

NEPA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR THE GREAT LAKES
AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN INTERBASIN

Transcript of GLMRIS meeting held at the
Port of New Orleans Administration Building,
1350 Port of New Orleans Place, New Orleans,
Louisiana, before Judy Polderman Gomez,
Certified Court Reporter, on Thursday, February
17, 2011.

1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2 Moderator:
3 Kevin Bluhm
4 Corps of Engineers
5 St. Paul District

6 Panelists:
7 John Goss
8 Asian Carp Director
9 White Council on Environmental Quality

10 Lt. Colonel David Berczek
11 Deputy Commander, Chicago District
12 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

13 Dave Wethington
14 GLMRIS Project Manager

15 Mike Saffran
16 Other Pathways Project Manager

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REPORTED BY:
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Certificate Number 87294

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 BY MR. BLUHM:

3 Welcome, folks. This is pretty much
4 what we're expecting for the crowd for this
5 afternoon's session. As you look around, you
6 will realize we have seats that aren't filled.
7 I would advise if you want to move up to get a
8 prime seat, now would be the time to do that.
9 I will be dimming the lights so you can see a
10 little bit better. The lights do flood out the
11 projector. Then lastly the person we are
12 waiting for, our panelist the Asian Carp
13 director, is still delayed in traffic. We're
14 going to kind of flip flop the presentations
15 around. His typically goes first. What we'll
16 do, we'll do the Corps of Engineers
17 presentation on the GLMRIS work first. If he
18 is here at the conclusion of that, we'll have
19 his presentation. If he is still not here once
20 we're done with the Corps' presentation, we
21 will go into the question and answer open
22 comments session. Then hopefully, he will be
23 here by the time that's finished. Then we can
24 do the update on the Asian carp issue. We'll
25 kind of flip flop our presentations around for

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1 this session. We'll do an identical session
2 this evening that will be the same format as
3 all the other meetings.

4 The time is now 2:19, and I would like
5 to welcome all of you to this afternoon's
6 meeting for the Great Lakes and Mississippi
7 River Interbasin Study. This is a NEPA public
8 scoping meeting. My name is Kevin Bluhm. I'm
9 from the St. Paul District Corps of Engineers.
10 I'm going to be the moderator for this
11 afternoon and this evening's sessions. I'm
12 glad to be here with you. For those of you
13 that aren't familiar with the building, other
14 than the fact there is a big cruise ship out
15 front, the restrooms are located in the hallway
16 and just past the elevators. If you need to
17 use those in the meeting, feel free to excuse
18 yourself. If you have a cell phone or any type
19 of noise maker on you, if you would put that on
20 silence. Our presentation is expected to last
21 about 45 minutes. Then the comment session
22 will take as long as it takes to hear from
23 everybody that's interested in discussing their
24 thoughts and opinions with us.

25 I'm going to start with the slide

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1 here. I'm going to dim the lights. I want to
2 go over the packet of materials that you
3 received when you signed in. The packet of
4 materials here -- I'm holding one in my hand --
5 has all the different pieces that will help you
6 walk through what we're going to do today, as
7 well as give you some additional information
8 about the GLMRIS study. The green half sheet
9 is the study agenda. There's a quarter sheet
10 as well as a small blue booklet. Those contain
11 very good general and overview information that
12 will get you up to speed on the details of the
13 GLMRIS work. The white comment form -- the
14 half-size sheet of paper -- is the most
15 important part for this phase of our study.
16 This is our comment form. This is a piece that
17 we put together. It has an inside and a back
18 panel with plenty of room to document any and
19 all comments that you have for us. We
20 encourage you to use it or take it with you and
21 you can mail it to us anytime during the
22 comment period. Keeping in mind, the comment
23 period does close March 31st, 2011. We also in
24 the hallway have computers set up that are on
25 our website. We have a link on there as well

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1 that you can enter comments electronically
2 today or in the future up until that March 31st
3 time frame. The full size sheets of paper you
4 have, the first one is a purplish-color sheet.
5 This has frequently asked questions that we put
6 together to try to help answer some of the
7 things we hear most often. We have got a
8 salmon-color sheet that talks about efforts
9 that are going on. You'll hear more about that
10 in the presentation. The gold- or yellow-color
11 sheet is a form that we ask if you are going to
12 give us an oral communication today that you
13 submit this to the table out in the hallway.
14 If you have done so already, you're already in
15 the que. If you haven't done it, you're not in
16 the que for oral presentation comments and will
17 not be called on unless you have this. You
18 will have an opportunity -- even if you haven't
19 filled this out -- to make a comment today.
20 The last sheet of paper, the blue document
21 here, is a form that we ask you to use if you
22 are going to submit comments to us that are in
23 a written format. This will help us make sure
24 we associate and give proper credit to anything
25 that we hear today as well. Then the last part

1 of the packet here are the actual slides that
2 we'll be using in the Corps of Engineers'
3 presentation. These are set up two per page to
4 help you have a little bit of documentation on
5 the slides we're going to go through.

6 Our GLMRIS team has organized this
7 public meeting to help us accomplish two goals
8 for you. First, we want to be able to present
9 the information about the study. Then
10 secondly, we want to solicit your comments on
11 the significant issues that should be included
12 in GLMRIS and the insignificant issues that can
13 be eliminated from further study. The Corps of
14 Engineers is hosting 12 of these public
15 meetings throughout the study area in an effort
16 to provide an opportunity for those interested
17 in the study to learn about it and to provide
18 your oral comments to us. Again, the NEPA
19 scoping period does close March 31st. As
20 indicated in the agenda, this public meeting is
21 organized in two sessions. An identical
22 presentation will be given at the beginning of
23 each session, then it will be followed by the
24 second portion, the oral comment period. Our
25 first period will begin right after the

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1 presentation, and then the second portion or
2 the second meeting will start at 5:30. There
3 will be at least a 30-minute break in between
4 the two meetings. The study staff and our
5 panelists will be available to answer any
6 questions that you have during that gap in
7 between. If you do have any questions, feel
8 free to ask them. Just note that while talking
9 in a one-to-one conversation, any conversations
10 you have when the meeting is adjourned will not
11 be part of the public record and will not be
12 part of the NEPA scoping document. If you have
13 things that you would like to have on the
14 record, either write them down or use the
15 microphone during our comment period so those
16 can be included as part of the NEPA documents.

17 Those are my opening remarks, and at
18 this point I would like to introduce the panel
19 members that are here. I'll start immediately
20 to my left here, Lieutenant Colonel David
21 Berczek is the deputy commander from the
22 Chicago District U.S. Corps of Engineers. He's
23 coming to us from Chicago. In the center of
24 the table is Dave Wethington. Dave Wethington
25 is the GLMRIS Project Manager. And then on the

1 far side of the table from me, Mr. Mike
2 Saffran. Mike is the other pathways project
3 manager. You'll hear from all three of the
4 gentlemen. And the gentleman that we're
5 waiting on is Mr. John Goss. He is the Asian
6 Carp Director from the White House Council on
7 Environmental Quality. We hope to have him
8 here very shortly.

9 With that said, I'm going to turn the
10 microphone over to Colonel Berczek, and he will
11 start the presentation on the GLMRIS efforts.
12 I'm going to go through all the carp slides
13 quickly and then restart so the Colonel has
14 his. Then we can go back to those once
15 Mr. Goss is here.

16 BY COLONEL BERCEK:

17 I have been on stage before. This
18 isn't one of these type of environments. What
19 we're going to talk about -- I thank you for
20 being here. It's very important. It's part of
21 our study process that we gather your comments
22 and share with us some of your thoughts and
23 ideas what it is about the study that we're
24 pursuing. And gather your comments and
25 entertain your questions. The Great Lakes

1 Mississippi River Interbasin Study is a
2 feasibility level study being conducted by the
3 Corp of Engineers. Invasive species inhabit
4 all regions of the United States and every
5 nation. That is the opening statement in both
6 the executive summary and the main body of the
7 context of the five-year review of Executive
8 Order 13112 on the invasive species of the
9 National Invasive Species Council. Certain
10 words will bring things to mind. You hear
11 about the English sparrow, starling, sea
12 lamprey, snakehead fish, hydrilla, zebra
13 mussels, kudzu, Asian carp. And from this part
14 of the country the only nutria you like is the
15 one that shows up at the baseball games and
16 fires T-shirts from the cannon.

17 But this is a complex and accelerating
18 problem. For that reason, you can see up there
19 under this language, in 2007 Congress under the
20 Water Resources and Development Act authorized
21 the Corps of Engineers to conduct a feasibility
22 study to look at the range of options and
23 technologies available to prevent the spread of
24 aquatic nuisance species between the Great
25 Lakes and Mississippi River basins through the

1 Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and other
2 aquatic pathways. Down there we list a little
3 bit of the highlights of some of the special
4 considerations of this study. If you are
5 familiar with the way the Corps of Engineers
6 conducts studies, the feasibility -- coming at
7 the feasibility stage, is further along in the
8 process than is normally done. The feasibility
9 study typically also has a local cost share
10 portion. You'll have a feasibility study cost
11 share partner. In this case here, you see the
12 last bullet, this is 100 percent Federally
13 funded. Congress has given us as much
14 authority as possible in this study to try to
15 move things along as rapidly as the information
16 would allow us to. In some of the direction to
17 our study team, we looked at using the word
18 prevent; but also introducing as well that
19 we're looking at reducing the risk as much as
20 possible of allowing that type of transfer to
21 occur. The reason for that is to go ahead and
22 not necessarily limit options being looked at
23 but to look at options that might not have a
24 100 percent guarantee rate to them but not to
25 exclude them from the study and look at how to

1 cumulatively get that 100 percent presentation.
2 The hydrologic separation is one of
3 the options that is being considered as part of
4 this study. The GLMRIS study area covers a
5 good portion of the United States. Being down
6 in this part of the country, you're very much
7 familiar with the Mississippi River and its
8 sources of water; and you see that it includes
9 watersheds as far west as the Rocky Mountains.
10 The detailed study area of this study is not
11 quite as broad. It is primarily focusing up in
12 this area here (indicating). These lower
13 states here contribute to the upper Mississippi
14 River basin, and the Great Lakes states here as
15 well contribute to the Great Lakes basin. An
16 area of significant concern with this study --
17 you will see in later slides -- is that dashed
18 line that goes across there. The significance
19 of that line is that's a natural flow line that
20 exists between the two basins. Water -- rain
21 water, precipitation landing to the north of
22 that line has a tendency to flow north into the
23 Great Lakes basin. Water that lands to the
24 south would feed the upper Mississippi River
25 basin. What are we looking at in this study?

1 We're looking at aquatic connections, looking
2 at -- you see there it says swimmers, floaters,
3 hitchhikers. We're looking at the fish,
4 looking at the plants, looking at the virus,
5 looking at the fleas, looking at all sorts of
6 aquatic nuisance species, not just limited to a
7 single species. That's where this legislation,
8 this authorization, goes broader than other
9 authorizations in the past that would focus
10 primarily perhaps on the zebra mussel or
11 individual species. Under this authorization,
12 Congress wanted us to look broader than that
13 and try to come up with a total solution. It
14 does not include these types of pathways,
15 terrestrial or airborne. It does not include
16 human release.

17 Some of those actions, some of those
18 activities -- since Mr. Goss -- you didn't get
19 the benefit to hear his presentation -- I'll
20 talk a little bit about that. He will talk and
21 share with you some of the Asian Carp Regional
22 Coordinating Committee. That's a collaboration
23 of a group of Federal, State, and local
24 agencies and organizations, State Departments
25 of Natural Resources and others that have come

1 to the table and have been actively engaged for
2 a number of years specifically looking at Asian
3 carp. We at the Corps of Engineers are very
4 actively involved with that. The efforts that
5 we do a little bit more short term that focused
6 on that species are wrapped up under that. We
7 still have a lot of those activities ongoing
8 and are working with the other agencies, some
9 of whom are -- the reason the time to talk
10 about that now is when you talk about human
11 release, that sort of thing, big bucket
12 transfers, ballast water, other agencies such
13 as the Coast Guard and Department of Natural
14 Resources are looking at those types of
15 pathways.

16 I showed you the map so you can get an
17 idea of the area that we considered. The study
18 does not go as far over into the Atlantic Slope
19 or looking at the St. Lawrence Seaway as a
20 pathway of introduction. Also we're not
21 focusing, in this study, on Canada. We see
22 looking down at the left hand side, the
23 elements of the study. Looking at the range of
24 options and technologies to prevent interbasin
25 transfer of aquatic invasive species. We'll do

1 an evaluation of hydrologic separation. And,
2 of course, encompass regional economics based
3 on risk and also produce as a result of this
4 study -- this is a feasibility study. We will
5 have a feasibility report that will go through
6 the process and have recommendations to
7 Congress for implementation. We will also
8 produce an Environmental Impact Statement as a
9 result of this study.

10 This is a massive project, very
11 complex. I mention again -- I don't remember
12 if I mentioned the length of that flow line
13 that I showed earlier, the dashed line. It was
14 approximately 1500 miles there in
15 consideration. This study crosses boundaries.
16 We're down here in New Orleans, which for the
17 Corps of Engineers, the way we are structured
18 with our districts and divisions, this
19 territory falls under General Walsh, who is the
20 Mississippi Valley Division Commander. We're
21 up in the Chicago district and have the lead
22 role in this up there in the Chicago area. The
23 Waterway system in Chicago is under General
24 Peabody who is the Great Lakes and Ohio River
25 Division Commander. From the outset, you see

1 not only geographically is it challenging --
2 there's avenues there -- but from the
3 standpoint of who is in charge, how do you
4 coordinate, how do you share the information,
5 how do you divvy up the work that we had to get
6 a little bit ahead of the game to figure out
7 how to structure for success. That's why I
8 talk a little bit about the strategy. In the
9 second bullet there, you can see about organize
10 for success. Capping -- the Executive Steering
11 Committee is a group that existed and still
12 does exist as part of the Asian Carp region.
13 Capping off of that and the benefits we have
14 from the collaborative work that we have had
15 with the agencies during that same structure
16 group as part of a reporting agency with
17 respect to this study as well. You can see as
18 well hitting stakeholders and other things.

19 As a result of this study, as the
20 study progresses and cycling out pertinent
21 products, there's going to be a lot of data to
22 be gathered and analyzed. As that data has
23 been gone through and reviewed and is suitable
24 for public release, we will share that.
25 You can see where we're leading to and what's

1 come up and what's been available so far. Part
2 of the challenge with this, there are -- I
3 mentioned the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating
4 Committee. There are a number of agencies
5 involved with that. A lot of work is ongoing
6 this year for 2011. There are 45 activities
7 that have received funding to go ahead and
8 continue working.

9 It's critical that as part of this
10 process we remain flexible so we can adapt to
11 new and evolving information. We know -- we
12 think we have a good idea which rocks to look
13 under. There might be a new rock that shows up
14 as part of this other work. We've got to be
15 flexible enough to go ahead and incorporate
16 that data and go ahead and investigate. As
17 with all those things, we will abide by all law
18 and regulatory guidance.

19 The purpose is to identify those
20 aquatic pathways that may exist between the
21 Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins. We
22 know of the Chicago Waterway System, primarily
23 that manmade canal, the Chicago Sanitary and
24 Ship Canal. We didn't necessarily know some of
25 the other pathways.

1 David Wethington who was introduced
2 earlier and Mike Saffran are the two project
3 managers leading this focus area. They will
4 talk to you a little bit about letting you know
5 what has been done so far and what the focus is
6 on that.

7 Again, to keep going back to the fact,
8 this is not just about Asian carp. This is
9 across the spectrum. There are Asian carp,
10 black bottomed duckweed, sea lamprey, spiny
11 water flea. I like to say this study
12 encompasses from fish to fleas. Again, we will
13 be looking at ways to control, to include
14 hydrologic separation of the basins. This
15 slide shows a little map of the Chicago area
16 waterway system. It is very complex. It's
17 multi-purpose in its uses and its functions.

18 I'll turn this over to Dave Wethington
19 to talk a little bit about this.

20 BY MR. WETHINGTON:

21 Thank you, sir. Good afternoon. My
22 name is Dave Wethington. I'm Project Manager
23 of the Chicago District U.S. Army Corps of
24 Engineers. We have just finished talking about
25 the slide that's behind me. On the right-hand

1 side, you will notice a schematic of the
2 Chicago Area Waterway System. Couple of things
3 I would like to point out. First, there are
4 five connections starting along the shore of
5 Lake Michigan, numbered 1 through 5, that
6 basically are the five points at which the
7 waters of the Great Lakes and the waters of the
8 Mississippi River basin have the opportunity to
9 mix or interact. What's unique about this
10 waterway system, although there are all these
11 multiple points, is they all flow into a single
12 stream. Much like the five prongs of a fork
13 will flow into the handle of the fork. They
14 all flow into the Chicago Ship and Sanitary
15 Canal, which is a manmade canal that was built
16 in the early 1900s. The Chicago Ship and
17 Sanitary Canal is also where we have located
18 our existing electric barrier. It's at Point
19 Number 7. That's what's being used effectively
20 to keep the Asian carp from transferring from
21 the Mississippi River basin into the Great
22 Lakes basin.

23 Another unique feature about the
24 Chicago Area Waterway System are the control
25 structures that we have basically that can

1 control the flow of water to and from the two
2 basins. Numbers 1, 2, and 3 are what we would
3 call controlled waterways. Number 1 has the
4 Wilmette Pumping Station. Number 2 has the
5 Chicago Lock. Point Number 3 is controlled by
6 Number 6, just downstream of it, the O'Brien
7 Lock and Dam. All three of those have a water
8 controlled structure or a lock and dam that can
9 physically control the flow of water. Points 4
10 and 5, although they connect, have no control
11 structure. So those allow free flow of water
12 into and out of the system.

13 On the left hand side, you will notice
14 a number of steps. That's basically the road
15 map, the process the Corps of Engineers uses to
16 conduct a feasibility study. It's a planning
17 process. We're in Steps 1 and 2 right now.

18 First one says specify problems and
19 opportunities. We have put together a team of
20 experts from the Corps of Engineers and a panel
21 of experts outside of our district and reached
22 out to multiple divisions, other Federal
23 agencies, State DNRs to basically figure out
24 the problems and opportunities for this study.
25 That's part of what we're doing here today. We

1 are listening to your comments and kind of
2 getting your input on the scope and the path
3 forward on this project.

4 We're also inventorying and
5 forecasting conditions. What does that mean?
6 Basically what we're are doing is identifying
7 what the waterway uses are. You might have
8 heard a lot about commercial navigation.
9 That's by all means an important waterway usage
10 in the Chicago area. There's also several
11 others, including but not limited to,
12 recreation, water supply, water discharge. The
13 City of Chicago relies on the Ship and Sanitary
14 Canal and the Chicago River as a principal
15 point of discharge for a couple of billion
16 gallons a day of treated municipal wastewater.
17 About 70 to 80 percent of the total flow of the
18 Chicago River is treated municipal wastewater.
19 The Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal and the
20 Chicago waterway system as a whole is also a
21 very important tool in flood risk management
22 for the Chicago land area. Basically it
23 doesn't happen very often -- every couple of
24 years or every five years -- there's a
25 significant enough rainfall event in the

1 Chicagoland area that we need to open up the
2 control system at Number 2 at the Chicago Lock
3 to allow water to backflow into Lake Michigan
4 and flow down to the Mississippi River. If
5 that were not possible, there would be
6 significant over-bank flooding in downtown
7 Chicago and would lead to big sewer backups,
8 potentially affecting residences, businesses,
9 private industry, several million users in the
10 Chicagoland area.

11 What we're doing with all of this
12 information is identifying, once we figure out
13 what the waterway uses are -- water supply,
14 water discharge, flood risk management -- take
15 the information and figure out what would be
16 the impacts when we implement some sort of
17 aquatic nuisance species control technologies.
18 Whether it be barriers or hydrologic separation
19 or something in between, what would be the
20 impacts and what would be the adverse impacts
21 to the current waterway uses. The reason I
22 mention adverse impacts is because we would
23 need to provide mitigation for those adverse
24 impacts as part of our study process.

25 You take all of that information,

1 formulate the plan, you evaluate the effects;
2 and you move your way toward selecting a
3 recommended plan. We are collaborating with
4 the whole Federal family and State agencies,
5 State DNRs, EPAs, environmental agencies. We
6 have also consultation with native American
7 tribes and non-governmental organizations,
8 private industry.

9 With that, sir, thank you for your
10 time. I'll turn it back to you.

11 BY COLONEL BERCEK:

12 That was pretty easy. Now here's the
13 next easy part that Mike's going to talk to you
14 about. Looking at that 1500-mile flow divide.

15 BY MR. SAFFRAN:

16 Thank you, sir. Going back to the
17 slide on the authority, it basically requires
18 the Corp to look at options and technologies to
19 prevent the interbasin transfer of aquatic
20 nuisance species through the Chicago Sanitary
21 and Ship Canal and other aquatic pathways.

22 Going into the GLMRIS, we had a lot of
23 information relative to potential risks for
24 interbasin transfer associated with operation
25 of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. The

1 first barrier was authorized in 1996. It was
2 put into operation in 2002, and Mr. Goss will
3 explain a lot of the ongoing things that have
4 been happening in the Chicago area that gave us
5 a bit of a head start there.

6 For the other pathways, we had very
7 little information. We, for one, had no real
8 concept of where the other aquatic pathways
9 exist. We certainly didn't have any
10 understanding of what sort of potential risk
11 there was for those pathways, where they exist,
12 to facilitate the transfer of aquatic nuisance
13 species. So our main general in the division
14 last summer, early in June, asked the division
15 staff to come with a plan to very quickly -- in
16 less than 60 days -- go out and conduct an
17 inventory along that entire 1500-mile long
18 basin divide and identify where the aquatic
19 pathways exist and to perform a preliminary
20 risk characterization. Because a significant
21 amount of investments have been made in the
22 Chicago area, there was very strong concern
23 that Asian carp -- which is the most
24 significant concern right now for ANS --there
25 was a potential for them to find another way

1 into the Great Lakes; therefore, compromising
2 the significant investments that have already
3 been made in the Chicago area.

4 With that sort of introduction, we
5 knew that was a very tall task. We have eight
6 Corps of Engineer districts that line up along
7 the basin divide. We initially went to each of
8 the eight districts. We asked them to help us
9 identify the locations -- the folks with the
10 State DNRs and then also their contacts with
11 the USGS and Fish and Wildlife Service -- to
12 form a large team to evaluate all of the sites
13 in a relatively short amount of time.
14 Fortunately, we had great cooperation from all
15 the DNRs. We had significant support from the
16 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They really
17 helped us. Within the first two weeks, they
18 produced a list of aquatic nuisance species in
19 the Great Lakes not known to be in the
20 Mississippi River Basin yet. About 120
21 species. They also compiled a list of aquatic
22 nuisance species in the Mississippi River Basin
23 that had not been identified in the Great lakes
24 until this morning. About 21 species on that
25 list. USGS helped us by providing point

1 distribution maps that showed the physical
2 locations of where the aquatic nuisance species
3 had been collected. That helped the team of
4 hydrologists and aquatic nuisance species
5 experts from these agencies to perform risk
6 characterization in a pretty good manner. Long
7 story short, we identified a total of 36
8 locations along the basin divide where it
9 appeared there was a reasonable chance for
10 interbasin transfer of water. Most of these
11 were intermittent locations, locations where
12 you don't really have water flowing across the
13 basin divide all the time. When you have a
14 significant storm event, that it can occur.
15 There was a mix of the remnants of the old Ohio
16 Canal, other canal systems like the canal --
17 Portage Canal System in Wisconsin. There were
18 locations that are in very rural areas where
19 there are agricultural ditches that span the
20 basin divide. There's -- you also have
21 urban/suburban areas where the stormwater
22 drainage features have facilitated the
23 potential interbasin flow of water. Of the 36
24 locations, the other category -- we found this
25 in a number of locations -- there's a lot of

1 natural wetlands that have formed along the
2 basin divide in the 1500-mile long pathway.
3 Anyone familiar with the geography and
4 topography up there, those glaciers left a
5 very, very flat terrain. The hydrology is
6 relatively complex. Literally several inches
7 can make a big difference in which way the
8 water flows.

9 Of the 36 locations, 18 of them were
10 determined to pose a significant risk.
11 And at a number of those locations the risk was
12 also combined with a high degree of uncertainty
13 in the available information because we did the
14 assessment pretty quickly. One location really
15 jumped out as having -- posing a potential
16 near-term risk. That was the Eagle Marsh in
17 Fort Wayne, Indiana. At that location you have
18 almost a natural-occurring backflow location.
19 The St. Mary's River and St. Joseph's River
20 come together to form the Maumee River in
21 downtown Fort Wayne. The St. Joseph's River
22 drains from southeastern Michigan down into
23 Fort Wayne. The St. Mary's River flows from
24 central western Ohio up into Fort Wayne. When
25 you have an angle -- the largest storm you

1 would expect to occur in any given year in that
2 basin, the water that comes together in Fort
3 Wayne builds up to such an elevation that some
4 of it back flows over into the Wabash River
5 basin. When we have up to a 10 percent annual
6 return frequency storm or the type of storm
7 that you would expect -- the size of a storm
8 that you would expect to occur once every 10
9 years, the depth of the water flow across the
10 basin divide is up to four and a half feet.
11 That condition, combined with the fact that
12 there are established populations of big head
13 and silver carp about 25 miles downstream in
14 the Wabash River -- lead a group of the
15 agencies involved to determine that we needed
16 to take quick action.

17 We have done two things as far as
18 quick action. The first thing was we developed
19 an interim measure which is mesh or chain link
20 fence barrier to prevent adult Asian carp to be
21 able to swim across the location. It was taken
22 off another feature that has been constructed
23 in the Chicago area waterways to prevent water
24 flow down the Des Plaines River into the
25 Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. But out of

1 that meeting at the end of July regarding that
2 site with all the appropriate agencies there,
3 the Indiana DNR stepped up and said we're the
4 ones that are in best position to act quickly.
5 And within less than 60 days, they designed the
6 barrier; and they constructed it. Before the
7 end of September that barrier was in place.
8 You will see some pictures in Mr. Goss'
9 presentation here in just a moment.

10 The other thing that's going on
11 relative to that is the Corps of Engineers is
12 completing a focus feasibility study to effect
13 a permanent solution at that location. That
14 report is scheduled to be completed before the
15 end of this year.

16 The rest of the story on the other
17 pathways for right now, the next step forward
18 on that is to go in and do a more complete,
19 more deliberate assessment of the risk at all
20 18 locations that were identified. That study
21 plan for that is being reviewed right now.
22 Again, we anticipate a report for that by the
23 end of this calendar year.

24 BY COLONEL BERCZEK:

25 Thanks, Mike. Henry Ford said nothing

1 is particularly hard if you divide it into
2 small jobs. Dave and Mike just talked about
3 two small jobs associated with this study and
4 what has been going on so far. Mike talked to
5 you about some of the successes in identifying
6 the risk characterizations of other pathways.

7 You see down on the left hand side a
8 lot of work had to be done to go ahead and
9 develop and understand how to go ahead and
10 proceed with the study and the study process.
11 You'll see down on the left hand side, December
12 10th began the public scoping meetings, which
13 is where we are today on the 17th of February,
14 with one more remaining to go. We're getting
15 to the point where we can go ahead and identify
16 what it is we're pursuing and what it is we're
17 after to go ahead and share that with you to
18 get your feedback and comments.

19 At the same time, though, you see down
20 on the right hand side, there has been a lot of
21 ongoing execution. To determine where we
22 needed to go, we had to understand what we knew
23 so far. Mike talked a little bit about using
24 the agencies and the folks that do that day in
25 and day out to identify species in one basin

1 that weren't in the other.

2 Now we have got to start identifying
3 how to keep them there. Not a lot of that's
4 transfer. Part of what we're doing is
5 identifying what to do. You don't shoot skeet
6 with a pistol. Not everything's going to work
7 exactly against each one of the species that we
8 have to deal with. A lot of work has gone on
9 so far. Mike talked a little bit about what
10 that is.

11 Challenges ahead. One of the biggest
12 challenges is keeping up this type of momentum
13 and carrying through and executing the study on
14 a decent schedule. We're seeing part of the
15 schedule. You notice right off the bat an
16 asterisk. That says at the bottom, this is the
17 best case scenario. I mentioned earlier in the
18 study authorization language this is a 100
19 percent Federally funded study. That's a part
20 of that mechanism of keeping the things on
21 track and moving as part of the Federal
22 budgeting process. We have got to make sure
23 that we express the needs of the study through
24 the President's budget, then voted on and
25 appropriated by Congress. Then also that we

1 continue and work those details as aggressively
2 as possible working with the other agencies and
3 everyone involved to keep it on track.

4 The slide show off to the right-hand
5 side, that big star, coming out with
6 potentially a draft recommendation and a plan,
7 to come back out in a meeting similar to this,
8 to go ahead and collect public comments in the
9 fall of 2014. Around that time frame. It's a
10 ways down the road to start coming out with
11 something, then to go ahead and submit it and
12 to work through that process to develop -- to
13 go through the review, develop it into a report
14 and recommendations to move forward for
15 implementation.

16 The other pathways has somewhat of a
17 shorter type of a time line but would still
18 have some time associated on the tail end of it
19 to go ahead and take any recommendations that
20 might come out of that and have implementation
21 authority and then funding to go ahead and
22 execute those.

23 One of the things that we are looking
24 at, because of the length of time and because
25 of the complexities of this study and what it

1 is we would be looking at doing, to help keep
2 people informed and keep the dialogue going is
3 these little arrows here. You see some
4 examples of this here. Dave mentioned about
5 looking at the waterways usage, the current and
6 future potential uses of waterways. Looking at
7 those, evaluating control technologies,
8 evaluating the values of navigation -- for
9 example the values of the fisheries -- to go
10 ahead and as that information has matured and
11 can be released as an individual product, we
12 plan on sharing that through forums to go ahead
13 and have discussions and allow people to keep
14 up-to-date with where the study is progressing.

15 Additional things to keep things
16 moving -- this is part of the process --
17 gathering input from the public and from groups
18 and agencies and anyone that has a stake in the
19 outcome of this study, to go ahead and get
20 these inputs, make sure we're on track, and go
21 ahead and feed them into the study process as
22 rapidly as possible. The examples input to
23 accelerate the GLMRIS, I would say that is
24 probably an example to keep us on the track
25 that we're trying to maintain right now.

1 A number of other agencies have roles
2 and responsibilities in other areas of
3 expertise. We would rely on them to bring that
4 information forward, looking at biologic
5 controls or other types of things, what
6 potential species are there, and how they may
7 transfer between the basins. If there is a
8 tendency for them to do that, we would look to
9 the USGS, Departments of Fish and Wildlife,
10 Departments of Natural Resources to help us
11 gather that information so we can go ahead,
12 keeping in mind that all of that information is
13 fed into the process. We still have to go
14 through our review process, external peer
15 reviews and such, to go ahead and make sure
16 it's satisfactory for the study.

17 This is just again a time line what we
18 have been up to so far with the study. We had
19 a road show going around in a number of the
20 states that were affected. You see the stars
21 and everything. We're down here today. New
22 Orleans. We anticipate wrapping up in March to
23 keep us on track as well to go ahead and close
24 out the public comment period by the end of
25 March so we can go ahead and proceed with the

1 study.

2 There are other ways to keep in touch,
3 and you can -- obviously we welcome your input
4 together and to have the opportunity to
5 exchange ideas with you and questions and
6 answers face to face. Also I guess what I
7 would say is the commercial where you can save
8 money -- the guy online where you can save the
9 \$522. Technology when you want it, people when
10 you don't want it. When you don't want us, you
11 can go to the GLMRIS website. We tried to make
12 everything look like this. If you go to the
13 Chicago District website, you see that button.
14 When you go to GLMRIS you see that. When you
15 recognize that, you will see it's this study.
16 You can get up-to-date information. If you are
17 so inclined and are part of the social media
18 scene, we have a FaceBook page to go ahead and
19 try to get more instant type of information.
20 Of course, there's the Twitter feed, too. Dave
21 still has his phone. I'm glad to
22 see he's not Tweeting as I'm talking.

23 We look forward to your comments today
24 and answering your questions as much as
25 possible. Thank you again for your time.

1 I would like to introduce Mr. John Goss who
2 is the Asian Carp director.

3 BY MR. GOSS:

4 My apologies for arriving late. I
5 thought I was close to the meeting. It turned
6 out I was in another zip code. I was at the
7 wrong place. Usually I go first, then these
8 guys have to react to what I say. I certainly
9 appreciate each of you taking the time to come
10 to this meeting to learn more about this really
11 important project for the whole nation.

12 What has become a very intense issue
13 in the Great Lakes states is increasingly of
14 significant interest to the entire Mississippi
15 drainage area. In fact, I had a call late
16 yesterday from the Louisiana fisheries guys. I
17 know that the concerns about Asian carp are
18 very significant in the lower end of the
19 Mississippi. I also talked to another group
20 recently up on the upper Mississippi Basin
21 area, and I think the coalition of effort is
22 going to be expanding. We have a crazy species
23 of fish that has now sort of become
24 coffee-shop-level conversation across many
25 areas in our country. Because of their unique

1 behavior and the YouTube videos have gotten
2 all ages of people and much beyond what we
3 would normally be paying attention to with an
4 invasive species. We have had many invasive
5 species introduced into the Great Lakes over
6 the course of the last 100 something years from
7 shipping. We have had many of those species
8 move into our river systems. Not all of them
9 made it all the way down to the lower
10 Mississippi, but many have.

11 What we have is a very unique
12 opportunity with this study to come up with a
13 permanent solution, permanent block. We don't
14 know yet what that's likely to be. That's what
15 the project is about. It's going to take some
16 time to come up with what will hopefully be a
17 permanent block in the Chicago water system,
18 which is the main way that most of these
19 species have been transferring from the Great
20 Lakes to the rivers historically. We have had
21 over 180 species introduced into the Great
22 Lakes, all of which have not moved to the
23 rivers, but dozens have. The recent history on
24 those, I'm sure anybody that's following the
25 spread of the mussels, sea lamprey, quagga,

1 what has changed very rapidly in the Great
2 Lakes -- particularly with the mussels -- is
3 that the nutrient level in the lakes has
4 dropped dramatically in the last ten years.
5 With quagga, if they hit a particular part of
6 the Lake, it goes down much more rapidly.
7 So what we have is a seriously depleted food
8 supply already in the Great Lakes. That's why
9 there's some hysteria. There's some almost
10 panicked looks from people, particularly in the
11 Lake Erie community. If you talk to the folks
12 who live on western Lake Erie where we have had
13 public meetings and have talked with their
14 representatives and their Congressional
15 representatives, they are very, very concerned
16 that the Asian carp are going to love Lake Erie
17 and thrive in Lake Erie if they ever got there.
18 It's a shallow lake, pretty high nutrient level
19 right now, and probably the best for fishing in
20 the Great Lakes right now.

21 We are responding to what the public
22 is saying, what the public is talking to their
23 members of Congress about, what the members of
24 Congress in the Great Lakes are pretty unified
25 on. That this has to happen. This project has

1 to succeed. As we have had these public
2 meetings around in the last four or five weeks,
3 the additional factor of a sense of urgency is
4 the other thing that I get from every meeting;
5 that there are many, many people who want us to
6 move this as rapidly as possible. We know, and
7 many of you folks who work with the Corps of
8 Engineers, that we have to be very deliberate.
9 We have to do a comprehensive analysis. It has
10 to be done by the procedures that are
11 established for the Corps of Engineers by the
12 National Environmental Policy Act, and with the
13 involvement with all of the affected parties.

14 And that is a process. That process
15 is going to take some time. There are other
16 things that hopefully are going to make people
17 feel better. I want to talk about some of
18 those.

19 About a year ago, the Obama
20 administration put together what's called the
21 Strategic Framework for Asian Carp Strategy.
22 That connected the efforts of the Federal
23 agencies that are involved, and with
24 significant funding from the EPA, the Great
25 Lakes restoration fund, added to the Corps of

1 Engineers commitment that we have for many
2 years to try to come up with an effective block
3 in the Chicago waterways. Also with the
4 Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife
5 Service, USGS, Coast Guard, they put together a
6 coordinated plan of action, and this is to keep
7 the carp in check while we continue to work on
8 the long-term solution. The funded projects
9 now in that strategy -- which we revised in
10 December -- are up to 45 different Federal
11 actions. Over \$30 million in the Great Lakes
12 restoration funds and another nearly \$20
13 million from the other Federal agencies. We're
14 talking about for 2011 \$50 million focused on
15 this. It's not just money. We have some fish
16 biologists, some of the best scientists from
17 around the Midwest coming up with strategies
18 that are going to help us deal with carp; and
19 hopefully that's going to transfer to a lot of
20 other species.

21 We have formed the Regional
22 Coordinating Committee. I was hired last fall
23 to be the coordinator for all of these efforts.
24 It's connecting the Federal team and now we
25 have expanded that to include the State

1 Departments of Natural Resources and relevant
2 local community people. Each of the states now
3 have representatives on the coordinated effort.
4 That is improving. I think it betters our
5 chances of coming up with a solution that all
6 the states are going to buy into. The reason I
7 mention that is, if you're not familiar with
8 it, there's a lawsuit pending filed by five
9 Great Lakes states to order the Corps of
10 Engineers to close the locks, to close the lock
11 systems in the Chicago waterway until we come
12 up with a permanent solution for this transfer
13 of invasive species. That is still pending in
14 Federal court. It hasn't even moved into the
15 real meat of the arguments yet. They have
16 looked at preliminary injunctions. They have
17 looked at other things. Federal Court so far
18 has not found it would be necessary to close
19 the locks. That continues to hang over us.
20 That is a significant effort by the Attorney
21 Generals of five of the states that I'm talking
22 about there to try to force an immediate action
23 to try and stop the transfer of invasive
24 species.

25 This diagram shows a group that we're

1 working on forming, bringing in all the
2 stakeholders, including business people,
3 including environmental and conservation
4 interests, and making sure that we are talking
5 about all the technologies that are being
6 considered in the study with all of the
7 stakeholder groups. I'm very committed to
8 continuing this kind of effort.

9 Just a quick background if you don't
10 happen to know. The map on the left shows the
11 original Chicago River, that Chicago River that
12 flows out basically at Navy Pier in downtown
13 Chicago. And that was changed over 100 years
14 ago when the City of Chicago was having
15 tremendous problems with their waste that was
16 going into the Chicago River, flowing down into
17 Lake Michigan, and contaminating the City's
18 drinking water supply. Significant disease
19 problems and major, major problems. So one of
20 the engineering feats of Midwest history -- and
21 maybe of the nation -- I think was to set up a
22 new combined storm water/wastewater system
23 where all of that could flow to the
24 Mississippi, keeping it out of the Great Lakes.
25 That's why we have this unique situation. This

1 was manmade 100 years ago. It's now
2 functioning as the drain for Chicago for over 6
3 million people and most of the Chicago business
4 and industry on that side of Lake Michigan.

5 That further complicates the
6 discussion. We have the invasive species side
7 to figure out what's going to be an effective
8 block. We have the wastewater and stormwater
9 volumes that need to be dealt with; and if the
10 decision was made to put all that into Lake
11 Michigan, Chicago and that region would be
12 faced with a completely new plumbing system.
13 They would have to completely redo their system
14 and to increase their level of treatment to
15 meet the water quality standards for the Great
16 Lakes.

17 Electric barriers. I'm a retired
18 public employee in Indiana. I was on the
19 Indiana DNR Commission for 12 years, then DNR
20 director for four years. When we first started
21 talking about the idea of an electric barrier,
22 we were hoping it was going to block all kinds
23 of invasive species. This is back 15 plus
24 years ago. The technology is working. The
25 technology is working as a fish block. So the

1 good news is we have an electric barrier that
2 was originally -- the demonstration barrier it
3 was named. I think that was probably wise
4 because they weren't sure if it was going to be
5 100 percent effective. The demonstration
6 barrier has been up for ten years, in what's
7 called 2A and 2B in that section of the ship
8 canal are now -- both of those are operating.
9 The second fully-powered one is in safety
10 testing right now. It's going to be totally
11 operational very shortly. We do not have Asian
12 carp swimming up from the Illinois River up
13 through these barriers. That's buying time for
14 us to continue to work on this project.

15 In addition to that there are some
16 places in the area where the star is that Dave
17 and the others mentioned earlier. That's the
18 electric barrier zone. Above that the Des
19 Plaines River runs literally a stone's throw
20 for about 15 miles parallel to the ship canal.
21 The canals were built right in the valley with
22 the river. And there have been several times
23 the flood waters from the Des Plaines have
24 spilled over into the ship canal in the last
25 dozen or so years. There's some new action --

1 which Mike mentioned -- the fence in Fort Wayne
2 which would block that flood plain; and also
3 there's a fence -- I don't have a picture --
4 that's 13 miles long that's going to make sure
5 in this late winter and spring flood period
6 that we typically have in the Chicago area,
7 that we're not going to have any of those
8 aggressive swimming carp bypass the electric
9 barrier, coming through flood water into the
10 ship canal, and out into Lake Michigan.

11 Again, that's another short-term accomplishment
12 the Corp has put together this past year. They
13 brought it in under budget and far ahead of the
14 estimated schedule. I want to thank them for
15 that.

16 Mike has explained the work on the
17 other pathways. I think that's further
18 assurance that we are looking at all the
19 possible ways that carp and other species might
20 be getting from one basin to the other. And
21 there's a lot of activity continuing -- this is
22 especially focused in that zone between the
23 electric barriers and Lake Michigan -- to be
24 continuously monitoring, to be vigilant in
25 looking at what the fish population is really

1 like there. We have commercial fishermen out
2 there pulling out lots of fish, checking to see
3 if we have any Asian carp. We have some of the
4 smartest fisheries biologists in the Great
5 Lakes involved from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
6 and from the Illinois Department of Natural
7 Resources and from the Corps of Engineers that
8 have been working on this area for many years.
9 They are out there doing electric shocking,
10 netting, and fish identification. This fall --
11 in just October through mid-December -- they
12 pulled up 10,000 fish in that area. There were
13 no electric (sic) carp taken in the netting --
14 the electric shocking and netting operations or
15 commercial fisherman operations. I think we
16 have continuing indications from the fish
17 biologists that we do not have an established
18 carp population above the barrier that is
19 likely to move on out into Lake Michigan.

20 There are a number of parts of this
21 coordinated strategy that are in the research
22 and development side. Certainly we are looking
23 for some new weapons that could be directed at
24 reducing the carp population. Some of those
25 would be biological, possibly reproductive

1 interference, possibly something like the
2 lamprecides that have been developed for sea
3 lampreys that are lethal to sea lampreys that
4 are not lethal to other species as well.
5 Hopefully, there's a carp version of that that
6 can be identified. Looking also at different
7 ways to reduce the carp population.

8 I know we have some folks here today
9 that are working on part of the strategy that
10 would hopefully get the market involved in
11 bringing down the numbers. I know Chef Parola
12 and other folks are probably going to talk
13 about that. Bringing down the numbers of Asian
14 carp is also a significant part of the
15 strategy. We have got to reduce the pressure
16 on the electric barrier, and we've got to
17 reduce the pressure on any other areas where
18 they may be swimming up our rivers with a
19 strategy to create a market. Hopefully,
20 there's going to be multiple uses for Asian
21 carp; and we have about \$3 million this coming
22 year going into efforts in the State of
23 Illinois to bolster the commercial fishing
24 industry, to put two or more processing plants
25 into full operation, and to see if we can't

1 create a way that we can create some jobs and
2 some economic benefit from actually taking this
3 population down.

4 There's no doubt that we have to
5 reduce the carp population. They have already
6 crowded out catfish and other fish in my home
7 state in Indiana in the last five to seven
8 years. They are now the dominant fish in many
9 areas of our biggest waters, into the Wabash
10 and White River. They are moving up to my
11 favorite small mouth bass streams. We have to
12 find some solution to drastically reduce the
13 Asian carp population. They are growing too
14 rapidly. They are moving too quickly. The
15 ecosystem is already way out of balance in the
16 Mississippi River, and we are determined to
17 come up with a strategy that's going to take
18 that population way down.

19 So just in conclusion, I want to say
20 that the Obama administration has done an
21 unprecedented and aggressive effort to stop an
22 invasive species before it becomes established
23 in the new areas in the Great Lakes. In the
24 past, we have had to try to figure out ways to
25 chase them after they're established. We have

1 a unique opportunity to keep them out of the
2 Great Lakes, and I do believe we're going to
3 succeed. This permanent solution project that
4 the Corps has undertaken is really monumental.
5 It will change the ballgame in invasive species
6 and will make a huge difference for the whole
7 country, and a lot is riding on it.

8 We appreciate each of you and each of
9 your points of interest. We're anxious to hear
10 your comments about where the study is going
11 and what the emphasis should be for the
12 efforts. I'm glad that I can say with
13 confidence that we're holding the carp at bay
14 at this point, and we have time to work
15 together to come up with a solution. Thank you
16 very much.

17 I forgot to mention asiancarp.org is
18 our collection of information from all of the
19 40-plus Federal and State projects. So if you
20 would like to track down one piece of anything
21 I mentioned or anything else that comes up
22 today, asiancarp.org is the place to look, in
23 addition to everything these guys are putting
24 up on the GLMRIS study. Thanks a lot.

25 BY MR. BLUHM:

1 All right. Very good. Thank you,
2 John. That concludes part one of this
3 afternoon's meeting. Before we begin the
4 second portion, I want to make sure I am
5 correct. I was using the timer on the podium
6 here and realized the time is ten minutes off
7 from the actual time. I had originally
8 announced the meeting started at 2:20. The
9 corrected time would have been 2:10. I wanted
10 to make sure we got that corrected. And the
11 time right now is 3:09 as we start our second
12 portion of the meeting.

13 Before we begin, I would like to note
14 the study website is a good source of
15 information. Any persons can subscribe to the
16 study's email list through the project website
17 itself. The Corp will use the GLMRIS email
18 list to distribute updates on such things as
19 documents which have been added to the website,
20 opportunities for additional public
21 involvement, and other important news and
22 events. The GLMRIS website can be found on the
23 little business card, the brochure, as well as
24 any of the social media tools that the Colonel
25 mentioned earlier.

1 Now, moving into the oral comment
2 period. Those who indicated when they
3 registered they would like to make a brief
4 formal statement or ask questions will have an
5 opportunity to do so. If a person wants to ask
6 a question in addition to making a statement,
7 we ask that you manage your time to allow for
8 your comment or question and the Corp's
9 response. The panelists will answer any
10 questions that are indeed answerable. I want
11 to note that all forms of communication
12 received during this scoping period are
13 weighted equally. Whether you give us an oral
14 presentation, write in comments on our comment
15 form, or mail it in, or use the email methods
16 through our website, those are all equally
17 weighted for discussion purposes.

18 Also on the far side, we have a
19 stenographer here with us. She will be
20 recording your comments and questions. With
21 that in mind, we want to make sure everyone can
22 be heard. We have got a microphone positioned
23 on the far side. I would ask that as you get
24 up to make your comment, you go to the
25 microphone, make sure you're close so your

1 voice is amplified. Please start with your
2 name, affiliation or agency, if you're
3 representing any, and give us a zip code for
4 statistical purposes. Then we encourage you to
5 speak slowly and give us all the comments that
6 you have. We appreciate that. We will start
7 with the people that had preregistered on our
8 project website, then move to ones that
9 registered today. We are looking at a total of
10 five persons. We should have ample time to
11 hear from everyone that preregistered. Once
12 we're through with everyone that had indicated
13 that they would like to talk, we would open the
14 floor to anybody that would like to now make a
15 statement or question. Starting here, the
16 first person is Mr. Parola, followed by
17 Mr. Murphy.

18 BY MR. PAROLA:

19 I really don't like to be number one.
20 I really would like to be the last one. I want
21 to welcome you gentlemen in our great state.
22 This is my home state. I would start to kind
23 of elaborate with a story on how I got involved
24 with this project. It came out of nowhere. I
25 was actually going fishing two years ago in the

1 Atchafalya Basin. And as I was literally
2 boating and looking for fish for the Food
3 Network, an alligator gar with two giant silver
4 carp jumped into my boat and landed at my feet.
5 As my dear friend said, they sure jump in the
6 wrong boat. I want to tell you why. I took
7 this fish, cut out their eyes; and I went to
8 the kitchen. I'm a chef. What we do is break
9 down raw ingredients and make it very tasty for
10 the public. That's what we do. Don't
11 underestimate the power of cooking. It's very
12 important. I want to go back to my little
13 story. I took this fish to the restaurant,
14 literally filleted the fish, and cooked it. To
15 my professional knowledge, it was incredible.
16 The meat, the texture; and it was just
17 incredible.

18 This is one of the better fish that I
19 have ever tasted. Since then, I have talked to
20 multiple chefs, and they all agree the taste of
21 the fish is incredible. The problem is why
22 this fish is classified a trash fish.
23 Gentlemen, please don't attempt to poison this
24 fish. It's too good. I wanted to bring that
25 up. Let me say this: The problem for each one

1 of the chefs were the bones. We are -- let's
2 face it, gentlemen and ladies -- we are the
3 only country that will eat fish without bones.
4 Other places in the world -- my own country
5 France -- we like fish with bones. Knowing
6 that fact, what we want is to remove the bones
7 of this fish. That's a number one key to be
8 able to market this fish.

9 Now, talking about business and making
10 an impact -- and let me kind of elaborate a bit
11 more on how a recipe can make an impact. Let's
12 look at history. Chef Paul Prudhomme -- very
13 well known -- went on with one recipe almost
14 bringing to extinction the redbfish. The
15 blackened redbfish. Did any of you know the
16 blackened redbfish? Let's not forget that one
17 recipe took that fish almost to extinction.
18 Now, that can be done with the Asian Carp. I'm
19 going to tell you how. The number one thing is
20 give enough incentive to a fisherman. They are
21 the one who's going to go and get the fish.
22 Not me. Not my guys over here. Probably none
23 of these people. I have traveled in Illinois
24 quite a few times. I went to -- I traveled
25 through the waterways here in Louisiana. Yes,

1 this is a national epidemic.

2 Why I'm here today? I love fishing.

3 Fishing is a big part of my life. I take this
4 by heart. I'm telling you, this is a project I
5 have personally took under my wings and spend
6 my time and effort to come up with a solution
7 that makes sense. To be able to subside the
8 cost, all the costs, and give the fisherman
9 enough money that they can invest into boats,
10 nets, gasoline, etc., you must pay them good
11 money. I will tell you guys there's no \$.18 a
12 pound. What we need to do is to create a value
13 added product out of these fish, boneless, and
14 put it into the retail market and institutional
15 market.

16 My friends, I'm holding here the
17 National Culinary Review of last month. It's
18 being stated on that magazine the need of the
19 new fish, domestic, wild caught -- that's
20 important -- fish for consumers. And silver
21 fin, which is Asian carp, has been mentioned on
22 that magazine as the potential number one next
23 seafood. That's important. Now, I want to
24 explain you guys, I have done a lot of
25 homework. I found so many incredible stories.

1 One of them, there is a Vietnamese catfish farm
2 that export to the United States 80 million
3 pound of fish fillet to the United States. Per
4 year. That's just Vietnam. We are not
5 talking about China, Africa, and other
6 countries that has 14 or 15 percent of them.
7 85 percent of the fish consumption in the
8 United States is imported. Now, what we're
9 doing here? According to our biologists in
10 Louisiana, we could literally take 8 million to
11 12 million pound of fish out of the waterway
12 here in Louisiana and process it properly to
13 put into the market. 8 million to 12 million
14 pound. Well, if you look at Louisiana State
15 all the way to Ohio where they have the problem
16 and putting all the states following up and
17 down the Mississippi Valleys, there's a lot of
18 fish out there that we could process properly
19 and put into the market as, again, value added
20 product. Let me make it clear. Value added
21 product is literally a product that has got a
22 lot of value.

23 With a lot of value, you can subsidize
24 all the costs; and the number one cost is of
25 the fisherman again. I want to emphasize.

1 That is extremely important. These guys are
2 the ones. They are a dying breed in the fresh
3 water fisheries. To revamp the fresh water
4 fisheries, they must establish a new market.
5 These fish are swimming laughing at us. Not
6 for long because the skillet is ready, I
7 guarantee. What we want to do is to get a new
8 generation of fishermen on board with us that
9 will understand that actually if they get \$.25
10 a pound, making 600 to \$800 a day on the
11 18-foot aluminium boat, they can pay the note
12 of the boat and buy the net, feed their kids,
13 and put their kids education. Mr. Goss, you
14 stated earlier employment. I love President
15 Obama. I think he's an incredible individual,
16 and he's doing an incredible job. His speech
17 of the Union was so clear. Innovation,
18 creativity. Let's put America to work. I have
19 designed in a year and a half time and
20 assembled with American food technologies a
21 process that will literally be able to cook and
22 get ready value added product, 80,000 pound of
23 raw fish per day, in one shift. If we can do
24 it in three shifts, that's a lot of fish that
25 could come up through the door. If we put five

1 plant from Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana
2 in place along the Mississippi Valley, you do
3 the math. I guarantee in three to four years,
4 not only will that create jobs, not only will
5 we be able to control the Asian carp
6 population, we will create jobs, revamp and
7 boost the whole economy, which is a must today.
8 It really is. And you know whose going to win?
9 The consumers because they're going to have a
10 great fish to eat.

11 I'm going to conclude with a little
12 story that happened in Illinois when I met a
13 Chinese importer. And he wanted my help on
14 trying to contract some fishermen to export the
15 fish to China. Gentleman, number one, she
16 wanted only the bighead carp. They don't want
17 silver carp. That don't solve our problem.
18 That's the number one thing. Number two, she
19 went on -- I say she because her name is Amy --
20 to explain to me why they wanted our fish.
21 Ironically, the 5 percent population in China
22 with all the rich and educated people, do not
23 want to eat their own fish because it is
24 unsafe. They want our fish because it's clean,
25 neat, and wonderful. I'm like, hold on a

1 minute. We're going to give you our fish, ship
2 at our cost for you to eat better, and you're
3 going to send us your fish that we can eat?
4 Come on, guys. This is all common sense.
5 Let's keep this fish for ourselves. This is
6 literally a oil well sitting in our fresh
7 river that is ready to be extracted, refined,
8 and sold to our own customer. I guarantee if
9 America is not big enough to eat all of these
10 fish, the Yee is ready for the market. The
11 Japanese are starving for fish. Yesterday on
12 Good Morning America, a heart doctor was
13 talking about saying we must eat fish twice a
14 week. There is a huge potential market for
15 this fish, gentlemen.

16 Please don't forget the power of
17 cooking. Thank you.

18 BY MR. BLUHM:

19 Mr. Murphy is next. Following
20 Mr. Murphy will be Mr. Wright. Chef, could you
21 give your first name?

22 BY MR. PAROLA:

23 Philippe, P-h-i-l-i-p-p-e. Please go
24 to my website. Chefphilippe.com. We've got
25 some great recipes for you guys. Zip code

1 70810.

2 BY MR. MURPHY:

3 I wish Chef Philippe had gone last
4 because I can't possibly follow that. I will
5 check out your website. I enjoyed your
6 comments. My name is Spencer Murphy. My
7 business zip code is 70118. That's my home zip
8 code. My business zip code is 70112. As I
9 said, my name is Spencer Murphy. I am the
10 vice-president for risk management for Canal
11 Barge Company. I want to thank you-all for
12 hosting a meeting in New Orleans because this
13 study does have impacts that go up and down the
14 entire interwaterway system. Just to
15 illustrate that point, the Corps' recent
16 Interim III study noted that over 30 percent of
17 the cargo that transits the O'Brien lock in
18 Chicago originates in South Louisiana. We are
19 the number one by far point of origin for cargo
20 that moves through the O'Brien lock. Little
21 bit of background on Canal Barge Company. We
22 are a family-owned marine transportation
23 company in business for 78 years. We have over
24 500 employees. We operate over 30 boats and
25 almost 800 barges throughout the entire inland

1 waterway system. In any given year, Canal
2 Barge Company carries over \$500 million worth
3 of products into the State of Illinois on the
4 Illinois River and the Chicago area waterway
5 system.

6 We have a very large presence in
7 Illinois. Including a liquid storage terminal
8 in Channahon and, more relevant to our
9 discussion, a subsidiary company called
10 Illinois Marine Towing. Illinois Marine Towing
11 is probably the single biggest user of the
12 O'Brien lock. On any given day, IMT is
13 transiting that lock and carrying petcoke and
14 other critical cargo into the south Chicago
15 area. IMT has over 100 employees, ten boats,
16 and over 70 barges. So everybody is clear, all
17 those jobs and all that equipment is only there
18 because of the important commercial link
19 provided by the canal in Chicago.

20 Turning to our study, a couple of
21 general points I would note that we are a
22 member of the American Waterways Operators, the
23 trade group for the tug and barge operators.
24 We have several other members here today. You
25 will probably hear a lot of the same points a

1 few times. I apologize for the repetition. I
2 do believe they are worth repeating because
3 they are important.

4 First, some general comments. I would
5 say we are very pleased to see that the study
6 is focused on nuisance species moving in
7 between the lakes and river basin through the
8 canal and other aquatic pathways. And not just
9 on the canal. And further that the study is
10 not focused on simply the Asian carp but on
11 other invasive species including bacteria,
12 viruses, algae, plants, vertebrates, and
13 parasites. Not just one fish. We would
14 suggest that the focus, as between the two
15 focus groups, the vast majority of your time
16 should be spent on Focus Area 2, which is the
17 non-canal area. I say that because, as we have
18 heard from Director Goss in the earlier
19 presentation, the canal itself and the Chicago
20 Area Waterway System is, as we call it, the
21 Fort Knox of potential pathways for invasive
22 species at this point. We do have effective
23 barriers in place. Not just the electric
24 barrier, but there's also targeted fishing,
25 flood barriers that we just saw the pictures

1 of, and all the other actions that are taking
2 place through the carp framework. The bottom
3 line is that these actions have been effective,
4 and the barriers are working. We believe that
5 concentrating on Area 2 will have the largest
6 impact on stopping the movement of all invasive
7 species between the two basins.

8 As I said, AWO and the towing industry
9 in general has worked in partnership with the
10 Corps and other Federal agencies since 2004 --
11 before that even -- to insure both aquatic
12 nuisance species do not migrate past the
13 barriers and that waterborne commerce keeps
14 moving. We ask the Corps to look for solutions
15 that protect its dual missions both to maintain
16 navigation while protecting the environment.
17 To that end, we believe physical separation is
18 not a viable option for the economy or for the
19 nation. As the NEPA process continues, we ask
20 that the Corps focus intently on the economic
21 benefits of navigation through the Chicago area
22 waterway system and, even more importantly, on
23 the negative consequences that will flow from
24 disrupting that navigational link. I'm talking
25 about increases in air pollution, increases in

1 traffic, increases in traffic fatalities,
2 increases in road maintenance, and congestion.
3 As we take these barges out of operation on
4 these waterways, all the millions of tons of
5 cargo will have to be carried by some other
6 means. That means rail, that means trucks.
7 We are by far the most fuel efficient form of
8 transportation and environmental friendly form
9 of transportation. We consume the least amount
10 of gas and produce the least amount of CO2
11 emissions. We are going to move away from the
12 most environmentally friendly form of
13 transportation into the two more
14 environmentally harmful forms of
15 transportation. We need to capture the effects
16 of what it means to the people of Chicago to be
17 stuck behind several thousand railcars or
18 trucks on top of what they currently have in
19 their system.

20 Further, I would ask as you look at
21 the costs, the costs need to be looked at not
22 just in terms of what it will cost in a dollar
23 figure but what the budgetary environment is
24 for spending that sort money. I know one of
25 the possible solutions that has been proposed

1 is some sort of boat lift that would carry
2 barges and boats from one of side of the canal
3 to the other. I don't know what that would
4 cost. I'm sure it starts with a B and goes up
5 from there. We're in a position right now
6 where the Corps cannot even dredge the
7 Mississippi River to its authorized depth and
8 width due to budgetary constraints. That we
9 can't afford to dredge the river, which is our
10 biggest economic engine for export, but we can
11 find a couple of billion dollars to create a
12 boat lift I think is not feasible. This is a
13 feasibility study.

14 Another note on additional studies,
15 the Great Lakes Commission 21st Century
16 Waterways Study. I know that's a separate
17 study. I want to make sure it stays separate
18 and is not incorporated into this work. I say
19 that because it's not really a feasibility
20 study. It's an advocacy piece. By its own
21 terms, it has two goals: To evaluate the
22 economic, technical, and ecologic feasibility
23 and then to define, assess, and vet the
24 scenarios for separation. It's not a study
25 about whether we should have physical

1 separation. It's a study about we want this to
2 happen and how do we make it happen. I don't
3 think that belongs in this sort of study where
4 we're trying to objectively weigh the pros and
5 cons of whether that's even a good idea.

6 We ask the Corps to continue to engage
7 our industry on a regular basis as we are the
8 majority users of this Chicago area waterway.
9 An open and transparent process is essential if
10 we're going to have an extensive, thoughtful,
11 and complete study that has credibility among
12 all the stakeholders. We ask that we be
13 involved in developing the study's goals. We
14 ask that we be part of the NGO discussions. We
15 ask that we have an opportunity to interface
16 with the Executive Steering Group throughout
17 the process. I would also say that we
18 appreciate the Corps' description of risk
19 reduction as that's the most logical,
20 practical, and realistic way to evaluate
21 possible actions. I know that's a similar take
22 that the Corps has on hurricane protection.
23 It's no longer hurricane protection, but it's
24 now hurricane risk reduction for that very
25 reason. There's always an element of risk

1 involved, whether it's hurricane or invasive
2 species. There is no way to gain 100 percent
3 protection against these sort of things.

4 I note some of the things that are
5 excluded from the study and are concerning to
6 us is that it does not cover Canada. It does
7 not cover the Great Lakes interface with the
8 St. Lawrence Seaway. It does not cover human
9 transfer of fish or eggs or even bird transfer
10 of fish between these two water systems. Those
11 obviously are very real ways in which invasive
12 species are transmitted. All the examples --
13 sea lamprey and mussels -- to my knowledge,
14 none of those came up through the rivers.
15 Those were all brought in via the St. Lawrence
16 Seaway. I find it very confusing and
17 frustrating that the States of Michigan and
18 Ohio and New York who are soon to close these
19 two critical but relatively small navigational
20 links are very silent on the issue of what to
21 do about closing the St. Lawrence Seaway which
22 is by far the greatest threat for invasive
23 species. To be clear, we don't want to close
24 the St. Lawrence Seaway either.

25 In conclusion, I would say, again, I

1 thank you for being here. I ask you to broaden
2 the scope even further than you currently have
3 in the sense that we are users of the Chicago
4 area waterway. We are Louisiana residents and
5 businesses. But what happens in Chicago
6 affects us. This system that we have, the
7 inland navigation system, inland waterway
8 system, is exactly that. It is a system. We
9 move goods from as far away as Texas into
10 Chicago. If you disrupt one end of the system,
11 it's going to have an effect all the way down.
12 We're seeing that now with the mouth of the
13 River when it's being silted over, restrictions
14 being put in by the pilots. That means ships
15 that come in and out that are loading grain,
16 during a record harvest year, cannot load to
17 their full draft. We are literally leaving
18 money on the table for the farmers and
19 businesses along the waterways because we can't
20 properly dredge the River. To close this canal
21 to come up with a solution to the carp issue
22 that somehow disrupts that navigational link
23 is, I would say, a solution not worth having.
24 Especially given as of right now we are talking
25 about separating one carp-free water body with

1 another carp-free water body. I know there are
2 lots of potential negative impacts that are
3 speculated as to what might happen if carp got
4 into the Lakes. But how do you measure the
5 potential negative impact of what might happen
6 versus the certain negative effects what will
7 happen if you close these locks. How you weigh
8 that in your study, I would like to hear some
9 more about that either today or in some
10 follow-up discussions. I think that's a
11 critical point that gets overlooked.

12 Finally, the -- excuse me -- I think I've
13 said all I have. I yield my time to the rest
14 of the Senators and Congressmen here. Thanks
15 for coming. I appreciate your interest and
16 your attention. Thank you.

17 BY MR. BLUHM:

18 Next we'll hear from Mr. Wright.
19 Following will be Ms. Bay.

20 BY MR. WRIGHT:

21 Good afternoon. My name is Mark
22 Wright. My office is in zip code 70471. I am
23 the southern regional vice-president for the
24 American Waterways Operators. We're the
25 national association for the tow boat, tugboat,

1 barge industry. My colleague Lynn Muench
2 delivered comments in St. Louis. I'm not going
3 to continue that. I want to highlight a few
4 quick points that we as an association want to
5 be sure is understood.

6 I think by Spencer's comments and some
7 other members who are here, we would like to
8 make it clear this issue or the potential
9 solutions could impact people in New Orleans
10 for sure. First, thank you, Mr. Goss,
11 Lieutenant Colonel Berczek, and members of the
12 Corps for being here doing this with us, giving
13 us some time. We're happy to be able to
14 participate in preventing the spread of aquatic
15 invasive species.

16 I want to highlight first off we don't
17 see it as from one basin to another. We want
18 to take a look at both sides of the story. We
19 certainly encourage your attention and
20 increased resources to Focus Area 2. As
21 Mr. Goss mentioned, the electric barriers are
22 working. We are finding a solution there.
23 There's 18 other strong locations that we need
24 to take a look at. Certainly we encourage
25 that.

1 Focus Area 1, the CAWS gets a lot of
2 attention. Let's not forget about the other
3 side. There's no doubt we would encourage you
4 to take a look at the potential economic
5 problems, both from traffic congestion,
6 taxation, whatever the case may be -- traffic
7 fatalities -- the effect they would have on
8 this should we carry out a physical separation.
9 Our barges take a lot of things off the road.
10 We're an economically friendly mode of
11 transportation. If we remove that option, it
12 will have other effects beyond simply the
13 waterway. Again, as Spencer mentioned, we
14 certainly don't agree that the Great Lakes
15 Commission's 21st Century Waterways Study
16 should be included as part of this study. We
17 see it as an advocacy piece. Certainly some
18 parts should be considered. Like any other
19 stakeholder, we don't see it as being a part of
20 this study.

21 The towing industry definitely wants
22 to be part of any sort of non-Governmental
23 organization, stakeholder group. We encourage
24 the Corps to continue to work with us, as you
25 are today. We would certainly expect that in

1 the future, at each phase of the study. We do
2 think the Project Management Plan should have a
3 few more representatives from the Lower
4 Mississippi Valley, perhaps from the New
5 Orleans/St. Louis district. We have some
6 concerns about a term, the expected outcomes.
7 We definitely would like an opportunity to
8 review that. Then finally, the Executive
9 Steering Committee minutes. We would like to
10 have an opportunity to review and perhaps
11 participate or listen in as those move along.

12 Thank you very much.

13 BY MR. BLUHM:

14 Next we'll hear from Ms. Fay.

15 Following will be Mr. Rothstein.

16 BY MS. FAY:

17 Good afternoon. I'm Angie Fay. My
18 business zip code is 70123. I am the director
19 of quality assurance and corporate compliance
20 for Blessey Marine Services. We are a family-
21 owned business here in the New Orleans area.
22 We have been in business for 33 years. We own
23 and operate 57 towboats and 115 barges, and we
24 employ approximately 600 employees. We are
25 headquartered here in Harahan, Louisiana; and

1 we have an office in Houston, Texas. Our
2 towboats and barges safely move petroleum
3 product and pressurized cargo on our inland
4 waterway systems and on sections of the Great
5 Lakes.

6 Thank you for the opportunity --
7 excuse me -- to provide comments on the Great
8 Lakes Mississippi River Interbasin Study.
9 Thank you for adding New Orleans to the
10 locations. I apologize. New Orleans
11 allergies. First, we are pleased the Corps is
12 following the Congressional mandate to study
13 the range of options and technologies that are
14 available for the prevention and spread of
15 aquatic nuisance species between the Great
16 Lakes and the Mississippi River basin through
17 the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and other
18 aquatic pathways. It is imperative that the
19 study focus on the movement of all species
20 throughout the entire basin and not just Asian
21 carp moving from the Mississippi River to the
22 Great Lakes. Second, we encourage the Corps to
23 concentrate on Focus Area 2 which includes 36
24 identified pathways for species to move between
25 the two basins. Focus Area 1 already has a

1 long list of resources that are effectively
2 working to stop the movement of the Asian Carp.
3 At the end of the day, the electric barriers
4 are working.

5 The results of this study have
6 consequences that are very real. Here we are
7 in New Orleans -- some 1400 miles away from
8 Chicago -- able to voice our concerns regarding
9 the possible physical separation between the
10 Great Lakes and the Mississippi River basin.
11 This is a concept that will never be a viable
12 option, not for our industry and not for our
13 country. The towing industry has worked
14 closely with the Corps and other Federal
15 agencies since 2004 to insure that aquatic
16 nuisance species do not migrate past the
17 barriers and that waterborne commerce continues
18 to move smoothly.

19 We urge the Corps to look for
20 solutions that protect its mission which is to
21 maintain navigation while protecting the
22 environment. The only way for this study to be
23 extensive, thoughtful, and complete is for it
24 to be open and transparent. We as an industry
25 need to insure that navigation issues will be

1 taken into account. For that reason, we ask
2 that the Corps not incorporate the Great Lakes
3 Commission's 21st Century Waterways study into
4 the GLMRIS for theirs is not a study but truly
5 an advocacy project to promote the separation
6 of the basins. Number two, allow the towing
7 industry to be involved in the study's goals,
8 objectives, and alternatives as stated on Page
9 3 of the project management plan. Three, to
10 allow the towing industry to be part of all
11 non-governmental organization discussions and;
12 four, allow the towing industry to have the
13 opportunity to interface with the Executive
14 Steering Group throughout this process.

15 Like Spencer and Mark said, there will
16 be some repetition in our concerns. But these
17 are very real concerns for our industry and
18 need to be heard.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to
20 speak.

21 BY MR. BLUHM:

22 Next Mr. Rothstein.

23 BY MR. ROTHSTEIN:

24 Thank you, gentlemen and Mr. Goss.

25 You guys were rough on gefilte fish and matza

1 balls. That's a perfect fish for that type of
2 food. And gefilte fish is selling at about \$18
3 for a little pint. There's good money in that
4 if you want to bring it into the Jewish market
5 as well. I wouldn't mind barging some of it
6 along the waterways. We can put some reefers
7 in these barges and move it and take care of it
8 and even make it Kosher.

9 My name is Arnie Rothstein. I'm the
10 general manager of Gulf operations from Ingram
11 Barge Company. Ingram is the leading marine
12 transportation company and has operations
13 throughout most of the nation's navigational
14 waterways. We operate a fleet of over 130
15 towboats and over 4,000 barges. Ingram is an
16 active member of the America Waterways
17 Operators, and we support the comments that
18 have been submitted by AWO and also today by
19 Mark and Angie and Spencer. We're all on the
20 same page from what I gather.

21 The Chicago Area Waterway System is
22 not just an important thoroughfare for
23 water-based transportation around Chicago. It
24 is critical to the transport of goods along the
25 entire Mississippi River system and between

1 that system and the Great Lakes. We appreciate
2 the Corps' willingness to host this public
3 meeting and the other public meetings --
4 especially Vicksburg and New Orleans -- about
5 the issue here and other cities around the
6 country. I will defer again to the previous
7 comments by Mark Wright with AWO, and I would
8 like to make some more extensive comments and
9 highlight a few points.

10 Number one, we agree that the Corps
11 should study the range of options and
12 technologies available to prevent the spread of
13 aquatic nuisance species between the Great
14 Lakes and the Mississippi River basin through
15 the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and other
16 aquatic pathways. This is an important
17 Congressional mandate, and our industry stands
18 ready to support the Corps in this study
19 process. Number two, in addition, I understand
20 that the Corps has identified several focus
21 areas for its study process, and I've heard
22 those today here as well. Regarding Focus Area
23 1, it seems clear at this point that the
24 electrical barriers now in place in that focus
25 area are doing a good job dealing with the

1 Asian carp problem. We agree with AWO's
2 position again that the Corps should
3 concentrate on Focus Area 2 which concerns the
4 pathways outside the Chicago Area Waterway
5 System, including the dozens of others
6 identified earlier. Number three, we would
7 like to reiterate locks between the Great Lakes
8 and the Mississippi River system is not a
9 viable option for the economy of our nation.
10 Lock closures, even if not permanent, can have
11 a crippling effect on the economy. We believe
12 the Corps should look for solutions that
13 protect its mission to maintain navigation
14 while also protecting the environment.

15 Ingram transports millions of tons of
16 cargoes for customers with facilities located
17 above the locks near Chicago, including the
18 Thomas O'Brien lock and Lockport. In 2009
19 Ingram transported over 600,000 tons of cargo
20 outbound from or inbound to points above
21 O'Brien lock, including large volumes of iron,
22 coke, steel, scrap metal, and other cargoes.
23 The total dollar value of these cargo is
24 estimated at over \$80 million. Additionally,
25 in 2009 Ingram transported over 900,000 tons of

1 cargo with a total value of over \$100 million
2 outbound from or inbound to points above
3 Lockport lock. Many of the cargoes would have
4 passed through places like New Orleans.

5 The Chicago canal really is an
6 important thoroughfare for the nation. I can
7 also speak on that because I piloted on the
8 Illinois River system and running from New
9 Orleans to Chicago. I've also been fortunate
10 enough to be licensed to cross the Burns
11 Harbor. I served several years up there
12 working on a vessel that did such things. A
13 little story here. My battalion commander from
14 Vietnam -- I didn't know. I didn't hear
15 anything from him. One day back in the '80s
16 when the mussels were taking over the locks,
17 they were going to have to shut them down which
18 was going to disrupt the transportation. We
19 had 100,000 barrels of benzine above the locks
20 that needed to come south to the plants down
21 here. We got shut down. We didn't make it
22 back down and make the closure. So I looked in
23 my little book, and in the Corps of Engineers I
24 saw this Major General Scott B. Smith.
25 Colonel, you will get a kick out of this. So I

1 said, I know Major General Scott B. Smith. He
2 was a Colonel when I knew him. I called him
3 up. The lady said yes. I said, General Smith,
4 please. She said, who is calling. I said
5 Arnie Rothstein. Next thing I hear on the
6 phone, Arnie Rothstein, you SOB, where have you
7 been. We have been looking for you for a union
8 for years. I have been down here in New
9 Orleans. Sorry I missed you. I'll catch you
10 next year, which I did. He opened up the
11 locks, and we got our benzine through. Then
12 they shut down. Next thing you know my phone
13 was ringing off the hook. They were saying,
14 wow, how did you ever pull that off. I got a
15 relationship with the Corps that goes way back.

16 Also I want to mention, you are a
17 Henry Ford man. You quoted him. A little
18 story for us folks down south. Henry Ford used
19 to buy the Spanish moss off the trees, which is
20 a parasite, to stuff his Model T car seats
21 with. I have a friend who had a family, and
22 that's what they did. They boxed up in two by
23 two cypress boarded crates Spanish moss and
24 sent it to the Ford plant for years and years.
25 Finally one day they were asked -- they said

1 they're not using moss in the seats. What are
2 they doing? Henry had been throwing the moss
3 away for years. He was using the cypress for
4 the floor boards in his Model T car. Little
5 bit of history involved there as well.

6 Also I was wondering on St. Paddy's
7 Day when they fill the River with green up
8 there. You know carp love green. If you ever
9 go in the Japanese restaurants and they always
10 have the green waterways there. That's an
11 attraction for carp. They love green. Algae,
12 streptococcus, all that stuff. They love all
13 that stuff. Keep that in mind on St. Paddy's
14 Day.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to
16 speak. I appreciate it, gentlemen. And thank
17 you for coming.

18 BY MR. BLUHM:

19 Thank you. That concludes the five
20 persons that had indicated when they arrived
21 they would like to make a statement to us. At
22 this time I would like to ask anybody in the
23 audience that has not had a chance to approach
24 the microphone. If you would like to make a
25 comment, now would be the time to raise your

1 hand or make your way to the microphone. I
2 would like to get your name and information and
3 then ask any questions you would have, and the
4 panel will do their best in response.

5 BY MR. MASSIMI:

6 Michael Massimi. I'm the invasive
7 species coordinator for the Barataria
8 Terrebonne National Estuary program. One
9 question I had was a piece I heard on the news
10 about DNA being found beyond the barrier. Can
11 somebody explain what the story was with that
12 or the information that you have.

13 BY COLONEL BERCEK:

14 You said your name was Michael?

15 BY MR. MASSIMI:

16 Yes.

17 BY COLONEL BERCEK:

18 The environmental DNA has been one of
19 the tools that we were using as far as
20 monitoring the work to go ahead and identify
21 where the leading edge of the fish might be.
22 Because there hadn't been any real sighting or
23 any type of an effort or any success with the
24 commercial fishermen to identify where the
25 Asian carp were, we wanted to see if there was

1 something that was out there. Through some of
2 these advisory panels that have been providing
3 information and also bringing forth
4 technologies relative to the barrier and its
5 efficacy, some of the technologies were brought
6 up or some of the ideas were the use of
7 searching in the environment for portions of
8 DNA. Of course, you're familiar with the fact
9 we use the University of Notre Dame, Dr. David
10 Lodge and his facilities to go out and do that.
11 There have been a number of positive samples
12 for the DNA for both the silver carp and
13 bighead above the barrier. Each time we went and
14 responded to that. The monitoring response
15 group also has a component in the Illinois
16 Department of Natural Resources who has gone
17 out and applied the fishicide Rotenone to go
18 ahead and look for those a in couple of
19 different examples. In other examples, they
20 have done extensive fishing to the extent of
21 closing the waterways and using travel nets and
22 different type of gill netting techniques
23 trying to try to find out if there were any
24 Asian carp in the areas. So far, none of the
25 efforts have landed any Asian carp except for

1 one effort where there was a big head caught in
2 Lake Calumet.

3 What does that mean? That means that
4 somehow that DNA is there. Most -- I guess one
5 of the beliefs of that or most likely scenario
6 as expressed by Dr. Lodge is that that means
7 there's a live Asian carp there. What we have
8 done in each case is react to that as if that
9 were the case. The results were not
10 necessarily correlated, but we can't ignore
11 that. We have to use that as an indicator that
12 there is something there. There are further
13 studies going on with the eDNA through our
14 Engineering and Research and Development center
15 where we are working with USGS and Fish and
16 Wildlife to further calibrate that DNA.

17 What does that mean? Does that mean
18 there's one fish, that there's two fish, that
19 there are scales that were part of ballast, or
20 that there was something on a vessel that came
21 through? What exactly does that mean, and how
22 do we use that tool as an indicator to go ahead
23 and help further focus our efforts rather than
24 sending us on chases every time there's
25 something and just to kind of give us a little

1 bit of refined technique. It indicates that
2 fish are likely to be there perhaps.

3 Again, we haven't had the success with
4 the invisible capture methods. We are further
5 refining its use and trying to help us identify
6 the best course of action to take.

7 BY MR. GOSS:

8 Let me add just a little bit. The
9 stated purpose of the Asian carp strategic
10 framework is to prevent the establishment of a
11 breeding and sustainable Asian carp population
12 in the Great Lakes. That recognizes that there
13 are likely some individual fish there. In
14 fact, there have been large fully grown Asian
15 carp taken in Lake Erie in the past but none in
16 the last eight or ten years. So likely some
17 fish have gotten into Great Lakes waters
18 possibly by human introduction. I think we're
19 all familiar with how people do take fish from
20 one body of water to another. And also it's
21 possible that some of them moved up before the
22 barriers were fully functioning. The third
23 possibility -- which we closed off this
24 summer I think -- is the flood water coming
25 around and above the barrier from the Des

1 Plains River.

2 So our strategy is to close off all
3 those pathways, to monitor -- including with
4 DNA -- to keep an eye on the population. If
5 there's a small population there, are they
6 growing? Are they congregating in certain
7 areas? If so, we're going to do a response
8 action. We're looking at some other
9 techniques. I think in the course of the next
10 year, there will be other things discussed as
11 response mechanisms and certainly the fisheries
12 biologists are not easing up at all. They are
13 out there very vigilantly monitoring.

14 The numbers. This fall, October
15 through December, it was less than 3 percent of
16 the water samples had a trace of carp DNA. Out
17 of 1200, we had 17 positives. And they were
18 very dispersed. They were not concentrated.
19 If they would have been concentrated in an
20 area, we would be talking about follow-up
21 action. But when you get one here or one or
22 two in another location and if you don't get
23 them in repeat succession. They're going back
24 and resampling in those same areas every few
25 weeks. The protocol is going to be once again

1 this year, if we get any repeat positives in
2 the same area, then we're looking at a
3 response. That's what the Great Lakes
4 fisheries experts have recommended, and that's
5 the action that we're planning on using.

6 BY MR. BLUHM:

7 Thank you. Anybody else that has not
8 had a chance to approach the microphone?
9 If you would like to make a comment or
10 statement at this point, now would be a
11 time.

12 BY MR. MURPHY:

13 I've already spoken but can I make a
14 comment?

15 BY MR. GOSS:

16 Yeah. We're open for discussion. We
17 traveled pretty far to get here. If you have
18 things to discuss, have at it.

19 BY MR. BLUHM:

20 I wanted to make sure we got through
21 the people that haven't had a chance to
22 talk first.

23 BY MR. MURPHY:

24 Thank you for letting me have a second
25 bite of the apple. Spencer Murphy, Canal Barge

1 Company. 70112 is my zip code. I have three
2 questions that I either meant to talk about
3 earlier or were generated by what we have heard
4 today. First on the eDNA, Dr. Lodge was on the
5 stand for a day or two in the recent litigation
6 in Chicago and came under sharp questioning
7 about how effective eDNA is, whether it has
8 been peer reviewed, that line of questioning
9 which had existed prior to the suit. I just
10 would like to know whether you have followed
11 that, whether you are taking it into
12 consideration, the eDNA. I know I have been on
13 phone calls in the past where we have raised
14 questions about really how effective the
15 technology can be when it continues to give a
16 false positive or where there's a positive eDNA
17 but no fish. Question Number 2, the issue of
18 carp found in Lake Erie. How does that play
19 into your analysis to know that there is a carp
20 that has been found in a Great Lake in the past
21 that obviously has not had a devastating effect
22 on the fisheries there. I understand we may
23 not know exactly where that fish came from or
24 how it was placed there, but it was there
25 nonetheless. If we know that a fish can be in

1 the Great Lakes without causing a major
2 problem, what does that tell us about the
3 likelihood that the fish will have a
4 devastating impact when and if it does arrive
5 in the lakes. The third one is in the economic
6 analysis. A number that I've heard many times
7 is from the Michigan folks -- they're trying to
8 protect their 7 or \$8 billion Great Lakes
9 fishing industry. They describe that -- that
10 number gets used a lot. I've tried very hard
11 to locate the source of that information. I
12 think it came from a sport fishing trade group
13 publication in a footnote, but I'm not
14 positive. That's the only place I've found it
15 outside of a public pronouncement from somebody
16 from Michigan. I don't know if you have any
17 information on that or that's part of your
18 analysis on how big is the Great Lakes
19 recreational fishing industry and what would
20 the impact be.

21 Sorry for the multiple-part question.

22 BY MR. GOSS:

23 That's okay. We've got plenty of
24 players up here. If it's okay, I'm going to
25 take number two first. Risk assessment is the

1 term that's applicable to your second question.
2 What is the threat of a few fish in the Great
3 Lakes, what's the likelihood of Asian carp
4 becoming established in the Great Lakes, and
5 what would the projections be for the impacts.
6 There's a new study that the Canadians actually
7 initiated, and the Great Lakes Fisheries
8 Commission and state members of the Great Lakes
9 Fisheries Commission are all participating in
10 that will be complete by the end of the year to
11 do a new fresh look at what is the risk of
12 Asian carp establishment in the Great Lakes and
13 more specifically looking at each lake with
14 some different characteristics of each lake.
15 There's a huge difference between the
16 incredibly deep and very cold upper Lake
17 Superior and the south shore of Lake Erie
18 around Port Clinton. It's very different
19 water. They're going to get a little deeper
20 into what are the realities. If these fish
21 make it into the Lakes, where are they likely
22 to populate, what would the impact be. I think
23 once again the right people are on the job and
24 will be giving us a fresh evaluation on that
25 later this year.

1 I'll let you guys play with the other
2 two.

3 BY COLONEL BERCZEK:

4 I think the question back to the eDNA
5 we had talked about a little bit earlier is
6 still one of the efforts that's ongoing as part
7 of the Asian Carp strategic framework. It is
8 looking at that and calibrating the eDNA
9 sampling methodology. We have been able to
10 come up with similar or the same type of
11 results, processing the blanks and processing
12 the water samples in our labs at the Research
13 and Development Center. We are looking at that
14 process. It's still a valid tool to indicate
15 that something is there. But it does kind of
16 inform from the monitoring and kind of help
17 guide the efforts. Mr. Goss mentioned as well,
18 multiple hits, just like we have done in the
19 past, then prompts a response action. It's
20 still a valid monitoring tool because it's very
21 sensitive. We're working to further identify
22 and use the calibration.

23 What does that mean exactly? We are
24 still using that as an indicator.

25 BY MR. WETHINGTON:

1 I guess this kind of speaks to a
2 statement you made in your earlier presentation
3 on what's the -- in terms of looking at the
4 economics. Basically I want to make sure we
5 convey, GLMRIS will be looking at all the
6 environmental, economic, and social impacts of
7 implementing aquatic species controls, whether
8 it be the Chicago area waterway or in the
9 pathways. In reference to that 7 or \$8
10 billion, we have heard that number. It varies
11 widely wherever you go. As to where exactly it
12 came from, I can't be sure. I think that your
13 reference is fairly accurate. What we will be
14 doing is looking at commercial fisheries and
15 recreational fisheries and associated economies
16 with fishing in the Great Lakes and Mississippi
17 River basin and trying to do the best we can in
18 terms of putting an economic value to those
19 numbers. We may not exactly -- our update may
20 not exactly mimic that number, but we will be
21 updating the economic numbers associated with
22 that as part of the interbasin study.

23 BY MR. GOSS:

24 I was the tourism director for about
25 ten years in Indiana in one of my former roles.

1 And economic impact is one of the things that
2 we worked with a lot. I do believe that once
3 again the sport fishing people have hooked up
4 with the tourism industry. They have looked at
5 the impact of tourism spending around the Great
6 Lakes in those communities, and they have
7 included some numbers from the tourism impact,
8 which is probably two-thirds to three-quarters
9 of that \$7 billion number. That's how they got
10 it.

11 BY MR. BLUHM:

12 Very good. All right. Anybody else
13 in the room here that would like to take a
14 chance to come to the microphone, whether you
15 have been there once or not? This would be the
16 time to go back up. Not seeing any movement.
17 We have heard from seven people so far. We
18 have taken almost an hour of testimony. We
19 have even had a couple of laps. We appreciate
20 that. It makes our 11th set of these meetings
21 much, much easier. We took almost an hour
22 ourselves explaining things to you. We have
23 heard from you folks for the last hour. One
24 last opportunity if you would like to make any
25 additional comments, questions, or statements

1 before we are adjourned.

2 Seeing no movement, I would like to
3 thank you for your statements and comments.

4 Let me remind you, if you have got any prepared
5 statements or documentation you would like to
6 leave with us, you can turn them in to myself
7 or to anybody at the registration table. Also
8 keep in mind that any written statements you
9 would like to submit to us must be postmarked
10 by March 31st in order to be part of the NEPA
11 scoping process. The addresses can be found on
12 the little business cards as well as many of
13 the other pieces. If you want to submit any
14 additional thoughts you have, the white half
15 sheet of paper is designed to help you with
16 that. The website has ways to do it.

17 Before we go, I would like to mention
18 if you have materials that we have provided for
19 you that you are finished with and do not need
20 any longer, we will gladly recycle them. If
21 you need additional materials for others that
22 were not able to make it, we would be glad to
23 hand you as many additional packets as you may
24 need.

25 With that, the time is 4:10, and I

1 would like to adjourn this meeting. Thank you
2 for your time.

3

4

5

6

7

8 BY MR. BLUHM:

9 The evening session was cancelled due
10 to no public being in attendance. The time is
11 6:05 p.m. The meeting was called or cancelled.

12 (AT THIS TIME THE RECORD WAS CLOSED)

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1 REPORTER'S PAGE

2 I, Judy Polderman Gomez, Certified Court
3 Reporter, in and for the State of Louisiana,
4 the Officer, as defined in Rule 28 of the
5 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and/or Article
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7 Procedure, before whom this sworn testimony was
8 taken, do hereby state on the Record:

9 That due to the interaction in the
10 spontaneous discourse of this proceeding,
11 dashes (--) have been used to indicate pauses,
12 changes in thought, and/or talk overs; that
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15 that the dashes (--) do not indicate that words
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18 Also, any words and/or names which could
19 not be verified through reference material have
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4 Reporter, Certificate Number 87294, which is at
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7 after being first duly sworn to testify to the
8 truth, did testify as hereinabove set forth;

9 That the testimony was reported by me in
10 shorthand and transcribed under my personal
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12 correct transcript, to the best of my ability
13 and understanding;

14 That I am not of counsel, not related to
15 counsel or the parties hereto, and not in any
16 way interested in the outcome of this matter.

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