize that many of them have not developed -- or
3 have not worked with institutional controls at hazardous
4 waste sites. Many of these communities have only worked
5 with institutional controls in other areas.

6 I guess I can give you a background of some of our
7 preliminary findings from about 20 different localities
8 around the country and this will -- you'll get a lot more of
9 this -- more in depth -- and I know you have an article -- a
10 paper from the Future Land Use Work Group, but I wanted to
11 give you some of these initial findings. First, they
12 implement and oversee and enforce institutional controls
13 every day -- but, once again, non-hazardous waste sites.

14 One of the issues that -- When we brought this -- When
15 we started talking about institutional controls within ICMA,
16 one of the big issues really came down to, "Do the local
17 governments have the capacity to implement, inspect and
18 enforce these institutional controls at hazardous waste
19 sites?" The ones who thought they did are the ones who are
20 -- or are the ones who are doing this right now at other
21 hazardous waste sites -- and they would usually get the
22 funding to do that through whoever was paying for the remedy
23 at the site. It was part of the remedy -- those particular
24 funds.

25 A lot of the local governments, also, are saying,
26 "Well, we're not going to be the ones who are going to

1 oversee the institutional controls. It's the state in my
2 community who's going to be doing that," and I'm not sure of
3 the capacity of a lot of the different states, but I know
4 that's another issue that they are worried about -- it's
5 having the resources to be able to implement and enforce the
6 institutional controls.

7 The last concern is that as these sites are handed over
8 to local governments that -- it will become another unfunded
9 mandate for local governments and for state governments to
10 deal with this issue and they want to make sure that there
11 are the funds there so they can ensure that they'll be able
12 to protect the health of the community in the long-term.
13 The paper spells out some of the issues -- and I just want
14 to make sure that you highlight that the resources issue is
15 a really big issue and it's very important for local
16 communities when you discuss this issue tomorrow.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. RIVERS: Thank you, Seth.

19 Shah?

20 MR. CHOUDHURY: The next person on my list is
21 Mr. Mondell Williams.

22 MR. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon. My name is
23 Mondell Williams, I'm the president of a community
24 organization which is called CLIPS, meaning Communities
25 Living In Peace, and I'm an employee of the Defense Depot
26 and I sit on the RAB committee. And I would like to say I'm

1 here to represent my community, as well as the workers at
2 the Defense Depot, and I feel that there do needs to be some
3 studies made in the community as well as at the installation
4 -- at least 20, 25 years back from all the employees that
5 have been working there.

6 I think there needs to be a study done on the water,
7 because I feel that we do have some environmental problems
8 that I think that are existing with the drinking water. I
9 think that ground soil sampling has been done, but I think
10 it needs to be more extensive in the community. I think
11 that the community needs to be more recognized than what it
12 is being recognized and I think that the employees should
13 have a health survey done on them, as well, because I think
14 that in the past that we have had cancer rates at the
15 Defense Depot and certain areas. I can't just say where or
16 what. I think that Dunn Field needs to be cleaned up. I
17 don't know if we will be waking up sleeping giants by
18 digging up Dunn Field and finding the chemicals that are
19 there -- will we be able to contain what we're digging up?
20 I think that really needs to be looked at real closely and I
21 feel that the Fast-Track closure plan for the defense
22 installation is a little too fast to address all the
23 environmental problems that we have there in trying to close
24 the place at the same time. So, I think that in haste we
25 will overlook a lot of things that should be addressed by
26 closing faster -- and as a member of the RAB committee, I

1 think that all the information that has been gathered during
the RAB committee -- I think it has been provided to
3 everyone in whole detail -- and some of the information that
4 might have gotten out might not have gotten to the people
5 that wanted it or felt that they deserved it. But everybody
6 feels like, at certain times, they deserve certain things
7 and we have to look at -- that we are not -- we are not as
8 one -- as important -- you know, as one. So, certain
9 information, you have to get out and get it for yourself. I
10 feel that a lot of the information that's in the repository
11 should be closer to the community that's addressing the
12 issues in that community, which -- I think the closest area
13 for the information, I think, is on Shaw, which -- that's
14 logistics from the depot -- not that far, but it's further
15 than what it should be -- and as far as, if it should be put
16 closer, I think it should -- and it would be more accessible
17 to the community.

18 My organization -- which I heard some statements -- I'm
19 not trying to defend or address or anything like that -- but
20 my organization is recognized by United Way. They are
21 recognized by the Greater Foundation of Memphis, Community
22 -- Building Jerry Foundation, which is in Seattle,
23 Washington. So -- I say that to say that, although, I'm a
24 member of the RAB committee, I feel that my organization, as
25 well, has tried to put out the information that was given in
26 the meetings and I felt that it was good information given

1 and I might not be so -- somewhat in the area that they say
2 that -- you know, the -- of the depot. I think I live about
3 -- I'd say five miles from the depot -- or less. I think
4 it's way less than that, but I'm just going -- giving --
5 give an area of five miles or less -- and I feel that the
6 information that has been given to me has been provided to
7 my community, as well, and I feel that the selection of the
8 RAB committee was -- it was intense. I didn't just walk on
9 the RAB committee. I had to attend a lot of the meetings on
10 my own. I had to talk to other members of the RAB team,
11 before I became a member, to see if I could sit in their
12 place when they wasn't there. So, eliminating a lot of
13 things, what I want to say is that I put in application and
14 it -- I wasn't selected the first time, so it wasn't like it
15 was favoritism or anything like that -- seeing that I'm a
16 member of the Defense Depot and a member of the RAB
17 committee.

18 But that's all I wanted to say. If you have any
19 questions to ask me, I'm free to answer.

20 MS. RIVERS: I think we have at least one.

21 MR. WANG: I have two questions. Number one,
22 as you mentioned about some of the closing activities are
23 happening too fast and some of the important issues may be
24 overlooked. Are you referring to involvement of cleanup
25 issues or --

26 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. Basically, the -- I'm

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1 talking about the cleanup issue. I'm talking about the
2 buildings. I'm talking about making sure that all the
3 buildings be inspected or tested for certain chemicals,
4 certain areas that they might not have felt that might have
5 had chemicals in them, might have had chemicals in them.
6 It's hard to say what area did not handle chemicals. I
7 guess, even in the food warehousing, they sprayed and put
8 stuff around for rodents and things like that. So,
9 basically, all the warehouses just about might have been --
10 had chemicals in them -- you know, per se, except for the
11 newer ones that have been built.

12 MR. WANG: And my second question is that
13 since you are the RAB member, do you feel like you have
14 adequate knowledge that -- or communication with the rest of
15 the RABs and the base to clearly understand those technical
16 issues happening around the cleanup issues?

17 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, they provide the
18 information for us and they give presentations. They have
19 the people that come in and they ask us if we have any
20 questions -- to answer the questions, like he said. There
21 are some professional people on the RAB committee, like --
22 and -- on the water -- water committee, like Carter
23 Grayheaves with the Health Department on groundwater,
24 pollution -- we have a variety of people that sits on the
25 RAB. We have members from City Council, County Commission
26 -- we have just a variety of people sitting on

the board. So --

2 MR. WANG: Excuse me. My question is:
3 Personally, how do you feel like you are as a member from
4 the community representing your community and on the RABs?
5 There's a lot of technical discussions and information
6 shared at the RAB meetings. How do you feel like -- Are you
7 comfortable in absorbing information and the community -- to
8 the rest of the community members? Are you able to speak of
9 some of the issues?

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Good question. Well, I feel
11 like -- I think the information is given. Sometimes, I
12 guess, it's -- gets a little technical -- I think it do --
13 and I think that it probably needs to be broken down or put
14 in layman's terms as you should say, because everybody is
15 just not fully abreast of certain technology or certain
16 knowledge about certain information -- you know, when it's
17 coming to the environment, it's been in the dark so long --
18 so, now that the environmental problems is coming to the
19 light, there is a whole new different way of dealing, living
20 and having certain things.

21 MR. WANG: Thank you.

22 MS. RIVERS: Sam?

23 MR. GOODHOPE: How many people are on the
24 RAB?

25 MR. WILLIAMS: That's a good question, too.
26 I'd give an estimate -- I haven't just really counted. I'd

1 give an estimate of about 25 or 30.

3 MR. GOODHOPE: Do you know how many
4 applications were put in? It's just information -- more --
5 I'm just curious right now.

6 MR. WILLIAMS: Not right off the bat, but I'd
7 say, in general, about 100 -- 150.

8 MR. GOODHOPE: Are you familiar with the
9 reuse authority?

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

11 MR. GOODHOPE: Are there any people on the
12 reuse authority that are also on the RAB or -- What's the
13 interaction between the reuse authority and the RAB?

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, there's only one member
15 that I know that is on the reuse and the RAB committee,
16 which is County Commissioner Kirk. He sits on both
17 committees -- and
18 Ulysses Truitt -- which he used to be a former employee. He
19 sits on the RAB -- He sits on both boards, too -- and Janet
20 Hooks. I'm trying to think if I missed anyone.

21 MR. GOODHOPE: That's three.

22 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, that's three there.

23 MR. GOODHOPE: Does the reuse authority have
24 an environmental subcommittee, do you know?

25 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, they do. Now, how far
26 they have gotten with it, I don't know -- because I have --
I had asked the chairman of our RAB committee that -- if

1 they ever intermingle and they said it's hard because it's
2 two different things there. One is federal and one is city
3 -- city and county.

4 MR. GOODHOPE: Do you know what the
5 environmental subcommittee of the reuse authority is working
6 on or what -- I guess, again, this --

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, they often address --
8 addressing some of the environmental issues out there, as
9 well as the environment itself and how they could reuse the
10 installation and what they need to do to either do cosmetics
11 to the outside or --

12 MR. GOODHOPE: One last question. Has the
13 reuse authority ever asked the RAB to attend any of its
14 meetings and, perhaps, give some input?

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, not to give any input --
16 but it's a public meeting, so anyone is welcome to attend
17 the public meeting.

18 MR. GOODHOPE: Thanks.

19 MS. RIVERS: Any other questions?

20 Thank you, Mr. Williams. We appreciate your comments.

21 MR. CHOUDHURY: Mr. Williams is the last one
22 on my list.

23 MS. RIVERS: I will go ahead and ask that --
24 is there any other person in the audience that would like to
25 make a comment or ask for time that hasn't had the
26 opportunity to do so?

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1 Okay. I'd like to thank all the members of the
2 community that spent time today and this evening to give us
3 the benefit of your views and share your opinions and also
4 thank the
5 Task Force for the interaction and the interest. I know, as
6 I've said, that this was part of a number of questions
7 tomorrow to be addressed by the depot representatives and
8 the BRAC Cleanup Team.

9 Shah, do we have final business items before we close?

10 MR. CHOUDHURY: No other business actions
11 tonight. We reconvene at 9:00 o'clock tomorrow morning.

12 MS. RIVERS: Thank you, everyone.

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1 STATE OF TEXAS *
2 COUNTY OF BEXAR *

3 I, JULIE A. SEAL, a Certified Shorthand
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