PUBLIC MEETING

IN RE:

GLMRIS REPORT

GREAT LAKES AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER INTERBASIN STUDY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2014 4:00 p.m.

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PANEL:

DAVE WETHINGTON, P.E. U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CHICAGO DISTRICT

COLONEL FREDERIC DRUMMOND, COMMANDER U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CHICAGO DISTRICT

MODERATOR:

LAUREN FLEER

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                  (Proceedings commenced at 4:05 p.m.)
                             Hi. Good afternoon.
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                  MS. FLEER:
   would like to welcome everyone to this afternoon's
 3
   meeting about the Great Lakes and Mississippi River
    Interbasin Study, otherwise known as GLMRIS.
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 6
                  My name is Lauren Fleer.
                                             I am with
 7
    the Chicago District of the Army Corps of
    Engineers. I will be moderating this evening.
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                  When you arrived this afternoon, you
    will have been offered a few different materials.
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11
    First, on the green piece of paper is the agenda
    which identifies what we have planned for this
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13
    afternoon.
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                  Secondly, on a blue sheet of paper
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    that identifies frequently-asked questions about
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    the GLMRIS project, as well as other aquatic
    nuisance species control efforts currently under
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    way by the Army Corps of Engineers.
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                  And finally, you will see the summary
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    of the GLMRIS Report. This summary is basically an
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    abbreviated version of the much lengthier study we
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    released earlier this month.
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                  The full study, as well as the
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    summary, are available on the GLMRIS Project
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    website. That's glmris.anl.gov. It's the first
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So all the comments we hear all over

4 the U.S. that are presented at meetings like this, as well as comments submitted on the website, will be compiled on the website and be available to all the decision makers and everyone that wants to visit to the website. 5 6 If you want your comment to be 7 formally included in this open-comment period, you will need to present your comment today at an open meeting like this one, or in writing, or on the 10 GLMRIS website. 11 The yellow registration form 12 available at the welcome desk will give you the 13 opportunity to both register to make a comment here 14 today, and it will give you instructions on how to 15 submit a comment in writing by mail, if you choose 16 to do it that way. 17 I would like to thank everyone again 18 for being here today. And without further ado, I 19 will hand it over to Colonel Drummond. 20 COLONEL DRUMMOND: Good afternoon, 21 everybody. It's certainly my pleasure to be in 22 About two weeks ago, I was directed by the 23 Assistant Secretary of the Army to come up here and 24 conduct this public meeting and to hear your

That's one of the reasons we are here.

25

voice.

5 1 I'm primarily here tonight to I have been doing that guite well. five events in Michigan here in the last couple days, and they are certainly giving us a lot of good input. This is what this is all about. You 5 heard there is a range of options. 7 certainly interested in your input. 8 The Corps is excited to achieve another milestone. This milestone is called 9 10 GLMRIS, the Great Lakes and Mississippi River 11 Interbasin Study. This is a very complex study. 12 It examines the opportunities to prevent aquatic 13 transfer of many ANSs, not just fish like Asian 14 Carp, but other species along the Great Lakes and 15 Mississippi River divide, so between the Great 16 Lakes and the Mississippi River. 17 The GLMRIS Report outlines a variety 18 of potential prevention methods and presents 19 evaluation criteria to help readers, such as 20 yourself, distinguish among the alternatives we 21 have in the report. 22 The purpose of the GLMRIS Report is 23 to paint an objective picture of several 24 alternatives and offer decision makers, 25 stakeholders, and the public information about

6 those alternatives. The GLMRIS Report does not make 2 recommendations, nor does it put priority in any of 3 the plans. Our GLMRIS team is one that spreads across the country. We worked pain-stakingly on this report with federal, state, nongovernmental and private stakeholders throughout the Great 7 8 Lakes. 9 We strove to insure decision makers and the public to be well-informed on various ways 10 11 to prevent the transfer of ANS through the Chicago 12 Areas Waterway System. 13 This report is unique in comparison 14 to Army Corps of Engineers reports in that it 15 identifies a range of options that are adaptable 16 for the incorporation of future technologies. 17 The prevention of the spread of 18 aquatic nuisance species is what we call -- and you 19 will hear this several times tonight -- shared responsibility among federal, state, local agencies 20 21 as well as you, the public. The Corps remains 22 dedicated to working alongside our partners and 23 moving forward as our authorities allow. 24 So I will provide a few, quick 25 bullets. We started this on the 6th of January.

- 1 That is when the report was delivered to Congress.
- 2 On the 6th of January, we had 53 representatives at
- 3 the Capitol. We briefed them; the same thing as
- 4 we're doing here tonight. A lot of staffers were
- 5 there.
- 6 We also conducted a webinar with 16
- 7 different representatives from Chicago. So the
- 8 information is out there for our federal
- 9 representatives. This information has been pushed
- 10 out over 7,000 media stations.
- 11 What you received when you came in
- 12 tonight was a 25-page summary report. We have
- 13 that. This is a very good snapshot. It will make
- 14 you start thinking.
- 15 And we have online the actual report,
- 16 which is 232 pages. If that's not enough, we have
- 17 the Clancy novel, which is another 10,000 pages of
- 18 very technical data.
- 19 Many people like the folks you see in
- 20 this room up here on the stage actually took part
- 21 in developing this. We had 19 different U.S. Army
- 22 Corps of Engineers districts involved in this all
- 23 the way from Jacksonville, Florida, all the way up
- 24 to Seattle; well over a hundred different people
- 25 involved in this.

8 1 The folks that actually put the writing and did the typing are the individuals you see in this room and on my staff. I also add, many of these individuals love the Great Lakes and are no different than anybody in this room. They 5 remind me of it all the time. 7 They are just as passionate. have kids that play in the Great Lakes. So you can rest assured, even though there are other districts 9 10 outside the Great Lakes involved in this, they are 11 going make sure that we protect this national 12 treasure. 13 What I'm here to do tonight is to 14 I'm going to turn the floor over to the listen. 15 project manager of GLMRIS, and his name is Dave Wethington. He has been involved in this for some 16 17 time. He is going to brief you about 18 slides. 18 And we are going to open it up and hear what you 19 have to say about the report. 20 I also like to tell folks, we are 21 here to listen. I think you will see some unique 22 things tonight. Then just sort of digest. 23 is a lot of information. Digest, and as you heard, 24 you can go back online and submit your input on

what you think and give us your advice.

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 1
                  Without further ado, I will turn it
    over to Dave Wethington.
                  MR. WETHINGTON: All right.
 3
    you, sir, and thank you all for joining us today.
   My name, again, is Dave Wethington. I am a Project
 5
 6
   Manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
   have been with the Corps for about 11 years.
 7
                  My background is in engineering, but
 8
    I learned a lot about the biology and about
    aquatic species over the years.
10
                                     I have been
11
    helping lead a fantastic team of engineers,
    scientists, biologists, on trying to put together a
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13
    range of alternatives.
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                  What I'm going to do today is spend
15
    15, 20 minutes talking to you about what is in the
16
    report, and talking about some of the different
17
    alternatives, how we got there, and how we came up
    with some of the time frames with regard to this
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19
    range of alternatives.
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                  Before I get into the alternatives
21
    themselves, I want to make sure we have a common
22
    understanding with respect to the scope of the
23
    GLMRIS study. We received the authority to begin
24
   GLMRIS in November of 2007. That was through the
   Water Resources Development Act of 2007.
25
                                               In July
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- 1 of 2009 we actually received funding to begin the
- 2 study.
- 3 The purpose of the study was to look
- 4 at the range of options and technologies that are
- 5 available to prevent the transfer of aquatic
- 6 nuisance species between the Great Lakes and
- 7 Mississippi River basins. Up here on the right-
- 8 hand side, you see the outline of the brown color
- 9 is that basin divide.
- Now, I'm going to spend most of the
- 11 time speaking about the Chicago Area Waterway
- 12 System. Before I do that, I want to spend a little
- 13 bit of time talking about the breadth of that
- 14 divide. It's about 1,500 miles. And the Corps of
- 15 Engineers has done a lot of great work to identify
- 16 what are the other potential pathways for species
- 17 to transfer along that basin divide.
- Now, we identified 18 potential
- 19 pathways that exist along that divide. And what is
- 20 unique about this is the majority of them are what
- 21 we call episodic pathways. So that means they
- 22 primarily form when there is a significant rainfall
- 23 or precipitation events near that basin divide that
- 24 cause the headwaters of two adjacent streams to
- 25 flood and create a temporary aquatic connection.

1 Of those 18, a few of them are what we call a perennial connection, or a continuous But to get to the magnitude of what connection. we're talking about, it's more of a farmer's ditch or a drainage way, as opposed to the significant 5 series of aquatic pathways that exist in the 7 Chicago Waterway System. The goal of GLMRIS is to do two 8 Number 1, to look at that range of options 9 or technologies that were available to prevent the 10 11 transfer of aquatic species between the basins, as 12 well as when those specific options or technologies 13 are implemented, what kind of impact do those 14 measures, as we call them, have on the existing 15 uses of the Chicago Waterway System, and if they 16 have some sort of adverse impact and they cause harm to the existing uses, how do we appropriately 17 18 mitigate for those adverse impacts. 19 The state [] has certainly been a 20 very important part of GLMRIS, as Colonel Drummond 21 mentioned in his opening remarks. We try to be as 22 open and transparent as possible. The reason we 23 are coming to neighborhoods such as yours to 24 discuss this is because we want to hear your 25 input.

1 In July of 2012 we received legislation. A kind of a syllabus of the purpose and goal of our study: It asked us to do a couple of different things. Number 1, to complete this report in a time frame of 18 months. We received 5 the legislation on July 6th of 2012, and on January 6 7 6, 2014, we turned in the report, exactly 18 months 8 later. 9 It also asked us to focus efforts on CAWS, the Chicago Area Waterway System. And the 10 11 Chicago Area Waterway System, I will speak about in 12 the next slide, is located in Chicago adjacent to 13 Lake Michigan. It also asked us to evaluate 14 hydrologic separation. 15 The Chicago Area Waterway System, or 16 CAWS, as we call it, is a series of aquatic pathways that form that primary connection between 17 18 the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River Basin. 19 There are five points numbered 1 20 through 5, which the waters of the Great Lakes, 21 Lake Michigan, have the opportunity to interact 22 with waters of the Mississippi River Basin. 23 What is unique about this system is 24 that each of these five pathways eventually forms a

confluence, or flows together into a single

- 1 receiving stream down here. All five of these
- 2 points eventually find their way into this single
- 3 receiving stream, the Chicago Sanitary and Ship
- 4 Canal, which makes its way down towards the
- 5 Mississippi River.
- 6 So this point No. 7 we have
- 7 highlighted -- this might be tough to read in the
- 8 back -- that Point No. 7 is where we currently
- 9 operate our existing electric barrier towards the
- 10 control of Asian Carp species to try to prevent
- 11 them from moving up into the Great Lakes.
- Now, we understand a little bit about
- 13 the way the CAWS flows. We are talking about some
- 14 of the very important uses of the Chicago Waterway
- 15 System. There are a number of primary uses that we
- 16 looked at in the Great Lakes and Mississippi River
- 17 Basin Study.
- We looked at navigation to include
- 19 commercial and cargo navigation, recreation
- 20 navigation. We looked at water supply and water
- 21 conveyance. It was news to me when I started the
- 22 study that anywhere between 65 to 85 percent of the
- 23 total volume of the river, of the Chicago
- 24 Waterways, anywhere into here, is municipal-treated
- 25 wastewater. I didn't know that. A significant

- 1 important use of the system is for conveyance of
- 2 that wastewater stream.
- 3 Flood risk management is also is a
- 4 very important tool of the Chicago Area Waterway
- 5 System. While normally, water flows from any one
- 6 of those points from Lake Michigan downstream
- 7 toward the Mississippi River. During significant
- 8 rainfall events anywhere in the Chicago area, we
- 9 have the ability to what we call backflow or allow
- 10 water to flow in both directions to alleviate
- 11 significant flooding pressure on the 9.2 million
- 12 residents of the city and surrounding suburbs.
- 13 Why that is unique is, we look at the
- 14 potential changes that might be implemented by any
- 15 one of the alternatives and how those different
- 16 potential alternatives may impact these existing
- 17 uses.
- 18 As I stated at the beginning, the
- 19 Chicago Area Waterway System is the primary
- 20 connection, primary aquatic connection, between the
- 21 Great Lakes and the Mississippi River Basin.
- The report itself is really a tool
- 23 for decision makers. The GLMRIS Report provides a
- 24 conceptual level of design, as well as a conceptual
- 25 level of design for those potential mitigation

- 1 measures, those things that would need to be done
- 2 to compensate for any adverse impact that it could
- 3 potentially alternatively have on existing uses; as
- 4 well as range of cost estimates that are
- 5 commensurate with that kind of level of design.
- Now, with regard to the costs, what
- 7 we are presenting is a conceptual level cost. So
- 8 the best way to use this is to really compare them
- 9 on the range of alternatives; additional detailed
- 10 design and estimation of costs and really delving
- 11 into each particular alternative may be necessary,
- 12 or would be necessary, if one were to choose to
- 13 move to construction to any one or more of these
- 14 alternatives.
- 15 As I stated, the best use of the
- 16 GLMRIS Report is for a tool for decision making.
- 17 We present these range of alternatives with
- 18 evaluation criteria. The evaluation criteria
- 19 includes things like: Duration to implement? How
- 20 long does it take? What is the cost? What is the
- 21 potential impact to economies? To the
- 22 environment?
- 23 We take all of this information and
- 24 list it for every single alternative to help those
- 25 who have significant interest to weigh the

- 1 different alternatives, to perform a trade-off
- 2 analysis, to really begin this conversation we are
- 3 having here today.
- 4 What is the best alternative for a
- 5 strategic fast forward with regard to aquatic
- 6 species control? I'm going to spend a few minutes
- 7 talking about how we came up with the range of
- 8 plans that are the GLMRIS Report. We did three
- 9 things.
- 10 First of all, we identified the
- 11 connections into Chicago, which is pretty easy. We
- 12 knew where those aquatic connections were.
- We evaluated species. We looked at a
- 14 range of over 200 different species that could
- 15 potentially move into the two basins and identified
- 16 35 which were a particular concern.
- 17 Of those 35, we did a dedicated risk
- 18 assessment looking at the probability and the
- 19 consequences of these species transferring and
- 20 becoming established in opposite basins and
- 21 identified 13 that were of high or medium risk.
- These 13 were really the bad actors
- 23 that we tried to use to help formulate the rest of
- 24 these alternatives and really evaluate the
- 25 effectiveness of the alternative plans we laid out

17 in the report. We also, once we identified these 2 species, we identified controls -- herbicides, 3 pesticides, physical barriers, screening, elements like that, that can be used to try to control the 5 6 way the water moves or prevent the transfer of these species. 7 So we took this information. We took 8 the connections. We took the species, and we took 9 the potential controls and put all this information 10 11 together, as well as background information about 12 economies and the environments surrounding the 13 Chicago Area Waterway System, including the Great 14 Lakes and Mississippi River Basin, and put that all 15 together within the hundreds or thousands of pages 16 that are in this report. 17 Before I get into the technologies 18 themselves or get into the alternatives themselves, 19 let me talk a little bit about the technologies 20 that I will be mentioning in the upcoming 21 alternatives. 22 Over on the far right-hand side, you 23 will see a cartoon drawing of a physical barrier. 24 I think this is pretty simple to understand.

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basically the physical barrier that prevents

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- 1 untreated surface waters from mixing.
- 2 We use concepts like an electric
- 3 barrier over on the left-hand side, but we kind of
- 4 cranked it up a notch little bit in GLMRIS and
- 5 include an engineered -- construct an engineered
- 6 channel along with it.
- 7 The current way the electric barrier
- 8 that the Corps of Engineers operates and maintains
- 9 outside of Chicago is placed in just an open
- 10 navigation channel. It's an unimproved bottom.
- 11 It's really whatever the channel bottom was. And
- 12 it had sides that were kind of sheet tile walls.
- Here in GLMRIS, we look at taking a
- 14 design and modifying it such as we can construct a
- 15 physical channel that is purpose-built for
- 16 navigation. We can control the depth of the
- 17 channel. We can control the material that that
- 18 channel is built out of, of possibly insulated
- 19 materials.
- 20 And we would also have the
- 21 opportunity to place electrodes allowing us to tune
- 22 and optimize that barrier system for the species
- 23 concern that we may have.
- We also came up with some novel
- 25 ideas, things like the GLMRIS Lock in the upper

- 1 left-hand corner, which is a constantly flushing
- 2 lock that uses ANS-treated water to flush a lock
- 3 chamber, to clear out the aquatic species that may
- 4 be floating in that chamber.
- 5 So we use this technology that are
- 6 singular or in combination with each other and pair
- 7 them up to look at the ways that aquatic species
- 8 will move through the channel and address those
- 9 methods of moving.
- 10 Over on the upper right-hand side of
- 11 the slide is the very basic ways that species will
- 12 move into aquatic pathways. They will swim, they
- 13 will float, or they will hitch-hike. By
- 14 "hitchhike," we mean they will adhere to the bottom
- 15 of a barge or a recreational boat and move through
- 16 the system in that manner.
- 17 So each of these controls is targeted
- 18 towards addressing one or more of those species or
- 19 mechanisms.
- This is Alternative No. 1.
- 21 Alternative Plan 1 is we call the A-Plan
- 22 Alternative, the No New Federal Action plan. The
- 23 name is misleading because "No New Federal Action"
- 24 doesn't really convey the amount of action that is
- 25 currently ongoing with regard to aquatic species

- 1 prevention and control.
- 2 As part of the baseline, we wanted to
- 3 evaluate what is being done? What is being done by
- 4 the states? What is being done by the federal
- 5 government? So that we can use that as a measuring
- 6 stick, if you will, for additional risk reduction
- 7 that is achieved by each of the subsequent
- 8 alternatives.
- 9 So it's important for us to kind of
- 10 take the temperature and figure out what is going
- 11 on currently and evaluate this baseline
- 12 alternative. Some of the things that the Corps is
- 13 responsible for as part of the baseline is the
- 14 construction of the new electric barrier, or the
- 15 operating of the existing electric barrier. And we
- 16 also partner with other states and federal
- 17 resources to work to control the population of
- 18 specific species like the Asian Carp.
- 19 Alternative Plan 2 is what we call
- 20 the Nonstructural Control Technologies
- 21 Alternative. Really, what this speaks to is
- 22 potential measures that can be implemented; things
- 23 that can be done that don't require the
- 24 construction of a physical structure.
- 25 So some examples are active

- 1 management. What is active management? Active
- 2 management would include, perhaps, a fishing down
- 3 of aquatic species and populations like Asian
- 4 Carp.
- 5 And it would include the
- 6 identification of where potentially an aquatic
- 7 plant currently exists before its poised to spread
- 8 across the divide, and the application of aquatic
- 9 herbicides to control that population of aquatic
- 10 plant, like you see in that picture at the top.
- 11 It includes education and outreach.
- 12 Identification of why it's important to clean your
- 13 boat, pull the plug after you pull it out of the
- 14 water. Why it's bad to dump your bait bucket in
- 15 the water. Educate on what are some of the good
- 16 practices.
- 17 It also includes laws and
- 18 regulations, things that would make -- or do make
- 19 it illegal to move aquatic species, as well as
- 20 potential laws and regulations to help enforce some
- 21 of those existing jurisdictions.
- Now, all of these, as you can
- 23 imagine, are really shared responsibility. That's
- 24 something that Colonel Drummond spoke of at the
- 25 beginning. It's important for us to communicate

- 1 tonight. It will require -- we can make laws and
- 2 regulations. We, as the federal government,
- 3 appropriate authorities, can make laws and
- 4 regulations. It's important for all of us as
- 5 members of the public to abide by those laws and
- 6 have that shared responsibility with respect to
- 7 aquatic species transfer.
- 8 I'm not going to say a combination of
- 9 education and laws and regulations are going to
- 10 necessarily stop species from transferring. What I
- 11 will tell you is they are effective best management
- 12 practices. They are good ideas.
- 13 So we include these alternatives,
- 14 these nonstructural alternatives, and each one of
- 15 the subsequent alternatives that we outlined, if
- 16 nothing else, we will help to bring about this
- 17 awareness, and hopefully, delay that potential
- 18 aquatic transfer.
- 19 Alternative Plan 2, Nonstructural
- 20 Control Technologies, they could be implemented
- 21 tomorrow given an agency has the appropriate
- 22 authority and resources necessary; if the state DNR
- 23 has the funding to go out and buy herbicides, it
- 24 can be done like that.
- The estimated cost is about \$68

- 1 million a year, and so this is in addition to what
- 2 is currently being spent. This is an estimate
- 3 based on current expenditures per state, average
- 4 cost per state which these types of control
- 5 technologies may be implemented.
- 6 Alternative Plan 3 is the first of
- 7 our two technologies. Very simply, what this does
- 8 is try to create control points in the Chicago Area
- 9 Waterway System -- you can see the map on the left-
- 10 hand side -- that creates control points that
- 11 control the two-way transfer, the bi-directional
- 12 transfer, of aquatic species at those individual
- 13 control points.
- 14 How we do that? I mentioned earlier
- 15 that water from Lake Michigan flows into the system
- 16 and down the river in this manner (indicating). We
- 17 create aquatic species treatment plants essentially
- 18 to reroute the flow of channels to the treatment
- 19 plant. It takes the water, pulls it through. It
- 20 doesn't treat for things we commonly think of in
- 21 wastewater treatment, but specifically for aquatic
- 22 species.
- 23 We also, as part of this feature,
- 24 include a GLMRIS Lock, that flushing lock chamber,
- 25 in parallel or bookended with a pair of electric

- 1 barriers on either side. The electric barriers
- 2 help keep fish within that control point.
- 3 And then the lock helps take out all
- 4 of those floating species like early life stages
- 5 like fish eggs, or algae or floating plants, and
- 6 pulls them from the system, maybe after a
- 7 navigation barge or a recreational boat wants to
- 8 pass through.
- 9 Normally, the majority of the flow of
- 10 the channel would go through that aquatic species
- 11 treatment plant. We call that the dry weather
- 12 flow. I am sure you can imagine that on a daily
- 13 basis, it's pretty easy to estimate what that flow
- 14 is going to be.
- But as you can also, I'm sure,
- 16 imagine, there is a potential to have significant
- 17 rainfall events that would cause that flow to
- 18 fluctuate greatly.
- 19 So by having this control point -- by
- 20 only having the ability to pump so much water
- 21 through, if we could construct some way to contain
- 22 that water and convey it and hold it until we are
- 23 able to treat it, you would either bypass this
- 24 whole control point and allow species to freely
- 25 transfer, or you would potentially cause a flooding

- 1 of a wide variety of local citizens within the
- 2 area.
- 3 So what we have done is constructed a
- 4 network of tunnels and reservoirs that are
- 5 sufficient to capture that flow in a 500-year storm
- 6 event. We chose a 500-year event because of the
- 7 significance of the events we have seen recently in
- 8 the Chicago area, significant precipitation, and
- 9 wanted to be able to really control that transfer
- 10 of water and hold that back so that particular
- 11 alternative doesn't cause an impact, an adverse
- 12 impact, and cause flooding to the surrounding area.
- 13 Because of that significant common
- 14 reservoir infrastructure, you have a significant
- 15 time to complete this alternative. It's about 25
- 16 years, at a significant cost of about \$15 and a
- 17 half billion.
- 18 Alternative Plan 4 is the second
- 19 technology alternative. We took this idea that we
- 20 had before. Instead of having single two-way
- 21 control points, we thought what can we do. Let's
- 22 bookend the system, and let's spread the control
- 23 points to areas adjacent to Lake Michigan up here
- 24 and at the other end of the CAWS down here
- 25 (indicating).

1 Remember, all these points up here eventually flow down to this point. So if you use this one-way checkpoint at or near the lake, as well as institute a one-way checkpoint as species are coming up, you are able to really control that 5 transfer between the basins. 7 You also do something else. create what we call a buffer zone, which is that area highlighted in white. This buffer zone is 10 It allows us to do a couple of things. 11 Number one, it allows us to monitor that area to see if there are potentially species 12 13 transferring past those checkpoints. 14 And it also allows us to continue to 15 operate the system, to continue to use it as we do 16 today for water quality and conveyance, for navigation, as well as for flood risk management. 17 18 Imagine if you have a large rainfall 19 event, a precipitation event, that happens 20 somewhere in here. Because the water is being 21 supplied to the system, it is ANS free. It's just 22 precipitation. It's rainfall. 23 Controlling and monitoring the zone 24 for aquatic species such as they are not anything 25 that we assume needs to be present in there, you

- 1 can move water in either direction efficiently, as
- 2 we currently do today.
- 3 Because we have a couple of different
- 4 uses of the waterways, we have included physical
- 5 barriers at two points at the lower part of the
- 6 system. That is what these two purple bars
- 7 represent.
- 8 We included physical barriers there
- 9 because those channels are primarily not
- 10 navigable. I'm sure you could get through them
- 11 with a canoe or a Jon boat maybe. But for the
- 12 most part, you don't have significant commerce or
- 13 significant recreational traffic through there.
- 14 They are still used though as a flood
- 15 risk management tool, so it's important to
- 16 construct the appropriate infrastructure for those
- 17 tunnels and reservoirs to be able to make sure that
- 18 the residents around that area, Northwest Indiana
- 19 and Southeast Illinois, aren't adversely impacted
- 20 by those physical barriers of the channel.
- 21 So because it's a much smaller need
- 22 to construct significant tunnel and reservoir
- 23 conveyance structures, you see a reduced time to
- 24 implement, as well as a reduced cost of \$7.8
- 25 billion, compared to that first technology

- 1 alternative.
- 2 Alternative Plan 5 is the first of
- 3 our two hydrologic separation or physical
- 4 separation barriers. What we have done is taken
- 5 two different approaches with regard to where we
- 6 place barriers on the system.
- 7 Lakefront separation, as you can
- 8 imagine, we place physical barriers at or near the
- 9 existing lakefront, that lakefront interface. So
- 10 you have a couple barriers which are right at Lake
- 11 Michigan, as well as a couple that are placed
- 12 adjacent to optimize for some of the uses, for some
- 13 of the cargo traffic that can still come in this
- 14 area.
- Now, because in this scenario you
- 16 lose the ability to move water efficiently through
- 17 the system, you do have the propensity to increase
- 18 that risk of flooding to a lot of residents
- 19 surrounding this area.
- 20 Again, the construction of the
- 21 significant infrastructure -- you have two large
- 22 reservoirs, and there are many different things
- 23 that need to be constructed. So the estimated time
- 24 of completion is about 25 years, as well as an
- 25 estimated cost of about \$18.4 billion.

1 So we have already seen a couple different scenarios where flood risk management is difficult nut to crack. That's really what is causing that long time to implementation as well as the significant cost. 5 So the team went back and looked at, 6 okay, where can you put technologies or physical 7 barriers in the channel that would help reduce that flood risk management, that cost. So we thought, hey, let's put them at or near where the existing 10 11 water -- that existing hydrologic divide used to 12 be. 13 We placed physical barriers after 14 doing a lot of modeling. We used a lot of models 15 for it. We selected two points and placed barriers 16 that really did optimize the flood risk 17 management. The total amount of tunnel and 18 19 reservoir infrastructure that we needed to 20 construct to really alleviate the flood pressures 21 was very small in this particular scenario. 22 However -- there is always a "but" -- when you open 23 up a significant part of the Chicago River and the

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Cal-Sag Channel to Lake Michigan, you also open up

significant potential water quality impact.

24

30 1 Now, these two ground squares up here and down here are significant water reclamation plants, or we call them wastewater treatment plants, that currently discharge downstream. If you were to not do anything, they would now 5 discharge into Lake Michigan. 7 Now, I'm sure that some will say that Chicago needs to get its act cleaned up, and water needs to be cleaned up better. I couldn't agree 9 with you more. It's the best way to clean 10 11 wastewater. 12 However, what I will say is that the current discharge of wastewater to Lake Michigan 13 14 from the Chicago Waterway System is zero. I will 15 also say, there are significant steps that included the increased removal of nutrients like phosphorous 16 and nitrogen and the disinfection of the water 17 18 streams such that they are very similar to existing 19 wastewater discharges like the City of Milwaukee or 20 the City of Detroit into the Great Lakes. 21 However, since currently, water 22 stream does not go into the Great Lakes, even 23 cleaning it up at that same level is a significant 24 pollutant load to the Great Lakes.

Lake Michigan, for example, has a

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- 1 residence time of 99 years. That means it takes
- 2 approximately 99 years for a single drop of water
- 3 to make its way around the entire basin.
- 4 So if you have a significant load of
- 5 water -- here we are talking approximately a
- 6 combined total of about 600 or 700 million gallons
- 7 per day of water -- you would still have some added
- 8 load of contaminants; things that wastewater plants
- 9 don't treat for like pharmaceuticals that would be
- 10 potentially added to Lake Michigan or the Great
- 11 Lakes in general.
- 12 Instead of doing that, what we have
- 13 chosen to do with those green lines, those are
- 14 tunnels to identify, to reroute that water
- 15 discharge such that it flows much as it does today,
- 16 to a point immediately downstream of where those
- 17 physical barriers are.
- We did this for another reason. I
- 19 mentioned there is a significant percentage of the
- 20 water stream that is made up by these water
- 21 reclamation plants. And that water is important
- 22 downstream; that water is important for
- 23 navigation. And so by taking away that stream of
- 24 water, you would lose a significant amount of water
- 25 for potential downstream navigation.

1 We have also done some additional work with regard to the scenario, looking at the captures, combined sewer overflows, as well as 3 remediation and begin to look at eliminating or alleviating significant environmental impact to 5 Lake Michigan or the Great Lakes in general. 7 So all of these mitigation measures yield, again, estimate the time of completion, about 25 years with an estimated cost of \$15.5 10 billion. 11 Last two, Alternative Plans 7 and 8, 12 are what we call our hybrid alternatives. They are 13 combinations of technology and physical barriers. 14 If you haven't noticed, you can basically split the 15 Chicago Area Waterway System into an upper part and 16 lower part. The upper part is up here; the lower 17 part down here. So what these two different scenarios 18 19 do -- this, for reference, is the Chicago Sanitary 20 and Ship Canal, and this is the Cal-Sag Channel. 21 These basically put a physical barrier on one part 22 of the system, while leaving the lower part open, 23 or vice versa. 24 This project alternative, leaving the 25 Cal-Sag open, leads to the Cal-Sag Channel, this

- 1 lower channel, open for navigation, while creating
- 2 a physical barrier, as well as the necessary
- 3 mitigation requirements for each of these
- 4 technologies or physical barriers as part of the
- 5 alternative.
- 6 We look at, again, a significant time
- 7 for completion of about 25 years and an estimated
- 8 cost of about \$15.1 million. The converse, you
- 9 switch where you place that physical barrier and
- 10 where implement those technologies, and while you
- 11 still have your significant time of completion, the
- 12 cost is going to be less because of the less need
- 13 for mitigation because of the way the uses and
- 14 users are impacted in the system.
- 15 I mentioned at the outset that really
- 16 the best way to use this tool is to use it as a
- 17 support tool for decision making. So these are
- 18 some of the evaluation criteria I described.
- 19 Things like the effectiveness of
- 20 controls, economic impacts, environmental impacts,
- 21 duration for implementation, total cost, each one
- 22 of these evaluation criteria are outlined in detail
- 23 for each one of the alternatives.
- Now, in the 25-page book you have,
- 25 there is not a lot of discussion of evaluation

If you can to the website and look at the report, there will be a significant discussion with regard to each of these criteria, as well as tables that very well summarize and help look at those trade-offs among the different alternatives. 5 6 A couple considerations before I 7 conclude today and turn the meeting over to you. hope that I have done a good job in explaining the 8 9 fact that mitigation, so making up those adverse 10 impacts caused specifically by either one of these 11 technologies or alternatives, is really the 12 significant factor for the timing and the cost for 13 each one of these alternatives. Residual risk will exist for any alternative we presented here today. 14 15 While something like physical 16 separation may be very effective at preventing the 17 transfer of species, there are still ways that 18 species can transfer between the basins outside the 19 aquatic pathway. Again, that's part of the shared 20 responsibility that you and I have with regard to the strategic control of aquatic species. 21 22 If we look at the ways that various 23 potential alternatives could be managed, how can we 24 buy early risk reduction? There is one with the

buffer zone alternative where you can implement it

- 1 in certain ways. So you can look at ways that that
- 2 can be done within the report.
- 3 If you leave with nothing else this
- 4 evening, again, that idea that aquatic species
- 5 control really is a shared responsibility. The
- 6 future implementation of any one of these
- 7 alternatives is not only going to be a significant
- 8 investment among various federal, state, and other
- 9 resource agencies, but the investment of time and
- 10 energy resources by each of us.
- 11 This continued collaboration is
- 12 really important. That's why we are here today, to
- 13 hear your input on which of these alternatives you
- 14 have comments on and what you think together is the
- 15 best path forward for aquatic species control.
- 16 As mentioned at the outset of the
- 17 meeting, we are going to actually eleven different
- 18 locations. Right now, we are at number six of
- 19 eleven. We have yet to visit a couple of these
- 20 cities, but we are trying to canvas both the Great
- 21 Lakes and Mississippi River basin to hear the input
- 22 with regard to the options in this report.
- 23 We do have a comment period through
- 24 the 3rd of March. Comments, if you choose not to
- 25 make one today, you can certainly go to the website

- 1 and enter a comment at any point in time until
- 2 March 3rd. I mentioned feedback from you is very
- 3 important.
- With that, I'm going to turn it back
- 5 over to Lauren. And you can tell us what you think
- 6 about this, and how you see that strategic path
- 7 forward with regard to aquatic species control.
- 8 (Applause.)
- 9 MS. FLEER: Thank you for your
- 10 presentations tonight. Let's now open up the floor
- 11 to your comments and questions. We will start with
- 12 the folks who had registered either on our website
- 13 or here tonight.
- If you preregistered to speak, I will
- 15 call your name. And I do apologize if I
- 16 mispronounce your name. If you could stand;
- 17 Kendall will approach with you a cordless mic. In
- 18 order for everyone to have an opportunity to
- 19 participate in tonight's discussion, we are going
- 20 to ask to restrict your comments to about three
- 21 minutes.
- 22 After everyone has had an opportunity
- 23 to speak, we will take another round of hands. And
- 24 people can have another opportunity to speak
- 25 again. The panelists may come back in and answer

- 1 any questions that are raised from the floor. As
- 2 has been mentioned already, feel free to submit a
- 3 comment in writing or our website if you choose to
- 4 do it that way.
- 5 I would like to also mention that we
- 6 have a court stenographer here tonight who is
- 7 recording a full transcript of tonight's meeting,
- 8 which will be available on the website.
- 9 If you would please first identify
- 10 your name and any spelling that might be difficult;
- 11 and secondly, any group that you may be
- 12 representing here tonight; and lastly, your
- 13 five-digit ZIP code. That will help us get a full
- 14 account of all comments.
- 15 Without any further ado, I will first
- 16 recognize Darran Crabtree followed by Nate Drag.
- 17 MR. CRABTREE: Darran, D-A-R-A-N,
- 18 Crabtree. I represent The Nature Conservancy. And
- 19 my ZIP code is 16403. Thank you for traveling out
- 20 to Erie, and thank you for putting the study
- 21 together. It's an impressive piece of work. I
- 22 have not read it all. I read parts of the summary,
- 23 but people that work with me have read it quite a
- 24 bit. They are interested in this project. I'm
- 25 going to read comments others have prepared. You

- 1 have probably heard some of this before.
- 2 The cost of not working on a project
- 3 like this -- there are billions of dollars, but the
- 4 cost not doing something is not zero. The cost in
- 5 the Great Lakes alone is estimated at hundreds of
- 6 millions of dollars a year in terms of control,
- 7 directly, and indirect costs, as well, that are
- 8 very difficult to quantify.
- 9 So money that is being spent on
- 10 aquatic species management. Regardless of whether
- 11 we invest more in this, I'm here to say we do need
- 12 to invest more in aquatic nuisance species
- 13 management.
- 14 The fisheries of the Great Lakes are
- 15 estimated at about \$7 billion a year. Economic
- 16 growth is driven by fisheries. So aquatic basins
- 17 that affect the fisheries of the Great Lakes have a
- 18 significant impact on our economic livelihood.
- 19 So I just want to point out that the
- 20 GLMRIS study is important. It looks at a range of
- 21 alternatives. I want to emphasize, we really do
- 22 need to look at alternatives that address the
- 23 pathways both out of Great Lakes, as well as
- 24 into -- I think the issue -- the poster child right
- 25 now is basically species coming into the Great

- 1 Lakes, but more invasive species go out of the
- 2 Great Lakes to the Mississippi and other basins.
- 3 So we have to address both ways of aquatic species
- 4 transfer.
- 5 As the main point I would like to
- 6 make, I understand, 25-year timeline for a lot of
- 7 these, which seems like a long time. But a 25-year
- 8 timeline for a lot of these, I think the projects
- 9 do address doing aquatic basin transfer from both
- 10 directions. They seem like they address many of
- 11 the species of concern.
- But the timelines to completion are
- 13 just too long. I would encourage the Army Corps,
- 14 working with other leaders and other partners, to
- 15 look at interim solutions that might able to be
- 16 implemented in a short time frame that might not
- 17 produce the possibility of basin species transfer
- 18 as close to zero as some of these others; but if
- 19 you can get them enacted sooner, they might reduce
- 20 some of the more timely risks right now; so interim
- 21 solutions that could be implemented sooner. Thank
- 22 you for coming out. I appreciate it.
- MS. FLEER: Thanks very much. I have
- 24 Nate Drag followed by Eric Obert.
- MR. DRAG: Hi, I'm Nate Drag. I'm

- 1 with the Alliance for the Great Lakes. My ZIP code
- 2 is 14222. I'm from Buffalo, New York. I want to
- 3 thank the panel for having this public meeting and
- 4 having the opportunity to talk.
- 5 I would like to take a moment to say
- 6 that I think an error was made that there wasn't a
- 7 public meeting held in the state of The York. I
- 8 love coming down to Erie. It is a bit of a
- 9 stretch. If you live in Ontario or Saint Lawrence,
- 10 it's quite a drive. If you hadn't had an
- 11 opportunity, stop in Buffalo.
- 12 I do have a few comments about the
- 13 study. First of all, physical separation of the
- 14 Great Lakes and the Mississippi River basin
- 15 provides the most effective permanent resolution
- 16 for stopping the species moving in and out of the
- 17 Great Lakes, and flood mitigation and improve water
- 18 quality.
- 19 Research by the Great Lakes
- 20 Commission, in their report Restoring the Natural
- 21 Divide, physical separation is economically
- 22 feasible, especially when you consider eliminating
- 23 the future expenditures on the control and
- 24 management of the species once established.
- The second issue I would like to

- 1 bring up, specifically concerning Asian carp, is
- 2 this draws focus that this isn't just a Great Lakes
- 3 issue. This is profiled on a national level for
- 4 other important watersheds as well, specifically
- 5 the Pennsylvania and Ohio River, with the Asian
- 6 carp has been found in West Virginia in the Ohio
- 7 River, so with the hopes of keeping them out of the
- 8 Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela Rivers. While
- 9 this study does not specifically address that, it
- 10 does rise to the level of the issues in these other
- 11 areas.
- 12 Third, that it's important for this
- 13 action to begin as soon as possible. As Darran
- 14 pointed out, there are long timelines on this
- 15 plan. Taking interim steps in the meantime or
- 16 while working towards permanent separation, we urge
- 17 the Army Corps and the federal government to take
- 18 these steps.
- 19 Finally, as a life-long resident on
- 20 Lake Erie -- it's the tenth largest lake in the
- 21 world. It's an amazing lake. And \$15 billion
- 22 seems like a lot. We cannot afford not doing. The
- 23 cost of no action at all, it will cost our
- 24 communities much more down the road.
- 25 Thank you for this opportunity and

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42
    for all your efforts with the Great Lakes.
                  MS. FLEER: Eric Obert.
 2
                  MR. OBERT: 16505, Eric Obert,
 3
                I'm representing the Pennsylvania Sea
    O-B-E-R-T.
    Grant Program. As you know, Sea Grants spent a lot
 5
    of time working on species education, outreach,
    research, so forth.
 7
 8
                  In this case, I think our main
    concern was with river studies, probably what
10
    everybody else is thinking, Asian carp, and
11
    stopping their arrival into the Great Lakes.
                  I would like to know if -- I didn't
12
13
    look through the literature on your lock system.
14
    Has this been tried before and proven effective?
    would like to know if it would work on the Ohio
15
16
    River.
           As one gentleman here already talked about,
    our concern about that.
17
18
                  As most of our thunder has taken by
19
    our first two speakers, our concern, I love what
20
    you have done, looking at all the alternatives.
21
    The only question is speed; how soon can you get
22
    this in place. I remember when the first electric
23
   barrier was built on the Chicago Sanitary Canal,
24
    and we were about three years late on that.
25
                  So I'm concerned that we get this
```

- 1 implemented and try to do as many things that we
- 2 can in the interim that will prevent the Asian carp
- 3 from obtaining entry to the Great Lakes. That's
- 4 what I have to say.
- 5 MR. WETHINGTON: Thanks for coming
- 6 out tonight. With regard to your question on the
- 7 GLMRIS lock system, the concept, they have a
- 8 flushing lock, it plugs flow. I mentioned, I'm a
- 9 chemical engineer by training, and it's something
- 10 that is very commonly used.
- 11 The idea of moving water through a
- 12 batch process, clean out that system. Now, has it
- 13 been implemented at a large lock scale specifically
- 14 for aquatic species? No.
- 15 However, we do have a very large,
- 16 dedicated research and development center in
- 17 Mississippi. We spent time looking at the concept
- 18 and looking at how the lock with the pumps and
- 19 appropriate systems and the kind of flows. At
- 20 least at the conceptual level, it is possible and
- 21 looks like it could work.
- Now, if we are going to move forward
- 23 with building something like this, there would
- 24 definitely need to be additional kinds of testing,
- 25 modeling, etc., done to complete this and look at,

```
44
    for example, what size pumps do you need, how long
   might it take to get a certain efficiency with
    regard to that removal of that aquatic species from
    that lock?
                  Locks have been used in environmental
 5
   processes; for example, for the control of salt
    water migration.
                      So we have used lock structures
 7
    for environmental issues before, but this is sort
    of a new kind of novel use, which it's a great
10
    concept, great idea, we think would be effective.
11
                  MS. FLEER:
                              Thank you.
                                           Next, I have
    Thomas Faneman (phonetic) followed by
12
13
    Thomas F?
14
                  UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: He just left.
15
                               I would like to -- I'm
                              16510.
16
    sorry,
                                     I would like to
    support the issue of the urgency of this thing.
17
    Twenty-five years is enough time really to flood
18
19
    all five lakes with carp. So you need to do
20
    something much more quickly than that.
21
                  We have historically been always slow
22
    off the mark ever since the earliest days.
23
    to be a lot faster, especially since some of the
24
    reported DNA has been seen in the lake already.
25
                  Secondly, I'm wondering in this
```

- 1 discussion if anybody has talked with the
- 2 Canadians. Canadians get grumpy. They own about
- 3 four of the five lakes. I prefer they own none of
- 4 them, but they do.
- 5 They really do get agitated when
- 6 America starts throwing their muscle around. They
- 7 can be -- on a number of occasions I have seen them
- 8 even be helpful. On other occasions, they are
- 9 damned difficult to deal with, and I really want to
- 10 reach for the .44 Magnum to solve the problem right
- 11 there. But I think the Canadians need to be
- 12 heavily involved in this thing.
- 13 Two organizations that might be
- 14 helpful, the International Joint Commission, and
- 15 from basically two perspectives, they put pressures
- 16 on the governments, and sometimes it's worked;
- 17 sometimes it hasn't. They also have a fairly good
- 18 battery of science that run into this operation.
- 19 The other one, and the better of the
- 20 two, is the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission, also
- 21 valuable pressure. They are fishery scientists,
- 22 and I have had something like 15 years of
- 23 experience with them. They are focused on fish and
- 24 really know their stuff, especially on how to
- 25 poison the bad guys. And they have also had

- 1 significant concerns with electric barriers. Thank
- 2 you.
- 3 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you for your
- 4 comments. The Canadians have actually been
- 5 involved with the study and are very close partners
- 6 with GLMRIS. We created a committee near the
- 7 outset. There is a group of federal or state kind
- 8 of governmental authorities that would be able to
- 9 buy input into the study.
- 10 And we actually looked to include
- 11 Canada, specifically International Joint
- 12 Commission, and specifically Great Lakes Fishing
- 13 Commission. So those organizations have high
- 14 visibility of what has been going on with GLMRIS,
- 15 and they are close partners of ours in looking at
- 16 future options for implementation.
- 17 We worked with the scientists, with
- 18 information released by Canada. So looking at a
- 19 comprehensive solution, while this is a
- 20 federally-funded study, so I can't say go ahead and
- 21 have these kinds meetings in Canada. We definitely
- 22 want to include our Canadian partners in regard to
- 23 future options with regard to strategic control of
- 24 aquatic species.
- Thank you for your time.

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 1
                  MS. FLEER: That would conclude the
    list of preregistered speakers.
                                     I would like to
    welcome anyone who has not had a chance to
 3
    register.
 5
                  MS. McCORMICK: Hi. Elizabeth
   McCormick, 16415.
                      I just had a question.
   had read that the DNA of the carp had, in fact,
 7
    entered into the lake somewhere. Can you validate
    that information?
10
                  MR. WETHINGTON: With regard to the
11
    DNA, I do understand there have been reports of DNA
12
    in waters of the Great Lakes, but understanding
13
    exactly what that means is still very much
14
    undefined. The Corps of Engineers in partnership
    with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other
15
    research institutions are trying to delve further
16
17
    into what does DNA mean; what does that DNA
18
    detection in the water mean; is that a presence of
19
    live fish; is that presence of one or more or
20
    groups of fish, etc.
21
                  So we have done a lot of research and
22
    identified different ways -- begun to identify
23
    different ways that this DNA can make its way into
24
    the environment.
25
                  Specifically, in the Chicago
```

- 1 Waterway System, as I mentioned during my
- 2 presentation, that a significant portion of it is
- 3 wastewater. And we have done tests that
- 4 demonstrate if you melt some ice that had Asian
- 5 Carp DNA on it, and it goes down the pipe, you can
- 6 pick up that signal at the other end of the pipe.
- 7 So how exactly we get DNA in the
- 8 water is still being researched. But yes, there
- 9 have been specific cases where researchers'
- 10 information has identified DNA within the Great
- 11 Lakes.
- MS. FLEER: Are you ready?
- MR. GRZASKO: 16415, Marty Grzasko,
- 14 G-R-Z-A-S-K-O. I have a couple of questions. One,
- 15 first of all, I have to admit, this is the first
- 16 time I have seen this study at all. But I will
- 17 look at it.
- But the question that I have is, it
- 19 looked like a lot of what you studied was the
- 20 Chicago Area Waterways and mitigation there. Have
- 21 you looked at anything in other areas of approach,
- 22 that is, for instance, the Welland Canal, the
- 23 invasive eels that arrived in Lake Erie through
- 24 that port? And certainly, we didn't expect to see
- 25 that when they first -- when the lamprey eels got

49 through. Is there any reason to expect we won't see other migrations through that source, for one? And I have an additional question. 3 It seems like the focus right now is on the Asian carp, because they do pose a significant risk. 5 question is, is it illegal, legal, to raise them in any of the areas that border on the Great Lakes 7 states, whether they are in farm ponds or whether they are in Canada? 9 10 Because mitigating them in waterways 11 that you have shown is one thing, but if someone is 12 raising them in a farm pond, and you get a 13 significant rain event, and they wash back in --14 which is really how they got here now --15 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you. 16 speak to both of your questions. Regarding 17 pathways, our authority -- I think I mentioned it, 18 but in order for the Corps of Engineers to 19 implement any kind of a study or any kind of a 20 construction project, we need two things: We need 21 authority from Congress, and we need appropriations 22 or resources from Congress. 23 So our authority for this study 24 focused specifically on that interface between the

Great Lakes and the Mississippi River, that basin

- 1 divide. Our focus was very specific and looking at
- 2 methods to even prevent transfer across that basin
- 3 divide.
- 4 We did identify a range of 18 other
- 5 potential pathways outside of the Chicago Area
- 6 Waterway System that would provide for potential
- 7 species to transfer.
- Now, I don't know if you missed the
- 9 beginning of my presentation or not. I mentioned
- 10 the majority of them were episodic. That means
- 11 that they form as a result of a rainfall event, so
- 12 if the headwaters in a couple streams are flowing
- 13 together, as well as there is like farmers' ditches
- 14 or drainage canals, things like that, that are very
- 15 kind of simple to identify.
- 16 The Chicago Waterway System, we
- 17 focused on that for a couple reasons. Number 1,
- 18 it's very complex. It's where you need a lot of
- 19 really kind of significant engineering and
- 20 strategic control for those waterways.
- In addition, we were told by Congress
- 22 to look specifically at ways to prevent species
- 23 transfer within the Chicago Waterways System.
- I agree, there are other ways species
- 25 can get into the Great Lakes. Coming from, for

- 1 example, the St. Lawrence Seaway historically is
- 2 how a lot of species got into the Great Lakes.
- 3 Also, there is other routes that
- 4 species can use to transfer outside of some of the
- 5 residual risks. It could be airborne transport.
- 6 If we are not talking about Asian carp, we're
- 7 talking about perhaps an nuisance algae; is -
- 8 there is a chance that birds can fly from one side
- 9 to the other and transfer algae or a virus.
- 10 So there are a number of ways that
- 11 species can transfer between basins that were
- 12 outside the scope of what we were authorized and
- 13 allowed to study. Our charge, our focus, was on
- 14 how you look at that aquatic pathway, and how do
- 15 you prevent -- try to prevent the transfer through
- 16 that aquatic pathway.
- 17 Secondly, with regard to the legality
- 18 of raising carp, I don't know 100 percent for sure
- 19 on whether it is illegal to raise them. I don't
- 20 believe it is. However, it is illegal to transport
- 21 them across state lines, live fish. So it's
- 22 illegal to transport live carp across state lines.
- 23 So I hope that answered your question
- 24 with regard to Asian carp. Thank you.
- MR. KISSELL: Ed Kissell,

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52
   K-I-S-S-E-L-L, 16508. What causes the Silver carp
    to jump?
 2
                                   I'm an engineer by
 3
                  MR. WETHINGTON:
    training. I am not a biologist. I believe it's a
   natural response to the agitation of the boat
 5
   motor, is what they say. You can put that kind of
    noise, that sound reverberation, in the water, or
 7
    what some of the fisherman do to find fish,
    electroshock to find a current in the water, that
    will also tend to --
10
                  MR. KISSELL: Why we don't we buy a
11
12
    lot of aerators and have them jump themselves to
13
    death?
14
                  My other question is, back -- in
15
    Washington, D.C. the White House had a meeting
    called the Carp Summit with federal and state
16
17
    officials, February 8, roughly, in 2010, with a
   multipronged attack with a $78.5 million price tag
18
19
    to prevent the Asian carp from establishing
20
    populations in Lake Michigan.
21
                  Nancy Stutley, do you know who she
22
         She is the President's top person for
23
    environmental quality. She led the meeting.
24
    there were a number of things that were supposed to
```

be instituted.

53 1 Have all of those been instituted, such as awarding a \$13.2 million contract to construct a concrete chain link fence in between Chicago Sanitary River and the shipping canal, opening the Chicago navigation locks less 5 6 frequently, conduct physical electric shocking, testing 120 water samples per week? Have all of 7 those things been done? This is four years ago. 8 9 MR. WETHINGTON: Sure. I appreciate In the past couple of years, a 10 the question. 11 couple of things have changed. A lot of the intent 12 of what you are describing has been implemented. 13 know, for example, that 13-mile fence to help 14 reduce that risk of significant flooding has been 15 implemented. I know there is a significant 16 monitoring effort that is applied. 17 I don't want to speak exactly for 18 Ms. Stutley. She represents the White House 19 Council on Environmental Quality. And so I can 20 only speak for the Army Corps of Engineers. 21 there have been a number of those that have been 22 implemented. 23 MR. KISSELL: You also had 24 interference, or the Supreme Court was called in to

make some decisions. Obama basically spoke against

54 some of the efforts to redirect the river one way or the other. Also, did not Dick Cheney get a 3 waiver to allow dumping of ballast water over and above what the regulations were supposed to be 5 without too many people knowing about that until the new administration came in and put a stop to 8 it? 9 MR. WETHINGTON: Sir, I have no 10 knowledge of those activities. 11 MR. DRUMMOND: I'm trying to 12 understand what you are asking. If you are asking 13 about -- the coast quard is the one that manages the ballast water, and they do have policies in 14 15 place. But if you want to know anything more in 16 depth on that, I can ask the coast guard and get you information. 17 What else? 18 MR. KISSELL: That was it, that there 19 was interference of a waiver that was gotten by 20 Vice President Cheney to allow ballast water to be 21 dumped within the boundary lines of the United 22 States that caused possible invasive species to 23 enter the water, freshwaters. 24 COLONEL DRUMMOND: I will echo what 25 Dave just said. Normally, in the last few days, we

- 1 have had a representative from the CEQ. His name
- 2 is John Goss. For the last three and a half years,
- 3 everything we do in this entire study, he is linked
- 4 throughout the whole process.
- 5 It's unfortunate he couldn't make it
- 6 tonight because of travel arrangements. He would
- 7 have went through in detail; he would talk or hit
- 8 upon many of the things you just discussed.
- 9 MS. FLEER: Would anyone else like to
- 10 offer a comment or ask a question?
- 11 MR. PARTSCH: Roger Partsch,
- 12 P-A-R-T-S-C-H, 16502. Is there local people to
- 13 talk to in the state of Pennsylvania, or go to the
- 14 Army Corps of Engineers? Is there anything local
- 15 if I have a comment or question on the Asian carp?
- 16 MR. WETHINGTON: I think there is a
- 17 couple ways to answer that. Number one, would be
- 18 comment on our website. There is an e-mail address
- 19 up there. That will get you to myself or a member
- 20 of my team to help answering questions.
- 21 With regard to the study, if you have
- 22 questions or concerns; if you want to talk about,
- 23 say, 25 years is too long, or voice those concerns,
- 24 putting a comment on our website is a good way to
- 25 do that.

- 1 We are going to compile that
- 2 information from what we heard from members of the
- 3 public and other agencies and submit that as part
- 4 of the public record. You are obviously welcome to
- 5 speak to your elected officials. I hope that
- 6 answers your question.
- 7 COLONEL DRUMMOND: I think another
- 8 good avenue is your state DNR, Department of
- 9 Natural Resource. I can tell you they are heavily
- 10 involved. We have ACRCC meetings often, and they
- 11 are a part of it. There are several different
- 12 states that are involved in these weekly and
- 13 biweekly ACRCC meetings.
- 14 MR. WETHINGTON: In addition to the
- 15 website you see behind me, there is another website
- 16 that is specifically run by that White House
- 17 Council. It's asiancarp.us. There is other
- 18 information specifically on Asian carp and some of
- 19 the Asian carp activities that were mentioned
- 20 tonight.
- 21 MR. KissellL: I did see an article on
- 22 TV about our senator, Bob Casey, was talking about
- 23 how much money he was going to spend. My question
- 24 was, is anybody directing Erie or close by in the
- 25 DNR?

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                  MR. WETHINGTON:
                                   I quess there is a
    gentleman next to you that might be able to answer
    your question.
 3
                  MR. BURCH: I would be happy to
 4
              My name is Kelly Burch, B-U-R-C-H. I
 5
    wear a couple different hats.
 6
                                   I'm the Regional
    Director for Pennsylvania Department of
 7
    Environmental Protection, and under my office is
    the Office of the Great Lakes. This is Jim Grazio
 9
10
    sitting next to me; he is the Great Lakes
    biologist. Fisheries Commission, the Fish and Boat
11
12
    Commission is also represented here, Chuck Murray
    in the back seat.
13
14
                  I am also Pennsylvania's
15
    Commissioner, too, on the Great Lakes Commission.
    We receive briefings from the Corps. We will be
16
    meeting with them Tuesday in Chicago. You have
17
    done a terrific job keeping us up to date.
18
19
    would like some local contacts, myself, Jim Grazio,
    we would be more than happy to meet with you.
21
                                            again.
                                                    What
   has the response been from First Nations?
22
23
    assuming you have only talked with tribes on this
    side and fisheries, tribal fisheries?
25
                  MR. WETHINGTON:
                                   That's correct.
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58 1 Did you talk with the Canadians? 2 3 MR. WETHINGTON: No. initiated this study, we did federal agency scoping, as well as private scoping, and sent 5 letters out to the Native American tribes within 6 the United States. This is a 100-percent fully, 7 federally-funded project. Our authority is within 8 the Continental USA. 9 10 So we did involve many tribes. 11 actually went to Grand Traverse a couple times. 12 had consultations with a couple of the different 13 tribes up there. So we kept them engaged as much 14 as they wished to be engaged. 15 MR. ZAWADZKI: Bob Zawadzki, Z-A-W-A-D-Z-K-I. Now we know that the fish are 16 17 making their way up the drainages, what is being done commercially, and what is the marketability of 18 19 the Asian carp? 20 MR. WETHINGTON: Commercially, it's a 21 tough scenario here with regard to specific fish. 22 Traditional American culture, we don't like fish 23 that are bony, for example. Asian carp primarily 24 is very bony. I have eaten Asian carp. They are 25 difficult to prepare if you want to have them

- 1 without the bones. You can grind them up.
- In all honesty, there is not a whole
- 3 lot of market for them within the United States.
- 4 The State of Illinois has partnered with other
- 5 agencies with regard to the Asian carp to try and
- 6 subsidize commercial fishing to reduce the
- 7 population, specifically. And they are trying to
- 8 use those fish for some sort of beneficial use,
- 9 whether it's fertilizer -- there is different ways
- 10 to potentially market them.
- I guess the one kind of cautionary
- 12 note, is that if you develop a market for Asian
- 13 carp, then who are the ones to create and sustain
- 14 that? What we really want to do, what most of us
- 15 want to do, is eliminate or make extinct the Asian
- 16 carp, if that were a possibility.
- 17 So there has to be some good ideas
- 18 about maybe putting a bounty on it. If I get \$5 a
- 19 head for every Asian carp I turn in, heck, I'm
- 20 going to go throw a few more out and hope they
- 21 spawn so I can make some more money. That's
- 22 something we have to be careful of, the economies
- 23 of the Asian carp specifically.
- 24 COLONEL DRUMMOND: Governor Quinn had
- 25 a saying out there for a while, "If you can't beat

- 1 them, eat them." The concept is out there. Even
- 2 in the city of Chicago, every year we do the Taste
- 3 of Chicago. One year we had a famous chef come
- 4 in. He put together like 800 of these Asian carp
- 5 burgers. But we quickly realized, we are all about
- 6 prevention. We don't want to create a market. We
- 7 want to get rid of them.
- If you have a chance, go on the
- 9 Illinois DNR website. They have done extensive
- 10 netting operations. You would have heard that from
- 11 John Goss, I know. Hundreds and hundreds of hours
- 12 and tons and tons. And they are noticing a
- 13 dramatic effect on the baseline of Asian carp,
- 14 which right now is about 55 miles down from Lake
- 15 Michigan.
- I put things in characterization of
- 17 risk, so these things are about 55 miles down from
- 18 Lake Michigan. They have not moved. That front
- 19 line has not moved since 2006. We don't know why.
- 20 It could be because there are two significant lock
- 21 chambers between the Great Lakes and the front
- 22 line.
- 23 It could be the 37 miles of the
- 24 Sanitary Ship Canal which was safely built in the
- 25 late 1800s is not conducive to any type of

61 responding to Silver carp and or bighead carp. So the State of Illinois, the DNR is definitely involved, as well as many of the other DNR 3 fisheries and a whole host of other agencies. 5 MS. FLEER: Please. 6 MS. GRANT: Kelly Grant, 16502. 7 even focusing on Asian carp, specifically the silver and the big head, but what about the Grass Carp? It's my understanding there are grass carp 9 10 in the Sandusky River, and they do have the 11 potential to keep breeding. I was wondering if you 12 addressed this at all in your study. 13 MR. WETHINGTON: Because we 14 identified the potential for reducing populations 15 in both basins, the grass carp was not a target 16 species. 17 Again, part of our charge was to look 18 at how to prevent transfer. The grass carp was 19 specifically taken out of the early study because 20 of the fact they are established in both basins. MS. FLEER: Any other questions or 21 22 comments? 23 MR. WELCH: William Welch, 16506. Ι 24 would like to know in terms of the worst case 25 scenario for flooding, was that taken into

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    consideration? I haven't read the reports.
                                                 I just
    wondered if that was the worst case, flooding.
                  In other words, we have had some
 3
   major flooding in the Midwest. I'm wondering
    whether or not that has been considered.
 5
 6
                  MR. WETHINGTON: As a potential
   pathway for --
 7
 8
                  MR. WELCH:
                              Yes.
 9
                  MR. WETHINGTON: Sure. So when we
10
    looked at creating various alternatives,
11
    specifically with regard to, you know, what
12
    magnitude, we actually used a 500-year storm as
13
    kind of our standpoint, our benchmark.
14
                  And the reason why we used the
15
    500-year storm is because in the past five years,
    we have had at least three or four storm events
16
    within the Chicago area that were at or greater
17
18
    than the 100-year event.
19
                  So what we have also seen is the
   potential for significant precipitation events like
20
21
    a 100-year storm that stack up one after each
22
    other.
23
                  And so we wanted to make sure that
24
    the infrastructure we create, especially to
25
   mitigate the flood risk, as well as the design of
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- 1 the actual barrier, was sufficient to stand up to
- 2 significant, potential, natural, Mother Nature-type
- 3 events. So we are using the 500-year analysis with
- 4 regard to that.
- 5 MR. KISSELL: Ed Kissell. How did
- 6 you determine a 500-year?
- 7 MR. WETHINGTON: I appreciate that.
- 8 I want to make sure everybody has a chance to speak
- 9 in the microphone.
- 10 Again, we used that 500-year level of
- 11 analysis, so there are different precipitation
- 12 volumes. You look at the duration of event, you
- 13 know, whether it's a 24-hour, 12-hour, etc.
- 14 You look at -- there are charts that
- 15 the hydrologic engineers, they tell me that they
- 16 are out there, and they are at specific measures,
- 17 specific statistics they use to determine what is
- 18 a, quote/unquote, a 500-year event.
- 19 It's a very kind of established,
- 20 systematic-type of analysis. So it's based on
- 21 history. Granted, there is the potential for
- 22 climate change to change how often an event
- 23 happens, so maybe calling it 500 years is not quite
- 24 right.
- But we wanted to make sure we

- 1 included appropriate mitigation design for
- 2 significant precipitation events that would
- 3 essentially allow us to keep that control, that
- 4 control point.
- 5 COLONEL DRUMMOND: There is a couple
- 6 interesting websites. One is USGS. You go in
- 7 there. Actually, nowadays, they have monitors. We
- 8 are living in a high-tech world. They use monitors
- 9 specifically throughout the Chicago land area. And
- 10 it is amazing. The minute the rain starts falling
- 11 in Chicago, I'm online watching.
- 12 As Dave said, in the last two and a
- 13 half years, we have had two major events. Last
- 14 April we had one 6-inch sustained downpour. You
- 15 saw it in the news. We had to backflow the Chicago
- 16 River, as David mentioned. Part goes out in the
- 17 Great Lakes, which we don't want it to do. And the
- 18 other part goes down the Mississippi River. But
- 19 the technology's out there where we can track this
- 20 very, very closely.
- MS. FLEER: Any other questions or
- 22 comments tonight?
- 23 MS. ROSSMAN: Chris Rossman, 16510.
- 24 Are there any known episodes of Asian carp right
- 25 now in the Great Lakes right now?

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 1
                  MR. WETHINGTON:
                                   Yes.
                                         Historically,
    they have been pulled from Lake Erie. It was 2000
    or 2003, there were recorded instances.
    to the website, they have those records.
 5
                  What is important to note is that
    single fish are not sustained populations.
 7
    really what we are trying to do, not sustain
   populations.
 8
 9
                  So just because you pull one or two
    fish out or something similar, while it's certainly
10
11
    a concern, to date, we have not seen a sustaining
12
    population of carp in the Great Lakes.
13
                  MS. FLEER: We have plenty of time to
    entertain more questions and comments.
14
15
                  MS. GRANT: Kelly Grant, 16502.
16
    was hoping you could address something I was
17
    mulling over. And that would be the concern for
18
    increased spread of nuisance species during the
19
    construction project. Do you have specific plans
20
    to mitigate kind of the flow of these ANS during
21
    the construction?
                                          The level of
22
                  MR. WETHINGTON:
                                   Sure.
23
    design is conceptual. So we are still a ways off
24
    from getting to specific construction
25
    alternatives. There would be additional design, as
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66 necessary, in order to come up with any kind of plan. 2 There are ways -- and I think maybe 3 what you are asking is, are there interim measures that could be implemented? If you wanted to look 5 at a long-term solution by physical separation, there are certainly ways -- like we outlined things 7 like nonstructural measures. Some of the technology alternatives like the buffer zone 10 concept. Which to achieve risk reduction in both 11 directions, we looked at about a ten-year total time construction. 12 13 However, again, our charge, our 14 authority is to look at that transfer and 15 direction. If we were to look in perhaps more 16 detail with regard to specific concerns like Asian 17 carp or any other species, there may be ways to optimize some of these scenarios to achieve early 18 19 risk reduction with the new technologies and a 20 quicker time frame than what is outlined in these 21 alternatives. 22 However, what is important to 23 remember is you are going to implement the physical 24 separation scenario. Building a dam in the

waterway is not going to take five years.

- 1 that those measures, those steps that need to be
- 2 taken to make sure there is not a significant flood
- 3 risk that is basically imposed upon the
- 4 metropolitan area, or significant environmental
- 5 harm that could be imposed upon a significant
- 6 natural resource like Lake Michigan, that would
- 7 take that amount of time to achieve.
- MR. OBERT: Eric Obert. 16505. I
- 9 would like to know if there was consideration in
- 10 taking like, say, in the Chicago Sanitary Canal, to
- 11 just establishing like a mile dead zone, using a
- 12 chemical or something like that; or even do it
- 13 intermittently in conjunction with the electrical
- 14 barrier or something along those lines.
- MR. WETHINGTON: Sure. We work very
- 16 closely with the federal and state regulatory
- 17 agencies responsible for administering and
- 18 enforcing the Clean Water Act. In our selection
- 19 and refinement of potential scenarios, something
- 20 like a dead zone was actually one of those kind of
- 21 concepts that we looked at.
- However, based on input, and based on
- 23 what would be regulatorily acceptable, we chose to
- 24 define those potential control technologies. And
- 25 very honestly, based on the input of those federal

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1 and state regulatory agencies, compromising the
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- 2 intent of the Clean Water Act in such a way was not
- 3 something that was as palpable as perhaps other
- 4 potential alternatives.
- 5 MR. WELCH: William Welch,
- 6 W-E-L-C-H. I would like to know whether or not --
- 7 I haven't seen any studies on natural preservation
- 8 or whether there is any kind of genetic
- 9 modification. I wondered if they have seen that.
- 10 I glanced through this, and I didn't see that.
- 11 MR. WETHINGTON: Sure. So what we
- 12 were suggesting in terms of genetic modification,
- 13 perhaps the nonstructural measures, controlling the
- 14 specific species concerned. Again, if we were to
- 15 further implement, there would be more work on that
- 16 necessary. I do know that the Asian carp was the
- 17 reporting committee, among other agencies; state
- 18 resource agency, U.S. Geological Survey. They were
- 19 looking at different ways to perhaps track carp, or
- 20 modify pellets that can be put in the water that
- 21 can only be dissolved by the gut material of Asian
- 22 carp; and specifically biobullets, is what we call
- 23 them, to specifically address Asian carp.
- 24 So there is a lot of other research.
- 25 It's not a research or development. Our charge was

69 to look at available options and technologies to prevent the transfer of species. So anything in the research or 3 development phase was screened out because there is not a body of knowledge specifically necessary for 5 us to say this is feasible and implementable. there is research that is ongoing. 7 MR. WELCH: Where would that be 8 found? 9 10 MR. WETHINGTON: I would start at 11 asiancarp.us with regard to a lot of those Asian 12 carp specific activities. 13 MR. ZAWADZKI: Bob Zawadzki, 16506. When a Asian carp dies, do they float to the top or 14 15 go to the bottom? Some fish float to the top when 16 they're dead; some fish don't come to the top. 17 MR. WETHINGTON: Either way. Some 18 will sink; some will float. 19 MS. FLEER: Any other hands out 20 there? 21 COLONEL DRUMMOND: This is free 22 discussion. If you have anything on your mind, we 23 are more than willing to talk about it; the 24 barriers, the effectiveness of the barriers.

But we are in our final design of the

- 1 third barrier, which will eventually -- the
- 2 demonstration barrier that you talked about, I tell
- 3 folks there is nothing like it in the world. It is
- 4 an electronic marvel. It is very effective.
- 5 We have roughly 236 fish that act and
- 6 seem like Asian carp, but they are not. And we put
- 7 telemetry devices in them. And we had a little
- 8 over 3.6 million detections with no passage through
- 9 the barrier. So it gives me a little bit of
- 10 confidence that it's working.
- 11 Our job, our charge, is to prevent
- 12 it, and that's exactly what we are after. We are
- 13 closely working with Fish and Wildlife. We work
- 14 very closely with the USGS. I might add, it's
- 15 probably the flattest organization among agencies I
- 16 have seen in 34 years. John Goss goes right to the
- 17 CEQ. Dave Wethington goes directly to the
- 18 Assistant Secretary of the Army. It is about as
- 19 flat as you can get.
- 20 And that just reiterates the
- 21 importance of what we are trying to do here. I
- 22 mean, there is a significant amount of individuals
- 23 that are involved in this, and they all want to do
- 24 the right thing. That is what impresses me.
- 25 Everybody is talking about the same thing.

71 In our case, we are talking about the 1 interbasin transfer of 13 species; with the Asian Carp Committee, we are talking about Asian carp. 3 They are focused on Asian carp. 5 In fact, they are going to have 6 another meeting on the 19th of February just to start taking this report and asking themselves, how 7 can we go about taking care of this. 8 9 If you feel like you don't have a question, we will be around here for a while. 10 11 can meet one on one. Your voice is important. 12 would ask, and I tell most folks that come in, it 13 is very complex. Our intent really is to get this 14 information out. Let you sort of digest it. 15 you go back to your agencies and sort of open up 16 the 25 pages, but more importantly, take a look at 17 the 232 pages, and let your voice be heard. 18 We were in a meeting the night before 19 There has been just a lot of very good 20 intuitive-type questions that come up by citizens 21 that are very concerned about their livelihood. 22 Yes, sir. 23 MR. KISSELL: Ed Kissell. How have 24 the attendances been so far on the meetings with 25 the audiences? Few people? A lot of people?

72 1 COLONEL DRUMMOND: It has been very In the state of Michigan, it was a packed house, the entire place; a lot of senatorial, congressional, representatives, state and local agencies. And we normally, in every state that we 5 go to, we meet with the state agencies as well. there is a lot of discussion going on. And if John Goss was here, he would just say, continue that discussion, because right now, there are voices out there about this particular problem. 10 11 MR. WETHINGTON: Sure. Specifically, 12 in Chicago, in Ann Arbor and Cleveland, we have 13 seen upwards of 100 to 120 participants at each 14 Milwaukee and tonight in Erie, the same, meeting. 15 about 35, 45 or so folks. 16 So overall, the response has been 17 very positive. We did a scoping session for this 18 study about three, four years ago. And we would go 19 to some meetings where there could a handful of 20 people that show up. Even those this is a light 21 attendance, this is fantastic. You folks are 22 We have a serious passion about this. 23 appreciate your time. 24 MR. WELCH: Welch. After the comment

period and the study is completed, how is this

73 going to impact any type of action? 2 MR. WETHINGTON: Sure. Easy answer is, in order, again, for the Corps of Engineers to 3 implement anything, to construct a project, we would need additional authorization and 5 6 appropriation. That is what we look for in 7 Congress to further go out and construct something. 8 9 In the interim, it's important for yourselves, for your state representatives, for the 10 11 resource agencies, to really have a discussion 12 about what is the best path. We have a whole range 13 of different options. 14 If we are going to spend more time 15 studying it, it makes more sense to study one or 16 two of these options in more detail and flush them 17 out based on that input. So really, the next steps really involve having that collaborative 18 19 discussion, listening to what you have to say, 20 taking into consideration the comments on the 21 website, and using that information. 22 MR. KARUBA: Mark Karuba (phonetic), 23 I think it was a year or two ago, I went

online to look at some of the issues in Chicago in

terms of waterways, and it was enlightening to me

24

- 1 to see how much water flows through that city.
- I was taken aback for those that use
- 3 recreational purposes was basically wastewater
- 4 running through the city. I also found that there
- 5 was a large problem the Chicago Area Water System
- 6 had in dealing with its wastewater; dealing with
- 7 the rain water runoff that it had. And a little
- 8 bit of rain seemed to produce some level of
- 9 flooding somewhere in Chicago. A stepdaughter of
- 10 mine lives in Chicago.
- 11 That would seem to be inherently a
- 12 part of this solution in dealing with Chicago and
- 13 their water systems and looking at barriers of one
- 14 kind or another.
- My knee-jerk reaction last year,
- 16 looking at that hydrologic barrier, cut it off, and
- 17 cut off that access to the Mississippi, to Lake
- 18 Michigan and Lake Erie; Erie is vulnerable from the
- 19 east and the west.
- 20 And the water system issue,
- 21 commercial value of that access to the Chicago area
- 22 and the Midwest and the rest of the Great Lakes,
- 23 seems to be a part of the problem I haven't heard
- 24 addressed yet.
- 25 When I looked at this a year or two

- 1 ago, it looked like a railroad yards and cranes and
- 2 shipping areas in Chicago. Moving from the
- 3 dependence and moving goods by water versus going
- 4 back to moving them by truck and rail, would seem
- 5 to be something that should be considered with all
- 6 this.
- 7 You are shifting a culture -- you are
- 8 looking to shift a culture commercially and
- 9 recreationally from one way to another, whatever
- 10 modifications you make on those waterways.
- I would like some comment on that,
- 12 please.
- MR. WETHINGTON: Sure. Again, I want
- 14 to speak to the existing state of the waterways.
- 15 When we did this baseline assessment, our first
- 16 alternative, we looked at what kind of improvements
- 17 are going to be made. There several different
- 18 types of projects that are currently being
- 19 implemented toward the improvement of water
- 20 quality, etc. And we included those as part of
- 21 that baseline.
- So it's really important to remember
- 23 is while there may be opportunities for
- 24 enhancement, when we look at the mitigation
- 25 required for any one of these alternatives, we did

- 1 not provide any additional benefit. We did not try
- 2 to provide additional flood risk buy-downs for the
- 3 residents of Chicago for any environmental
- 4 benefit. In GLMRIS, we wanted to make sure there
- 5 weren't adverse impacts. I know there is a nuance
- 6 there, but it's very important to understand.
- With regard to move into commerce,
- 8 currently, we do an evaluation of baseline for
- 9 waterway traffic. It is statistically more
- 10 efficient to move goods via waterways; however, we
- 11 have seen that if certain actions are taking like
- 12 blocking waterways, that they would likely move off
- 13 the waterway to rail or to truck. But it is
- 14 certainly more efficient per pound via waterways as
- 15 opposed to via truck.
- 16 MR. DALZELL: Bob Dalzell, 16403.
- 17 D-A-L-Z-E-L-L. The Colonel mentioned that the
- 18 front of the Asian carp is about 55 miles down from
- 19 Lake Michigan. And it may be due to the two locks
- 20 that are involved in there.
- 21 Has any thoughts been done to maybe
- 22 retrofit those locks or do something in those locks
- 23 that it may have, you know, an impact on the carp?
- 24 MR. WETHINGTON: Sure. That's part
- 25 of the one of the alternatives. The idea of the

77 lock in addition to the electric barrier, that's part of an alternative. 2 However, in order for the Corps of 3 Engineers to implement, to construct any kind of modification, we need authority from Congress, we 5 need those appropriations to come. certainly one of the concepts. 7 MR. KIM: Michael Kim, 16505. 8 9 is off the topic of the carp. I was surprised I didn't see the harmful algae blooms as one of the 10 11 13 problem areas, and is that because it's limited 12 just to Lake Erie? 13 MR. WETHINGTON: No. The reason you probably did not see that as a potential harm to 14 15 Great Lakes is because it's already established in 16 the Great Lakes. So we are looking -- again, charged to prevent the transfer. 17 If there were a number of different 18 19 algae that were identified as potentially being 20 from the lakes to the Mississippi River basin, they 21 would be the likely ones that are identified. 22 not sure of the specific species, which algae you 23 were speaking of. But there were a couple

different algae that were potentially a high to

medium risk for transfer to Mississippi River from

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1 the Great Lakes.
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- 2 MR. KIM: I got the e-mail blast
- 3 throughout the summer, and I noted the first time
- 4 since I have been following it, I saw it reach the
- 5 central basin of Lake Erie last year, and they
- 6 found it in a place this year in Presque Isle Bay.
- 7 I've lived along the lake for twenty
- 8 years. I have seen the dramatic change in the
- 9 whole ecosystem with all of the species. That one
- 10 seems particularly troublesome for people to fish
- 11 in a dead zone.
- 12 MR. WETHINGTON: Right. We looked at
- 13 identifying the species. We identified 35 which
- 14 are a particular concern. All of that specific
- 15 research is on our website. If you look for the
- 16 aquatic species white paper, that speaks in detail
- 17 to the range of species. It also lists a great
- 18 amount of references that were used to identify
- 19 these species.
- 20 So based on what my biologist or
- 21 scientists tell me, those 35 are the potential
- 22 ones. Of the 35, 10 are from the Mississippi River
- 23 basin to the Great Lakes, and 25 from the Great
- 24 Lakes down to the Mississippi River basin. What
- 25 each of the 25 are -- I remember a lot of things,

79 but I don't remember those. Thank you. Sorry about that. MS. FLEER: Any last questions or 3 I want to encourage people to utilize this time to make your voices heard. We are 5 assimilating all these questions and comments for 7 the public record. Please don't be shy. 8 MS. ROSSMAN: Chris Rossman. said March 3rd is the deadline for people to offer What is the deadline to get something 10 comments. 11 started, a decision to be made, and where is the 12 money coming from? 13 How is it going to be appropriated? Is it national? 14 Are the states going to 15 contribute? How is this going to be done? when? Is there a time frame that a decision will 16 be made, and then the monies appropriated, and then 17 all the work to be decided; how to do it, all the 18 19 labor involved. What is the time frame for it? 20 MR. WETHINGTON: That's a good 21 question. It is asked a lot. Right now, we are 22 taking public input. As I mentioned a couple of 23 times tonight, this whole idea about aquatic 24 species control, the Corps of Engineers had a 25 specific set of authorities, and we had a specific

- 1 set of missions areas and we get our authorities
- 2 from Congress.
- 3 So in order for us to rule out an
- 4 instruction of something, we need to have specific
- 5 legislation. In addition, we have legislation that
- 6 says we are authorized to go through with this, as
- 7 well as appropriations for that. That's how the
- 8 Corps of Engineers, how the agency is funded.
- 9 The majority of our projects are cost
- 10 share, when we do the construction. And so now
- 11 Congress can change that. Congress can say a
- 12 project is 100 percent federally funded. I
- 13 certainly am not going to speak on behalf of
- 14 Congress. I'm telling you how it traditionally
- 15 works.
- 16 There is various alternatives, very
- 17 complex, maybe more a non-federal responsibility
- 18 than the federal responsibility. So before we get
- 19 to working out all of those individual details, we
- 20 need to decide on what is that.
- 21 As much as I would like to be able to
- 22 tell you I have a timeline for that decision
- 23 making, it's impossible for me to tell you how in
- 24 the state of Michigan and the state of Minnesota
- 25 and all the agencies, Chicago, how those agencies

- 1 will come together and on what collaborative floor
- 2 they will come together with.
- I will tell you we are making efforts
- 4 to make sure everybody is at the table on behalf of
- 5 the White House Asian Carp Committee, which has a
- 6 lot of those different states, different federal
- 7 agencies, the local owners and operators, so all of
- 8 those agencies do have collaborative bodies.
- 9 Also, there are other collaborative
- 10 bodies that represent the people. There are
- 11 different ways we can potentially try to achieve
- 12 this collaborative effort.
- This report came out on January 6th.
- 14 We really have been trying to let everybody know
- 15 what is in the report and how what are the options
- 16 and potential costs and timelines. Now we have a
- 17 lot of this information, we are having the
- 18 discussion now. As much as I would like to say,
- 19 this is the timeline, right now, we don't know.
- 20 But what I have heard, there is a
- 21 sense of urgency. We heard in the state of
- 22 Michigan and Cleveland and heard here tonight that
- 23 25 years may be too long. While an engineering
- 24 solution will say it may take up to 25 years to
- 25 complete something, it doesn't mean we have to wait

- 1 that amount of time before we can do something in
- 2 the interim. So having this conversation is very
- 3 important.
- 4 A number of these plans, baseline for
- 5 construction, does start in 2017. But that assumes
- 6 there is some sort of a vision and it allows some
- 7 time for necessary conclusion of detail design and
- 8 so on. So that's certainly a best case scenario.
- 9 But again, I cannot speak on behalf of Congress.
- 10 COLONEL DRUMMOND: He doesn't like
- 11 when I start asking him questions. But to continue
- 12 the conversation, so he talks about authorization
- 13 of appropriation, all that has to be worked out.
- 14 What I will tell you is I do have
- 15 authorization and do have the appropriations for
- 16 the current electric barrier system that works.
- 17 That's the good thing. Meanwhile, we have to have
- 18 some sort of consensus, and your state
- 19 representative, your congressional representative,
- 20 all very in tune with this right now. I think this
- 21 is a very good time for us to continue forward.
- 22 The other thing I mentioned, and Dave
- 23 hit on it a little bit, when he talks mitigation,
- 24 in Chicago we have several reservoirs. One of them
- 25 stores about 10 billion gallons. It's being

83 built. It's taking a long time. When he talks mitigation, we have 2 some pretty good data on exactly how long it 3 When you start talking GLMRIS lock, it's a new technology. Although our research and 5 6 development center says it can happen, as I said 7 earlier, it's more money, and we have to figure out it all out. 8 9 MR. WELCH: Welch. Many of the locks I have been in recently, they have hydro facilities 10 11 like part of the river and type of hydro -- the question is, with these barriers, what you just 12 13 mentioned, reservoirs, is that one kind of 14 incentive so that you can actually have some kind 15 of product as a hydro, as a by-product so you get 16 more money to do this. 17 Are there -- on the Mississippi there 18 is locks all over the place and Ohio River, and 19 there has been proposed on a number of them to put 20 in one of the river hydro facilities. And one of 21 the questions is would these carp, are they somehow 22 jamming the intakes or causing problems in

25 hydro power, the Chicago area and surrounding area

operation of the locks down South?

23

24

MR. WETHINGTON: The answer to the

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- 1 is very flat. In order to get a good kind of a
- 2 extremely good speed of water, you need to have a
- 3 change in elevation. So doing hydropower in this
- 4 area on this river basin is really not practical.
- 5 With regard to Asian carp jamming up
- 6 locks, that has not been anything that we have seen
- 7 or experienced. The mechanic lock is very strong.
- 8 If there is, by chance, a carp in that split second
- 9 when the gate is closing, probably a carp sandwich.
- MR. BAUER: David Bauer, 16335. I
- 11 apologize if you have addressed this already. I
- 12 wondered if there was a generally-accepted,
- 13 scientific model that illustrates the impact of the
- 14 Asian carp as we are trying to educate people how
- 15 it fits on commercial fishing, native species and
- 16 so forth.
- 17 MR. WETHINGTON: With regard to the
- 18 specifics, we did not look at modeling
- 19 consequences. It is very detailed. There is a lot
- 20 of information with regard to Asian carp. But even
- 21 with that wealth of information, there is very
- 22 little that is known with certainty. There have
- 23 been other agencies that have tried to model that.
- 24 I know the Great Lakes Fishing Commission put
- 25 together a model of their own with regard to that.

1 There have been other academic-based models on viability of nutrients and how carp might potentially affect the lakes. But most important, 3 there is a lot of unknowns. And the intent of the 5 study, the authority it was given, recognizes it's probably a bad idea. That's why we have been given the authority to look at range of options. 7 regard to specific models, nothing was developed as 8 9 part of it. 10 MS. FLEER: If I don't see any 11 additional comments or questions -- please do 12 indicate now if you have any more. But if I don't 13 see any more, I think we will move to conclude 14 tonight's meeting. We will be available and hang 15 out for a while. Come and talk to us afterward. 16 Before anything, I want to thank everyone for your participation tonight. 17 18 quiding to solve this problem. I will give our 19 panelists the opportunity to make a few concluding 20 remarks if they would like to. 21 COLONEL DRUMMOND: Thank you very 22 And for everybody here, your voice is 23 important. Coming in today, the gentleman in the 24 back said, "Have you ever been to Erie?" I said 25 As I was coming in -- I'm very observant.

- 1 spend a lot of time in airplanes, whether I'm
- 2 jumping out of them or doing something else.
- 3 The beauty is evident here. And like
- 4 I said earlier, everybody on my team is just as
- 5 concerned about the Great Lakes as everybody in
- 6 this room. Throughout this two and a half years I
- 7 have been involved in this process, and
- 8 unfortunately, normally, the project -- the program
- 9 manager for this who sits in my higher
- 10 headquarters, also was the commander of the Chicago
- 11 District. We call him the 61st commander; I'm the
- 12 63rd. We have been in Chicago since 1983.
- 13 It's my charge to insure we are doing
- 14 the best we can for everybody. That's a unique
- 15 thing about the Corps of Engineers. I wear this
- 16 uniform. I'm neutral. I put facts out there and
- 17 gather the facts and do the best thing for
- 18 everybody.
- 19 This has been a very interesting and
- 20 long-term discussion, that one thing we have heard
- 21 across the board is timeliness. So I know that's
- 22 going to get resonated all the way up to the higher
- 23 headquarters and probably come down to Dave to try
- 24 to address.
- 25 I might add, John Goss, yesterday he

87 was in Chicago with Metropolitan Water Reclamation District discussing this whole thing with the board of directors. So you can tell, there is multiple 3 moving fronts here. 5 And I do appreciate your time. And like I said earlier, we will stick around and answer individual questions. Feel free to ask any 7 one of us if you have anything else. Thank you 8 9 very much. 10 MS. FLEER: Thanks again. One last 11 note, please. Bare in mind, our public comment closes on March 3rd. If you haven't had an 12 13 opportunity to submit a comment, check the website 14 or pick up the yellow comment registration form 15 available at the table. There is plenty of other interesting reading material available on the 16 17 table. Help yourself. Thanks again. 18 (Proceedings concluded at 6:10 p.m.) 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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