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In Re the Matter of: :
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GREAT LAKES AND MISSISSIPPI :
RIVER INTERBASIN STUDY. :
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PUBLIC MEETING

Gleacher Center
University of Chicago
Booth School of Business
450 North City Front Plaza Drive
Chicago, Illinois

January 9, 2014

4:00 p.m.

Reported by: Jean S. Busse, CSR, RPR
Notary Public, DuPage County, Illinois

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

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3 PANEL MEMBERS PRESENT:

4 BRIGADIER GENERAL MARGARET W. BURCHAM, Commander,
Great Lakes & Ohio River Division;

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6 COLONEL FREDERIC A. DRUMMOND, JR., Commander,
Chicago District;

7 MS. JO-ELLEN DARCY, Assistant Secretary of the
Army for Civil Works;

8

9 MR. JOHN GOSS, Council on Environmental Quality;

10 MR. DAVE WETHINGTON, GLMRIS CAWS Project Manager.

11 ALSO PRESENT:

12 MR. KEVIN BLUHM, Moderator.

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1 I N D E X

2 PAGE

3 OPENING REMARKS BY MR. BLUHM 4

4 REMARKS BY MS. DARCY 8

5 REMARKS BY MR. GOSS 13

6 REMARKS BY MR. WETHINGTON 19

7 PUBLIC COMMENT 42

8 CLOSING REMARKS BY MR. BLUHM 113

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

2 MR. BLUHM: I'd like to welcome
3 everybody to today's Great Lakes and Mississippi River
4 Interbasin Study or GLMRIS public meeting.

5 My name is Kevin Bluhm, and I'm from the
6 Army Corps of Engineers in St. Paul District and will
7 be this evening's moderator. We are pleased that you
8 have taken the time out of your busy schedule to be
9 with us today.

10 Before beginning, I'd like to make sure
11 that everybody knows where the basic logistical things
12 are. Bathrooms and water fountain are back towards
13 the elevators between the banks of elevators. If you
14 need to use those during the meeting, feel free to
15 quietly excuse yourself.

16 Such things as emergency, I want to make
17 sure we understand emergency exits are located on both
18 sides at the front of the room here, if that's
19 required. I just want to have our physical awareness
20 complete.

21 When you arrived, we had several handout
22 materials available at the check-in desk in multiple
23 colors for you. The green sheet is the agenda that
24 we'll be following and speaks to our schedule today.

1 The yellow sheet is the Comment Registration
2 Form; and if you'd like to ask any questions or make a
3 comment here at this meeting or if you want to submit
4 a written comment, this is the form that you should
5 use for that. Okay?

6 Then the blue sheet is our frequently asked
7 questions about the GLMRIS and other aquatic nuisance
8 species efforts by the Army Corps of Engineers.
9 Consider this as a guide to give you some of that
10 background information about what is happening as well
11 as the little summary tablet here, this booklet was
12 put together to show some of the summary information
13 for the GLMRIS Report.

14 If you've taken a chance to look at the full
15 report, it's substantially thicker than this. So this
16 is boiled down as a quick read versus the long
17 overnight study that you might get from reading the
18 entire report.

19 Now I'd like to introduce the panel.
20 Starting on the far side of the table from myself
21 we have General Margaret Burcham -- thank you,
22 Margaret -- and Honorable Ms. Darcy from the ASA
23 office, Assistant Secretary of the Army -- thank
24 you -- and from the Chicago District and our Project

1 Manager, Mr. Dave Wethington. Then closest to myself
2 is Mr. John Goss. You'll hear from most of these
3 people in just a few minutes.

4 For those of you wishing to speak at our
5 meeting tonight, we have a few notes. If you've
6 preregistered on the project Web site to give an oral
7 comment and have not checked in at the registration
8 desk out in the hallway, we'd ask that you do that
9 now.

10 Also, if you have not registered online but
11 would wish now today to speak and have not registered
12 with the front desk, please do that now as well. We
13 just want to make sure we've got a complete listing of
14 all those in the queue that want to be able to have
15 that opportunity to talk to the panel and leave
16 comments with us.

17 The Corps of Engineers is hosting seven
18 public meetings like this throughout the study area in
19 an effort to provide opportunities for those within
20 the study area to provide comments and to learn more
21 about the GLMRIS Study. This is the first meeting for
22 this in the series, and we are glad to have you with
23 us.

24 The GLMRIS Report in its entirety can be

1 downloaded from the GLMRIS Web site. That address is
2 located on several of the handouts,
3 <http://glmrис.anl.gov>, and you can download pieces or
4 the whole thing.

5 Our GLMRIS team has organized this public
6 meeting to accomplish two different goals. Our first
7 is to present the information contained in that GLMRIS
8 Report for you in a summary format.

9 Secondly and more importantly, though, we
10 want to solicit any public input on that information
11 that's presented in the report.

12 The Army Corps of Engineers will be
13 collecting the comments through March the 3rd. It's
14 important to know that if you want to have comments
15 entered into that official record, March the 3rd is
16 the deadline.

17 Comments then will be compiled and posted on
18 the GLMRIS Web site. For comments to be formally
19 included, they need to be given during an oral comment
20 period at one of our meetings or submitted as a
21 written form comment or submitted as a Web site
22 comment through the project Web site. Those are the
23 three options that you have up until March the 3rd.

24 If you do have any questions or concerns

1 during the presentation or the meeting itself, please
2 find somebody with a red lanyard on that's from the
3 Corps of Engineers staff, and we will try to help you
4 the best way we can.

5 As I mentioned previously, the public
6 comment period ends on March the 3rd of this year; and
7 as indicated on the green agenda, this public meeting
8 will begin with a few speakers, a presentation about
9 the GLMRIS Report in summary form, and then the public
10 comment period will follow.

11 The public comment period is scheduled to
12 end at 7:00 p.m. tonight. I will give you more
13 information and instructions about that comment period
14 once we're done with our speakers.

15 So at this time I'd like to turn the meeting
16 over to Dave -- or to Ms. Darcy. Very good.

17 MS. DARCY: Thank you. Good afternoon,
18 everyone, and thank you for coming. My name is
19 Jo-Ellen Darcy, and I'm the Assistant Secretary of the
20 Army for Civil Works.

21 For those of you who may or may not be
22 familiar with the Army, the Army Corps of Engineers
23 has a very specific and genuine and unique mission
24 within the Army, and my job is to oversee the Civil

1 Works portion of that part of the portfolio.

2 I am really proud and actually humbled to be
3 in this position and also to be able to be here today
4 to not only go over and listen to all of you about
5 your reactions to and your concerns with the GLMRIS
6 Report but also to publicly acknowledge the work of
7 the Army Corps of Engineers on this study.

8 The Congress directed the Army Corps of
9 Engineers to conduct this GLMRIS study in two
10 different authorizations, and the most recent was an
11 amendment to what's called MAP-21, which is the
12 Highway Transportation Bill, and we were directed to
13 complete this study within 18 months.

14 The study was to look at all of the aquatic
15 nuisance species within the Mississippi River and the
16 Great Lakes and determine what those species were,
17 what the aquatic pathways were, and to develop some
18 alternatives and some technological as well as other
19 solutions on how to keep aquatic invasive species from
20 transferring between the basin and the river.

21 We've come up with eight alternatives that
22 Dave is going to go into in depth with all of you. As
23 you've mentioned, the full report is available on our
24 Web site. If you want to download it, be prepared

1 because it's a big one.

2 What you mentioned in the summary, I think
3 it's one of our better products. Before this job I
4 worked with the Army Corps of Engineers and have been
5 interested in part of this organization for a long
6 time. This is one of the best reports we've done.

7 One of the reasons is because we've looked
8 at alternatives and technologies that we think are
9 going to best try to find a solution to what could be
10 an impending problem.

11 I'm here today to kick off the first of
12 these seven public hearings, but the reason for these
13 public hearings is to hear from people in this
14 audience because you're the people who live here. You
15 are the stakeholders. You're the ones who are going
16 to be impacted by whatever it is we do.

17 The expertise of this agency is
18 world-renowned, and I think that we are very fortunate
19 to be able to have these kinds of professionals
20 looking at all the alternatives that we can bring to
21 bear to try to help with the solution to this problem.

22 General Burcham, who is our Division
23 Commander, has stepped up and done just a great job
24 with making this report get over the finish line. You

1 know, 18 months was a very difficult time frame in
2 order for us to execute, but we did; and we came up
3 with eight alternatives.

4 I also want to recognize Dave. Dave is
5 going to be giving you the technical portions and will
6 explain each of these alternatives, but he has been
7 phenomenal. He has made me, who is not a hydraulic
8 engineer, understand how the water moves, and that's
9 quite a feat.

10 I was a philosophy major. I knew nothing
11 about biology or anything, but I now have learned a
12 great deal not only from him but his whole team. He's
13 just done a great job. I just think that we wouldn't
14 be here if it wasn't for Dave and his team -- thank
15 you so much -- and his leadership.

16 Also, our District Commander, Colonel
17 Drummond, is here, too, our Chicago District
18 Commander. They took the lead on this, but it was
19 actually an effort throughout the entire Corps of
20 Engineers. It wasn't just the Chicago District.

21 We have expertise. We have biologists from
22 around the country and a number of other areas of
23 expertise within our agency that we've brought to bear
24 as well as other federal agencies and the local

1 stakeholders here, especially in the Great Lakes
2 region.

3 I'm not from Chicago, but one of my previous
4 jobs was working in Michigan. So I feel like I'm
5 coming home when I come to the Great Lakes. I'm
6 really proud to be here.

7 I want to introduce our next person, John
8 Goss. I think John has helped to bring a focus to
9 this solution in a very unique way. He's from
10 Indiana. He's from the region.

11 I think you can all appreciate the fact that
12 the potential for this problem is one that's gotten
13 the attention of everyone, including the President.
14 John is our coordinator in the Council on
15 Environmental Quality. That's a new position because
16 of the importance of this issue, not only to all of
17 you here in the Great Lakes but to the country as a
18 whole.

19 With that, I really look forward to hearing
20 from all of you. Please, don't be shy. We're here to
21 listen. We did this report so that we could hear from
22 the stakeholders so that you can make your own
23 recommendations and decisions about what the best path
24 forward is in order to solve this problem.

1 Thank you all very much.

2 MR. GOSS: Secretary Darcy, thank you
3 for your wisdom and leadership.

4 Congratulations to General Burcham, Colonel
5 Drummond, the entire GLMRIS team for getting this
6 project done on time so that we can now have a little
7 break in the research for 60 days or so for education
8 and understanding and discussion on what should we do
9 next.

10 So we are asking you today and over the next
11 few weeks to really think about what you hear today
12 and to give back to us on priorities and what you
13 think or your organization, if you represent a group,
14 thinks would be the next best things to do as we work
15 forward on this.

16 Hopefully, we can develop a consensus around
17 the Great Lakes states that one or maybe two
18 alternatives go forward, ideally. If we could get it
19 to one, it would be nice. That may not happen, but
20 certainly contributions to the discussion are
21 important from everyone. So again, thanks to the team
22 for getting us to this point.

23 I'd like to talk about Alternative 1 just
24 for about three or four minutes, which is the current

1 situation with Asian carp control programs.

2 We have a Regional Coordinating Committee,
3 which you probably heard of, federal, state, and local
4 agencies that have really formed a cohesive team, a
5 four-part strategy which includes the electric barrier
6 system which needs to be effective, an extensive
7 monitoring and response program looking for carp and
8 making sure that we don't have carp getting into the
9 Great Lakes, and development of control technologies.

10 We've got a half dozen research teams that
11 are making significant progress on ways to, if not get
12 rid of carp, at least find ways to capture them with
13 harvesting and other technologies, and then the
14 long-term program, which is GLMRIS, that you're going
15 to hear mostly about today.

16 The focus for this team over the next three
17 years will be to work with the electric barrier
18 current system and ways to make it more effective.

19 You probably heard there have been some
20 recent findings that small fish may still not be
21 completely stopped in the barrier. We're going to be
22 working with the transportation industry people on a
23 task force and come up with some solutions for that in
24 the near term.

1 Also, we'll be field testing some of these
2 other technologies that the scientists have been
3 working on. We have made progress on a micromatrix
4 fish toxicant, which would only affect Asian carp --
5 if other fish consumed it, it would not kill them --
6 and also looking at some possible deterrents, things
7 that could work with the GLMRIS lock that you're going
8 to hear about today.

9 In addition to the technology that Dave is
10 going to explain, there are some others that we're
11 still looking at as possibilities that might be
12 additional ways to block Asian carp.

13 Commercial harvesting will continue to be a
14 big part of the strategy. Over 50,000 bigheads and
15 silver carp have been taken out of the Illinois River
16 south of the electric barrier in 2013, and we will
17 continue that effort in addition to a lot of other
18 fish netting and eDNA sampling both above and below
19 the barrier in the Chicago waterway and around the
20 Great Lakes, too.

21 This report does not deal with the other
22 pathways. I'm just going to give you a quick update.
23 18 other potential connections across the Continental
24 Divide were identified in this project earlier. It's

1 just not part of the recommendations today.

2 Eagle Marsh in Indiana was found to be the
3 highest risk area. I can give you a positive update
4 on that project. With Indiana DNR's leadership and
5 Natural Resource Conservation Service, we will have a
6 full project proposal coming forward by next spring in
7 2014 to close off that water connection at flood stage
8 only Eagle Marsh, which has been a big concern as a
9 possible pathway from the Wabash River to Lake Erie.

10 Also, in Ohio there are two connections that
11 the State of Ohio has taken the lead on to help put
12 together a plan to sever those connections. All the
13 other locations were found to be low risk or not even
14 a medium risk for Asian carp.

15 Across the rest of the states that are
16 impacted by Asian carp there is the beginnings of a
17 program. It's called the National Asian Carp Control
18 Program to deal with the rivers and the populations
19 that are already significantly affecting our native
20 fish population in the rivers. That's going to
21 continue to develop.

22 Beyond the Great Lakes states, it's going to
23 be important, I think, to get Congress to act on
24 funding to continue to include the Mississippi and

1 Ohio basin states and even the Missouri River and the
2 lower Mississippi River drainage basin states as part
3 of this.

4 So we have eight states that are primarily
5 affected by the threat to the Great Lakes, but we've
6 got 30-some additional states that have a stake in
7 this that we need to bring into the discussion and
8 work with their Congressional delegations, also, in
9 the next year or so.

10 The Great Lakes has been successful with a
11 number of projects with significant cooperation and
12 collaboration. I'll just mention a few.

13 Sea lamprey controls started in the 1950s as
14 the first major invasive species coordinated effort
15 with the Fisheries Commission and all the states
16 participating.

17 Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative was
18 another significant development. That now is an
19 international, Canadian, and U.S. effort.

20 The Great Lakes Compact to control the water
21 levels and make sure that we protect that was a
22 significant accomplishment with all the states pulling
23 together to get that adopted.

24 Then for the past five years we've had the

1 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which is a very
2 unique regional improvement project that is funding
3 the Asian carp control program primarily already.

4 So we are now poised at the point where we
5 have alternatives to look at for Asian carp control,
6 and the challenge is: Can the Great Lakes states do
7 it again? Can we all pull together?

8 I just want to give you a couple other
9 comments. I think that the interest groups across the
10 Great Lakes have made significant contributions to
11 this GLMRIS Study.

12 Up to this point, this is really just kind
13 of a midpoint in this whole process, and we certainly
14 need your help to continue to give us feedback on
15 these alternatives and help form a consensus for
16 moving forward.

17 Congress has said they'd like to get back
18 to, you know, action as soon as possible. You've
19 heard from a number of members of Congress this week,
20 so I think the consensus discussion starts today, will
21 continue through the public meetings discussion in the
22 next couple of months, but hopefully by early spring
23 we could develop some consensus.

24 So I'm asking you to help us get together on

1 what we can agree on so that we can move forward after
2 today. Thank you.

3 Dave Wethington.

4 MR. WETHINGTON: Good evening,
5 everyone. My name is Dave Wethington. I am the
6 Project Manager here with the U.S. Army Corps of
7 Engineers, Chicago District.

8 I appreciate very much Ms. Darcy, General
9 Burcham, Colonel Drummond, Mr. Goss joining us today.
10 This has been very much a collaborative effort. It's
11 also been a large team effort.

12 I'd be remiss if I didn't mention my team
13 that spans from Alaska to Jacksonville, who have been
14 significant contributors towards the success that you
15 see in this report that we've published on time and on
16 schedule.

17 What I'd like to do is spend just a couple
18 minutes this evening and speak to you about what you
19 will find in the report. I hope that a lot of you had
20 the opportunity to at least pick up one of these books
21 as you came in.

22 This is really a fantastic summary that will
23 really boil 230-some pages of effort down or even
24 several thousands of pages of appendices down into

1 something that's easily digestible.

2 You can kind of also follow along with me
3 because my presentation today, I'm only going to do
4 about 15 or so slides, but I will follow in very
5 general the format in that book.

6 So the study itself, we set out to identify
7 a range of optimal technologies that are available to
8 prevent the transfer of aquatic nuisance species
9 between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins.

10 Our goals were twofold. We wanted to
11 prevent aquatic nuisance specie transfer to the
12 greatest extent possible while also looking at what
13 kind of mitigation or how would we compensate for
14 adverse impacts to existing uses of the system. I'll
15 highlight those for you in a moment.

16 Stakeholder engagement has always been a
17 very big part of our process. That's why it's
18 important that we have meetings like this so that we
19 can hear from folks such as yourselves.

20 In July of 2012, our study process was
21 slightly realigned by legislation that was introduced,
22 and it asked us to do a number of things. One of the
23 elements was to produce a report within 18 months.
24 That legislation was enacted in July of 2012, July 6,

1 2012, and on January 6, 2014, we produced a report
2 within 18 months.

3 That report focused our efforts on the
4 Chicago Area Waterway System and evaluated a
5 hydrologic separation as one of the alternatives to
6 prevent transfer between the basins.

7 Here in Chicago, I think it's probably a
8 fair assumption that most of us are familiar with the
9 operation of the Chicago Area Waterway System.
10 However, I'd be remiss if I didn't at least spend a
11 moment talking about the significant uses of the
12 system.

13 Primarily, the three that we have addressed
14 in most detail include navigation, water supply and
15 conveyance, and flood risk management.

16 The Chicago Area Waterway System is the
17 primary connection between the two basins, and each of
18 these uses are very important to acknowledge when we
19 formulate our plans, to basically have a baseline
20 plan.

21 The report itself describes a range of
22 alternatives. It does not give a recommendation. It
23 does not list a ranking of alternatives, but it
24 provides a conceptual design and a range of

1 alternatives much as the original legislation asked us
2 to do.

3 It provides for general mitigation
4 requirements of the alternatives to offset any adverse
5 impacts of those main uses, that navigation, that
6 flood risk management, that water conveyance that I
7 spoke to. It is best used, though, as a tool for
8 alternative decision-making.

9 The information in the report is provided to
10 you, to our stakeholders, to federal agencies, state
11 agencies, and our Congressional interests with a range
12 of alternatives and a range of evaluation criteria to
13 help understand how the different types of
14 alternatives will impact those existing uses and users
15 while trying to achieve that goal of prevention.

16 There would, however, be additional
17 analyses necessary for any single one of these
18 alternatives prior to moving to a construction phase.
19 What we've done is try to accomplish as much as we can
20 within that 18-month period.

21 However, there would be additional work such
22 as compliance with the National Environmental Policy
23 Act or additional Corps of Engineers requirements like
24 independent external peer review or state and agency

1 review for any one of these plans.

2 I want to spend a moment talking with you
3 about --- essentially we took the steps to come up with
4 the alternatives in the report; and drilling down into
5 there, really, it's almost as simple as three main
6 things.

7 First, we identified what are the connections
8 between the basins. Within the GLMRIS Report we
9 looked at specifically Chicago area waterways because
10 that's what we were legislated to look at.

11 Then we evaluated species. We started out
12 with over 200 different types of aquatic nuisance
13 species that could potentially transfer between the
14 basins. We identified of those approximately 35 that
15 pose some sort of significant risk for transfer and
16 further establishment.

17 Of those 35, we conducted a risk assessment,
18 and we looked at the probability and the consequence
19 of each of those 35 transferring from one side of the
20 basin to the other, and we assigned a risk rating.

21 We didn't look specifically at it's an 80
22 percent chance of causing some adverse impact, but we
23 assigned a qualitative ranking of high, medium, or
24 low, and we used that ranking to help identify the

1 success of the alternatives in the study.

2 So we take the connections, we take the
3 species, and we take the controls and use that
4 information along with additional background
5 information to compile and describe these eight
6 alternatives.

7 Before I get into the alternatives
8 themselves, I want to just highlight some of the
9 primary control technologies that you'll see within
10 the GLMRIS Report. You're likely familiar with most
11 of them, physical barrier, screen gating, electric
12 barriers with maybe a new twist on them with a
13 constructed engineer channel.

14 We also have the concept of the GLMRIS lock
15 and the aquatic nuisance species treatment plant.
16 Those two are fairly new concepts that came out of the
17 research in GLMRIS.

18 Very simply, a GLMRIS lock is a flushing
19 lock that is a little bit different from existing
20 navigation locks, which largely rely on gravity to
21 fill and empty them. GLMRIS locks would use pump
22 technology to at one end push water in while at the
23 other end pushing water out or pulling water out.

24 It would essentially replace volumes of

1 ANS-containing water with ANS treated water from our
2 aquatic nuisance treatment plant.

3 The treatment plant technologies are not
4 something that's very new or novel, but the use for
5 treating specifically for aquatic nuisance species is.
6 The concepts behind aquatic nuisance treatment are
7 very similar to those that are used in drinking water
8 cleaning technologies.

9 So I'm going to spend just a couple moments
10 going over each of these alternative plans. I don't
11 know if you can see it at the bottom. You can follow
12 along in your book. We're at Alternative Plan 1.

13 Alternative Plan 1 is what we call the No
14 New Federal Action Plan, but I prefer to call it the
15 Sustained Activities Plan. We call it "sustained
16 activities" because no new federal action makes it
17 sound like we're not doing anything, and that's, per
18 what John and Ms. Darcy said, not the case at all.

19 There is a very extensive network of
20 activities that are being completed by not only the
21 Corps of Engineers but other federal and state and
22 other resource management agencies, efforts such as
23 management for the lamprey or the ruffe or the
24 snakehead as well as activities that are being led by

1 the Corps of Engineers, including the construction and
2 operation of the barriers as well as other monitoring
3 and GRI-sponsored activities.

4 We use a baseline alternative as kind of a
5 measuring stick, that is, for which we compare other
6 alternatives to.

7 Alternative 2 is the Nonstructural Control
8 Technologies alternative. This can be very simply
9 explained by the implementation of aquatic nuisance
10 species controls, ANS controls, that do not require
11 the construction of any kind of physical structure.

12 Some examples include active management,
13 education outreach, laws and regulations. Active
14 management, for example, if we can identify where a
15 specific aquatic nuisance specie of concern is, such
16 as an invasive plant, and use technology such as
17 herbicides to address those plants where they are
18 right now, we can in effect prevent their transfer.

19 Things like education and outreach, new laws
20 and regulations are kind of the lynchpins on which we
21 can get that successful shared responsibility, that
22 public involvement in helping all of us fight aquatic
23 nuisance species.

24 We must recognize as recreational anglers

1 that dumping bait buckets from one basin to the other
2 is not a practice that we should pursue and that
3 cleaning our boats after pulling them out of one
4 waterway and putting them in another is a best
5 management practice.

6 Successful implementation of all these, as I
7 alluded to, is a shared responsibility. We include
8 these as best management practices in all of the
9 alternatives because we feel that they are really a
10 good way to proceed and could be effective in helping
11 further buy down the risk, reduce the risk of future
12 aquatic nuisance species movements.

13 The advantage to nonstructural control
14 technologies is they are very quick to implement.
15 With the proper authorities and the proper resource
16 agencies, they can be implemented tomorrow, assuming
17 that there are the required resources.

18 Now, this estimated cost that we've come up
19 with, it's very much an estimate. It was arrived at
20 by getting information from various state agencies and
21 implementing aquatic nuisance species management plans
22 and taking in an average of what those costs are on an
23 annual basis, multiplying them by the number of states
24 that are along that watershed divide, and coming up

1 with a number.

2 Now, \$68 million a year is a significant
3 amount of money. Could it be less? Certainly. Could
4 it be a little bit more? Certainly.

5 But additional effort, additional research,
6 additional investigation, such as with any of these
7 alternatives, would be necessary to more clearly
8 identify those needed costs.

9 This Alternative No. 3, full bypass
10 alternative, is the first of two technology
11 alternatives I'll discuss today. The two technology
12 alternatives are very similar. However, one, the full
13 bypass, looks at two-way prevention of aquatic
14 nuisance specie transfer, two-way control of aquatic
15 nuisance specie transfer.

16 So these two points, one located at Stickney
17 and one located at Alsip, are, again, conceptual
18 representations of where you would put a large aquatic
19 nuisance species treatment plant.

20 The purpose of this treatment plant would be
21 to treat the flow of the waterway that comes in the
22 path at each those approximate points. It would
23 essentially run the volume of the Chicago River, much
24 as you see outside, through an aquatic nuisance

1 treatment plant such that on the other side the water
2 comes out ANS free.

3 We would also include the GLMRIS lock
4 feature bookended by electric barriers on either side
5 to allow navigation to continue in this alternative.

6 Since each of these two alternatives
7 essentially operate during the dry weather flow of the
8 river -- the treatment plants are sized to the dry
9 weather flow of the system -- you would need much
10 larger ANS treatment plants in order to deal with the
11 large precipitation-driven events that we frequently
12 see in the Chicago waterways.

13 Instead of building a plant that's 10, 20,
14 50 times too large for daily operation, we included
15 mitigation in the sense of conveyance tunnels and
16 reservoirs to deal with the 500-year flood risk within
17 the system.

18 Now, you may ask: Why did the Corps of
19 Engineers choose to use what we call the 500-year
20 flood in our planned formulation?

21 The reason for that is over the past five
22 years we've had at least three, if not four, instances
23 where we had 100-year or greater precipitation events
24 localized within the Chicago Area Waterway System.

1 If we were to construct an ANS treatment
2 plant or a physical barrier that could be swamped by
3 that 100-year event, it would essentially be
4 ineffective.

5 So we wanted to be protective of the plan
6 itself, and that is to control the aquatic nuisance
7 species transfer between the basins.

8 The estimated time for completion of this is
9 driven primarily by the mitigation features, by those
10 tunnels and reservoirs, at about 25 years with an
11 estimated cost of about \$15.5 billion.

12 I'll pause for a moment to talk about the
13 costs. We were very thorough, and we used traditional
14 Corps of Engineers cost estimating techniques.
15 However, we certainly do not have the necessary
16 volumes of information or the specificity of
17 information that we would need to come up with costs,
18 for example, for authorizing a new project.

19 These costs are best used to compare the
20 different alternatives amongst each other. So when
21 you see one alternative at \$15.5 billion and the other
22 one at \$7.5 billion, you can say that the likely
23 implementation of this alternative versus the other
24 may cost about half those resources.

1 The second of the two technology
2 alternatives is the CAWS Buffer Zone alternative.
3 I'll spend a moment on this. The idea behind this is
4 as opposed to having two two-way control points, so
5 essentially the control points for two-way transfer of
6 aquatic nuisance species, this splits the system into
7 an ANS managed system or an ANS buffer zone, as we
8 call it, where the entire area that you see shaded in
9 white here is managed as an ANS controlled zone.

10 So we have one way to a point down here --
11 near Joliet is where this point is, Brandon Lock -- as
12 well as a series of control points along Lake Michigan
13 or just inland from the lake that serve as one-way
14 barriers.

15 So the purpose of these points, these
16 aquatic nuisance species treatment plants and GLMRIS
17 locks, is to prevent the species from coming in from
18 the lake down into the system, down into the buffer
19 zone.

20 The purpose of the Brandon Road point is to
21 keep species down from the Illinois River from coming
22 up into the Lake Michigan buffer zone.

23 So we need to have a couple opportunities
24 with regard to this buffer zone concept. We operate

1 it, again, as an ANS control zone where we can monitor
2 and look for potential passage of any of these species
3 as well as allow for the existing operation of a lot
4 of the existing uses of the system.

5 For example, when you have significant
6 precipitation events and you need to move water in
7 multiple directions very quickly, you can still
8 backflow water out into Lake Michigan and out down the
9 stream because the input water that would fall
10 somewhere in the city would be strictly precipitation.

11 So since you do not have aquatic nuisance
12 species in that buffer control zone, you're able to
13 move water and deal with it effectively in this sense.

14 The estimated time of completion of this
15 alternative is about ten years, and that's really kind
16 of dictated by the flood risk management features that
17 are constructed down here at a reservoir of about
18 4.4 billion gallons down in the northwest Indiana,
19 southeast Illinois State Line area. The cost is about
20 \$7.8 billion.

21 The next two scenarios, Alternative Plans 5
22 and 6, are the hydrologic separation scenarios, and we
23 took two different takes on hydrologic separation.

24 One was to look at how to minimize water

1 quality impacts to the system; the other was how to
2 minimize flood risks to the system. This one, in
3 terms of our mitigation, we have to mitigate
4 significantly for flood risk. Let me explain a little
5 bit about that.

6 So in the Lakefront Hydrologic Separation
7 scenario, we would place a number of physical barriers
8 at or adjacent to the lakefront to prevent surface
9 waters from transferring between the Great Lakes and
10 Mississippi River basin.

11 In the sense you are unable to, especially
12 in the Chicago region, move water out of the
13 Chicagoland area during a significant precipitation
14 event, in order to compensate for this, you would need
15 to construct large conveyance tunnels and large
16 reservoirs to hold that water that you can now not
17 move into Lake Michigan.

18 Therefore, you have large reservoirs at
19 approximate volumes of about 6.5 billion and 13.5
20 billion gallons.

21 Again, this mitigation is specifically for
22 flood risk. Estimated time for completion, again, is
23 about 25 years with a cost of approximately
24 \$18.4 billion.

1 The Mid-System has kind of the opposite
2 effect. So what we've done here is put two points in
3 the middle of the system adjacent to where the kind of
4 original -- if you go way back into the 1800s, the
5 original kind of hydrologic divide was between the two
6 systems.

7 So here we've optimized for hydrology.
8 We've optimized so there wouldn't be significant
9 flooding impact to the system.

10 However, what happens when you do this is
11 you open up the entire Chicago Area Waterway System
12 and the existing infrastructure, which includes two
13 significant water reclamation plants as well as a
14 couple hundred combined sewer outfalls that will now
15 feed directly into Lake Michigan as an unmitigated
16 impact.

17 So instead of causing this potentially
18 significant water quality impact on Lake Michigan,
19 what we've chosen to do is mitigate for those impacts
20 by channeling -- using this green pipe, channeling the
21 effluent from the water reclamation plants to a point
22 downstream in the barrier as well as capturing all of
23 these combined sewer outfall tunnels, capturing them
24 and putting them into a reservoir.

1 Now, you would say, "Why won't we just
2 upgrade these plants so they can discharge back into
3 Lake Michigan?" Well, it's going to be very difficult
4 to do.

5 Likely, based on conversations with the
6 federal and state regulators, you'd need something to
7 the extent of reverse osmosis in order to be able to
8 treat the water sufficiently to meet Lake Michigan
9 water quality standards.

10 Reverse osmosis has been used pretty much in
11 desalination for drinking water. One of the largest
12 reverse osmosis plants in the world deals with about
13 100 million gallons a day of water.

14 The combined outflow of these two ranges
15 between 600 million and 700 million gallons per day.
16 So the largest RO plant in the world doesn't even come
17 up with 20 percent of the necessary throughput we'd
18 need for this system.

19 So we decided to instead channel the
20 effluent -- and then there's a second reason we
21 decided to move that water reclamation plant effluent
22 downstream. It's to make up for navigation.

23 That 600 million to 700 million gallons per
24 day total flow from those two systems, from those two

1 water reclamation plants, flows directly down into the
2 Illinois River.

3 You might be familiar. About a year ago or
4 so, we had significant drought conditions along the
5 Mississippi, and it trickled up to the Illinois
6 waterways. So if you were to remove about half of the
7 total flow of the waterways, there would likely be
8 significant navigation challenges. So that's kind of
9 the rationale for choosing this mitigation scenario.

10 Again, we're looking at an estimated
11 completion time of about 25 years and a cost of about
12 \$15.5 billion.

13 I won't spend too much time on these next
14 two, except for saying that they are combinations of
15 physical barriers on either the top part of the system
16 or the bottom part of the system in combination with
17 technologies which allow the opposite side of the
18 system to continue existing uses like navigation.

19 So as it suggests, the Cal-Sag open scenario
20 puts a physical barrier on the Chicago Sanitary & Ship
21 Canal while leaving the Cal-Sag Channel open, and the
22 CSSC open scenario does the opposite. It puts a
23 physical barrier on the Cal-Sag Channel while leaving
24 the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal open.

1 You will see that there are two differences
2 in cost between these scenarios. The Cal-Sag open,
3 because of the high amount of mitigation costs
4 necessary, you have a cost of approximately
5 \$15.1 billion with an estimated completion time of
6 about 25 years, and the other one is about half the
7 cost, about \$8.3 billion, the same estimated time for
8 completion.

9 Now, the report that we have, the GLMRIS
10 Report itself, will have evaluation criteria
11 established for each one of these alternatives. We
12 have it summarized in a matrix, in a table where you
13 can easily compare, for example, the effectiveness of
14 a control technology comparatively to the cost or how
15 long it would take to implement or what kind of
16 economic impacts there may be.

17 So again, when we set out to put this report
18 together, really, the biggest and most important part
19 was to provide the information for decision-makers,
20 and that's what I'm really proud of in this report is
21 the wealth of information that exists within the
22 GLMRIS Report.

23 A couple things that I hope to leave you
24 here with today that kind of turns additional

1 considerations -- and I hope that I've been able to at
2 least touch upon them over the few minutes I've been
3 up here speaking today -- is mitigation.

4 I'm not going to stand up here and tell you
5 it's going to take 25 years or cost \$15 billion to put
6 a dam in the river that you see outside, but I will
7 tell you that it will take that long and it will be
8 that expensive to mitigate for those adverse impacts
9 to the existing uses that was including flood risk,
10 water quality, or navigation.

11 So the timing and the cost of the
12 alternatives are very closely linked to the mitigation
13 which is necessary to ensure that we do not cause an
14 adverse impact to the community, to the citizens of
15 Chicago, or to the existing uses of the system.

16 No matter what, there will always be
17 residual risks. I've heard many times that we must
18 pursue hydrologic separation as the only sure way to
19 prevent aquatic nuisance species transfer.

20 While it may do a very effective job in
21 preventing aquatic transfer, it is not necessarily a
22 sure way because there are many other ways that
23 species can transfer between the basins.

24 I spoke to Bait Buckets. I spoke to the

1 potential illegal movement of species like Asian carp,
2 which over the past couple years there have been many
3 instances of truckloads of live Asian carp being
4 stopped at the Canadian border on their way to market
5 in Canada.

6 We also look at the duration for
7 implementation as a residual risk. Many of these
8 scenarios we have approximated about 25 years to
9 complete, and there is a chance that one or more of
10 these species may have the opportunity to transfer
11 between the basins during that time.

12 Obviously, things like nonstructural
13 controls and additional management options may buy
14 down that risk, but there will always be that
15 potential risk.

16 We look at adaptive management. I didn't
17 spend a whole lot of time talking about it today, but
18 there are different scenarios within the GLMRIS Report
19 that react better to the advance of new technologies.

20 Technological scenarios may be able to buy
21 down risk sooner and target certain species that may
22 achieve risk reduction for targeted species faster
23 than that 10 or 25 years.

24 Most importantly, if I leave you with one

1 last kind of concept from my presentation today, it is
2 the fact aquatic nuisance species control is a shared
3 responsibility. The implementation of any of these
4 aquatic nuisance species controls or the construction
5 will require the input and the collaboration from a
6 large group of stakeholders, members of the public
7 such as yourselves.

8 Any kind of significant infrastructure
9 investment or any kind of long-term strategy for
10 prevention of aquatic nuisance species transfer is a
11 shared responsibility. It is the responsibility of a
12 wide range of federal, state, local stakeholders as
13 well as members of the public.

14 As John alluded to, we are spending some
15 time to try and take this message to as many cities
16 within the region as possible. We're meeting with a
17 number of different state agencies to meet with the
18 stakeholders there and to ensure that there is a
19 mutual understanding of what is in the report and how
20 that information can be used for decision-making.

21 Feedback from yourselves is very important
22 to us, which is why we are here tonight. We hope to
23 collect this information and provide it, along with
24 the information that's in the GLMRIS Report, to the

1 statements to the panel at large at this time. We've
2 got several things in that process for us.

3 Keeping in mind, too, today we do have a
4 Webinar running at the same time. So we've got a
5 telephone on the panel's table there. They are also
6 able to see our desktop. So anything that we've
7 shown, the folks online have been able to see. At
8 this time we have more than 50 participants on the
9 Webinar.

10 So thank you from that remote dial-in, and I
11 appreciate you taking the time, also. This does make
12 our meeting a little more bit more unique, and we're
13 going to do the best we can to handle any comments
14 through the Webinar. This is the first time we've
15 attempted such a multimedia presentation. So we'll
16 give that a try.

17 So going forward and beginning the comment
18 period, at this time I would like to thank Colonel
19 Drummond for hosting the meeting here in Chicago.
20 This is a very good venue and works out very well.
21 Thank you for that, Colonel.

22 On this slide here, again, as Dave
23 mentioned, the study Web site is the best source for
24 any information that you have. Following the meeting,

1 this information will stay here throughout the
2 complete comment period.

3 So if you have anything you think of in the
4 days to come all the way up until that final closing
5 comment period, keep in mind you can always submit
6 comments right up until the March 3rd deadline.

7 Now, moving on to the oral comment period
8 for this meeting, for those of you who indicated on
9 your yellow comment registration form that you would
10 like to make a brief three-minute statement or ask
11 questions, you'll have that opportunity to do so.

12 If a person wants to ask a question, we
13 request that you manage your time so that your three
14 minutes will allow for your comment, any questions you
15 have, and the Corps of Engineers' response. The Corps
16 of Engineers will respond to any questions that are
17 indeed answerable.

18 For those who had indicated -- and we want
19 to make sure we give everybody the equal opportunity
20 to speak -- we ask that you do abide to our
21 three-minute timeline.

22 After we've given everyone the opportunity
23 to address the panel and if there is any time that
24 does permit and you have additional comments or think

1 of new things you would like to say, you will be given
2 that opportunity to speak again.

3 If time does not allow or, again, you think
4 of things after the meeting has concluded, please note
5 that you can make your comments on the GLMRIS Web
6 site, mail them in, or use the yellow sheet that you
7 got tonight and turn them in at the table as you leave
8 this evening.

9 I do have a visual set of slides I'll turn
10 to here and show you that will help us out. So very
11 simply, we've got -- I'll run through it real quick --
12 a set of the slides here, three different colored
13 slides. We'll start with the green slide.

14 After two minutes have expired, that will
15 turn to yellow and then will start counting us down
16 until we get to the very end of the three-minute
17 block, turning to red.

18 Now, that does seem a little simple and
19 maybe silly, but it is a very effective way that we've
20 found to allow somebody without interrupting them
21 during their speech and interrupting their path of
22 thought. Okay?

23 So we will use that. I'll run that from up
24 here. So anybody that is giving a speech will have

1 that chance to see these slides as they go through.

2 Now, also, because this is a formal comment
3 period, we do have a court stenographer with us to the
4 side here. She will be recording all of your comments
5 and questions.

6 Because of that, as well as our Webinar
7 folks that are attending, we do ask that everybody
8 take time to get to the microphone before you make
9 your statements or comments. We do have that placed
10 in the very center of the aisle here, and we'll make
11 sure that that's working before we begin.

12 Our panel will use the microphone as well as
13 myself so that everything is easy for everyone to hear
14 and so that it can be recorded properly for our
15 record.

16 When you're making your questions or
17 comments, we ask that you step up to the microphone
18 and give your first name and any organization that you
19 may be representing and your ZIP code for our
20 demographic purposes.

21 Speak into the microphone, and speak slowly
22 and clearly. That is adjustable. We can adjust the
23 microphone up and down. If it's not in your best
24 position, we can take a minute to get that organized

1 as well.

2 If you do not wish to give your name or a
3 ZIP code, we will not be able to formally record that
4 comment into our comments. So we do ask that, just to
5 help out and make sure that we have as much accurate
6 information as possible. Okay.

7 We've asked people to sign in different
8 ways. We had a chance to preregister. We'll hear
9 from those folks first. Those are the ones that have
10 the blue comment sheets, and from that set we've got
11 13 people that have indicated and preregistered with
12 us that would like to speak tonight.

13 Then we will hear from the people that
14 registered when they started at the beginning of our
15 meeting with the yellow sheets. Those folks, we've
16 got five of them at this time, and we'll hear from
17 that group secondly.

18 The next group will be any persons that are
19 on the Webinar that wish to make a comment. Because
20 that is a new piece for us, we are going to ask
21 anybody that's on the Webinar to use the
22 raise-the-hand feature on the Webinar, and we'll
23 organize those and get an idea of how many there will
24 be that follow. So we'll use that while the other

1 people are talking to find out how many we have online
2 that would like to.

3 I do apologize in advance if I mispronounce
4 any of your names. That's why we asked to give them
5 up front, and they've spelled them out for me as best
6 they can. So I'll do as good of a job as I possible
7 can.

8 At this time I would like to start with the
9 people that have the blue sheets, Nos. 1 through 3.
10 Ben Brockschmidt is number one. No 2, Charles
11 Dieringer, and No. 3, Colleen Smith.

12 So No. 1, Ben Brockschmidt, if you'd like to
13 make your way to the front, we'll test the microphone
14 here and we will begin.

15 You might want to raise that up a little
16 bit. There we go. Okay. When you're ready, if we
17 could get your name and your ZIP code to start with.

18 MR. BROCKSCHMIDT: Benjamin
19 Brockschmidt 60606. I'm the Executive Director of
20 the Infrastructure Council of the Illinois Chamber of
21 Commerce.

22 Preventing the spread of invasive species
23 has been and remains a top priority for the Illinois
24 Chamber of Commerce. However, we are not persuaded by

1 this report that separation is the solution. This
2 report shows that separation takes too long, is not
3 100 percent certain, and is not economically feasible.

4 We commend the Army Corps for identifying
5 eight options and providing a new opportunity and
6 dialogue to address the spread of invasive species.

7 The wrong decision today will negatively
8 impact water quality, negatively impact flood
9 mitigation, and result in irreparable economic damages
10 while introducing billions of dollars in taxpayer
11 obligations.

12 The right decisions will prevent the spread
13 of invasive species, improve water quality, and
14 promote economic growth.

15 The report is clear that no option is
16 100 percent prevention of the spread of any invasive
17 species, as the greatest risk for the movement of
18 invasive species remains humans physically
19 transferring them from one point to another.

20 Illinois has successfully battled invasive
21 species, including Asian carp, for over a decade,
22 thanks to a comprehensive approach of hard work and
23 science-based solutions.

24 The options that partially or completely

1 separate the Great Lakes and Mississippi River water
2 basins will take 25 years to complete, allowing for
3 the movement of invasive species in the meantime.
4 This assumes there are no delays.

5 This report offers options that can prevent
6 the spread of invasive species that can be implemented
7 sooner rather than later.

8 Illinois is the freight hub of North
9 America, and our economic vitality depends on a
10 diverse freight network to move goods.

11 Trends indicate that from now until 2040,
12 the mount of freight moving in Illinois will
13 dramatically increase with goods moving by water
14 increasing 13.9 million tons.

15 Separation would remove the most
16 environmental and economically viable route for
17 delivering bulk goods, as one barge moves the dry
18 goods equivalent of 16 railcars and 70 trucks.

19 Investment in our waterways that promotes
20 commerce could increase barge use tenfold and still
21 not reach capacity.

22 Separation would have the inverse effect. A
23 2010 study found that closing the locks would create a
24 net economic loss to the Chicago area of \$4.7 billion

1 over a 20-year horizon with immediate economic loss of
2 \$582 million the first year and \$531 million annually
3 over the next seven.

4 For projects that could cost as much as
5 \$18 billion when there are \$18 billion in investments
6 needed in the waterway system nationwide, over
7 \$1 trillion in investment needed in clean water
8 systems, and over \$300 billion needed in our
9 wastewater systems, we look forward to working with
10 the U.S. Army Corps, the Illinois Jobs Coalition, and
11 all the environmental groups in the region to come to
12 an economical, comprehensive, and viable solution to
13 address not just Asian carp but other invasive
14 species.

15 Thank you for your time and the opportunity.

16 MR. BLUHM: So for any of the speakers,
17 if you do have a copy that you can leave with the
18 court reporter, that would be helpful for the record
19 as well. Thank you.

20 That's our first one. The second person up
21 is Charles Dieringer followed by Colleen Smith. Then
22 third on deck will be Jared Tuetsch.

23 So when you're ready, go ahead, sir.

24 MR. DIERINGER: I'm Charles Dieringer,

1 60411. I represent myself. I am a stakeholder in the
2 Thornton Creek watershed. We've seen pictures of it
3 up there earlier today.

4 The Thornton Creek watershed is a diverted
5 watershed that when Mother Nature calls it into
6 action, it goes into Lake Michigan, but most of the
7 time it goes down the Mississippi River.

8 We have somewhat of a unique standing that
9 we already have a big reservoir going out on Thornton,
10 and we're talking about storage of stormwater. Some
11 of these projects could greatly impact our watershed
12 and our groundwater resources.

13 So I'm here. I have a couple questions.
14 We've done some tremendous work on this project in
15 terms of research, but I think there's some questions.
16 We still need to be really more refined before we
17 submit ourselves to these solutions.

18 Your blue sheet that you passed out today I
19 thought was pretty informative. I want to save my
20 questions until last because I'd like to get my
21 comments out so we don't run out of time.

22 But your blue sheet, on the back of it you
23 talked about you were monitoring, on Item 5, the Asian
24 carp and how you've tagged them in the river. Now,

1 we've been doing this kind of thing with grass carp
2 over the years.

3 I'm saying maybe we need to sterilize some
4 of these Asian carp and put them out in Lake Michigan
5 or some lake and see how they behave and whether or
6 not they are indeed really a threat.

7 Quite frankly, I'll tell you I'm a supporter
8 of the Asian carp as a humanitarian food source. I
9 really get concerned when we spend all this energy in
10 terms of trying to destroy them, and we've lost --
11 Israel stopped buying them for some period of time
12 after we destroyed them here on the Illinois River.
13 They buy about a million pounds a year for Gefilte
14 fish.

15 So it is a valuable food source, and I would
16 like to comment to that.

17 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you. I
18 appreciate your comment. We understand your desire to
19 kind of make sure that we use this resource as
20 necessary.

21 MR. DIERINGER: Well, having attended
22 the Illinois hearings that we had several years ago --
23 and our diligence that we've been doing as a state, I
24 think, has been pretty spectacular -- the food desert

1 that is out there in Lake Michigan is not being caused
2 by the Asian carp. It's the zebra and quagga mussels,
3 which this is not going to deal with.

4 The other issue that I really was concerned
5 with was all the organic material that is in Lake
6 Michigan and possibly the role that the Asian carp do
7 play.

8 Now, I'm going to look at Lake Erie where
9 they've been there since the '90s. They've been
10 caught in commercial fishing nets, which means it's
11 pretty difficult to catch them even on the Illinois
12 River, but out in the open lake.

13 I think we need to determine whether or not
14 they are really involved in saving our butt when it
15 comes to these big algae blooms that have been
16 attacking the lake. We do have algae blooms of a
17 nature when we make mistakes in Lake Michigan. I
18 mean, things do happen out here, and I think they may
19 be a valuable resource.

20 I say let's not shoot the horse until we get
21 all the evidence that we need.

22 MR. BLUHM: Time is up.

23 MR. DIERINGER: Thank you for your
24 time.

1 MR. WETHINGTON: Thanks for your time,
2 Charles. Thanks for your comments.

3 I can't speak with regard to the Asian carp
4 specifically, but I know that there's a lot of
5 research that is currently ongoing with regard to the
6 species themselves. Currently we will and in the
7 future continue to look at all possible options with
8 regard to Asian carp.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

11 Next we'll hear from Colleen Smith. On deck
12 is Jared Tuetsch, and next will be Indiana Attorney
13 General Greg Zoeller.

14 Colleen, when you're all set, go ahead.

15 MS. SMITH: Good evening. My name is
16 Colleen Smith. I'm the Clean Water Organizer for the
17 Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club. I'm here to
18 represent our members throughout the state. I
19 appreciate the time to speak today on this report and
20 the opportunities it presents moving forward for our
21 region.

22 Evidence presented by the report points to
23 hydrologic separation as the most effective prevention
24 for the transfer of aquatic nuisance species. We must

1 move forward collaboratively to prevent, not just
2 control, this problem.

3 Separation must be a part of a broad vision
4 that seeks to address localized problems in Chicago as
5 well as protecting all waterways on the Mississippi
6 River basin and the Great Lakes.

7 Growing up in central Illinois in Peoria,
8 I've seen the Illinois River overwhelmed by Asian
9 carp, destroying ecosystems and outcompeting native
10 fish species.

11 No one in this room wants to see a similar
12 fate for Lake Michigan, but we must also be mindful of
13 these downstream communities that are at risk of
14 invasives' introductions from the Great Lakes.

15 In authorizing GLMRIS, Congress sought to
16 prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species, not
17 just carp.

18 Seven of the 13 species of concern
19 identified by the report are species that are poised
20 to move from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi basin.
21 These haven't received as much attention as Asian
22 carp, but they have the potential to be just as
23 destructive and costly.

24 The electric barrier will not stop the

1 movement of these different types of organisms. It
2 was not designed to do that. It was built to stop
3 fish like the round goby and the carp, and we know now
4 that it won't even prevent those fish.

5 Thus, we give it too much credit to continue
6 to call it a barrier. While it may be an important
7 means of risk reduction in the short term, we cannot
8 and should not rely on it for the long.

9 The reversal of the Chicago River away from
10 Lake Michigan transferred Chicago's treated sewage and
11 polluted stormwater on those communities downstream.
12 This water affects these communities and their
13 drinking water, and cleaning it up should be a
14 priority considered separately from physical
15 separation.

16 It is not okay to keep polluting our rivers
17 in order to solely protect Lake Michigan. We need to
18 commit to improving water quality for everyone. Let's
19 move forward and take the next, much-needed steps to
20 separate the basins and clean up our pollution of the
21 Chicago Area Waterways while preventing invasive
22 species from wreaking ecological havoc on the region.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you, Colleen.

1 MR. BLUHM: Next, we're on our fourth
2 person, Jared Tuetsch, followed by Indiana Attorney
3 General Greg Zoeller, and then next up would be Jerome
4 Koncel.

5 When you're all set, if you need the
6 microphone up, just bring that up a little bit. Okay.
7 When you're all set.

8 MR. TUETSCH: My name is Jared Tuetsch.
9 I'm the Water Policy Advocate for the Alliance for the
10 Great Lakes. We're the oldest citizen-based
11 organization dedicated to protecting the Great Lakes.

12 I'd like to thank the Army Corps for the
13 GLMRIS Report. I'd like to thank the Chicago District
14 for the good work that they've done in helping
15 coordinate that, certainly John Goss and the Asian
16 Carp Regional Coordinating Committee and the work that
17 the White House has done on that and, also, General
18 Burcham and Assistant Secretary Darcy on the work that
19 has gone into this tremendous process.

20 From our perspective, from the Alliance for
21 the Great Lakes' perspective, I think we see this as a
22 tremendous opportunity. Really, this is the first
23 time that there has been a Federally authorized study
24 and a report issued that really looks at Asian carp

1 and other aquatic invasive species that are going to
2 impact the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River
3 basin. We see this as a huge opportunity for
4 Chicago.

5 A couple of points that I just want to
6 mention, the Army Corps actually recognized the direct
7 connection of the waterway, that being the Chicago
8 Area Waterway as well, in their Risk Assessment Study.

9 So it showed that not human induced but,
10 actually, these invasive species are moving on their
11 own, which is why it made the Chicago Area Waterway
12 System kind of ground zero for where these invasive
13 species are moving.

14 I really appreciate, Dave, what you did in
15 kind of laying out how the cost is estimated. This,
16 obviously, is not a full feasibility study. So I know
17 we're missing some details in there. This is an
18 estimate. This is the first step. We have a real
19 opportunity, I think, for separation.

20 I would also note that the mitigation that
21 was talked about in the report on separation -- so if
22 we look at the Mid-System, we're looking at
23 \$15 billion. That number, the mitigation component,
24 we really feel that mitigation needs to happen now.

1 So the mitigation associated with flooding,
2 water quality impacts, and AIS, that can happen now.
3 We don't need to renovate the kitchen to bake the
4 cake. So I think that those costs of flooding and
5 water quality are inherent in Chicago's problem right
6 now that we can fix with this solution.

7 We look forward to moving this forward, and
8 I thank you for your time.

9 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Could we get
10 your ZIP code quick?

11 MR. TUETSCH: Yes. 60602.

12 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

13 Next up is Indiana Attorney General Greg
14 Zoeller followed by Jerome Koncel, and then third on
15 deck would be Michelle Carr.

16 ATTORNEY GENERAL ZOELLER: Thank you.
17 Greg Zoeller, Indiana Attorney General, 46204.

18 Really, the purpose of my coming here today
19 is to bring up the issues about our current problem
20 while I recognize that your focus is on the impending
21 problem, like the Assistant Secretary mentioned.

22 Here's essentially what we're trying to do.
23 We have supplied some information for the record, but
24 just to summarize it, we've waited for the past seven

1 years while Congress has authorized this.

2 Again, not to criticize the efforts of the
3 Corps, but this has been a seven-year wait for the
4 states who can see the problems that are currently
5 existing getting worse.

6 So the focus has always been on this report,
7 which when we ask for help from Washington and
8 Congress, they always say, "Wait for the report."
9 Well, now the report comes out, and it doesn't address
10 the current problems in our Wabash River and inland
11 waterways that are currently being overrun by these
12 fish.

13 So what we're really focused on is: Where
14 can we turn for help?

15 One of the things that I wanted to point
16 out -- and I'll bring it up in the form of a question
17 at the end, but as we've watched these fish really
18 take over our native species, eventually they will
19 become endangered. So we'll see some help at the end,
20 but what we're looking for is: Where do we turn for
21 help currently?

22 I know your focus from Congress has been
23 just on the Chicago Waterway System, but what I'm
24 hearing is that these are efforts that are likely to

1 take years and years.

2 Again, if you could show where the Corps or
3 anyone else has ever prevented an invasive species
4 from being introduced like this, show us that because
5 I haven't ever seen that come up as proof that you can
6 stop the invasive species.

7 So what I would suggest is -- I'm not here
8 to recommend one of your eight options. But what
9 would be the possible reason not to take every effort
10 to address the current problems as a practice?

11 Even if you're just assuming that at one
12 point the introduction might go into the Great Lakes,
13 what would stop Washington from helping our states and
14 our cities from addressing the current problems that
15 we have to live with every day?

16 Nobody skis on the Wabash River because of
17 these fish. A lot of the pleasure boaters have quit
18 going out, and it won't be long before nobody will be
19 fishing for smallmouth bass.

20 So if you would focus at least some of the
21 attention today on providing resources and some
22 support for our states to address these problems,
23 you'll at least have had a good practice round so if
24 they are ever introduced -- and, again, we all support

1 keeping them out of the Great Lakes -- this would be
2 good practice, a beta test, to try to get to: How do
3 we address these fish if they get into the Great
4 Lakes?

5 So I'll leave that as a question.

6 MR. WETHINGTON: Attorney General
7 Zoeller, thank you for your comments. Thank you for
8 your question.

9 Unfortunately, I can't speak on behalf of
10 our elected officials with regard to the ability to
11 promulgate legislation that will address this.

12 The one thing I will speak to is one of the
13 themes that we kind of hit on in our presentation was
14 with regard to the issue of aquatic nuisance species
15 being a shared responsibility.

16 I think the Corps of Engineers has its set
17 of authorities and set of mission sets. There are
18 other federal agencies, other state agencies, other
19 local agencies which may have more appropriate sets.

20 I think that by you bringing up this
21 question today, it perhaps will help further this
22 conversation, but, unfortunately, I don't think I
23 think provide any specific answers as to who you can
24 talk to and where you can go.

1 I don't know if anyone else on the panel has
2 information.

3 ATTORNEY GENERAL ZOELLER: Let me know
4 who to talk to.

5 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you.

6 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

7 Next we'll hear from Jerome Koncel followed
8 by Michelle Carr, and then third on deck is [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED].

10 So when you're set, go ahead.

11 MR. KONCEL: Good afternoon. My name
12 is Jerome Koncel. My ZIP code is 60610. I am the
13 Associate Editor of Great Lakes Boating magazine and a
14 senior advisor to the president of the Great Lakes
15 Boating Federation.

16 I'm here today to take this opportunity to
17 offer several statements on behalf of boaters who
18 navigate the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River and
19 then would like to ask three questions; but being an
20 editor who is very loquacious, I have more questions
21 than I have time to say them. So I'll just confine
22 myself to the statements and then put the questions in
23 written form.

24 In reading the GLMRIS Report, I was both

1 impressed by the thoroughness of the content, but I
2 was also distressed about the way the report dealt
3 with two major users of the Great Lakes and
4 Mississippi River, that is, recreational boaters and
5 sport fishermen.

6 While acknowledging that recreational and
7 commercial navigation are significant users of the
8 Chicago Area Waterway Systems and that steps will need
9 to be taken to mitigate the negative effects each of
10 the eight alternatives has on these users, we believe
11 that the report doesn't specify what actions will be
12 undertaken, and it says nothing about the significant
13 economic impact of recreational boating and sport
14 fishing on the areas in question.

15 Within a 50-mile radius of this very spot
16 where we are today, there are approximately 25,000
17 waterborne boaters ranging from Racine and Kenosha in
18 Wisconsin to Indiana and Michigan.

19 In Chicago alone there are nearly 6,000
20 slips in the harbors that dot Lake Michigan, and it is
21 estimated that these boaters have an economic impact
22 of between \$70 million to \$90 million a year on the
23 city's economy, no small number.

24 Because of their significant economic impact

1 on the waterways in question, recreational boaters and
2 sport fisherman need to have their concerns addressed
3 in greater detail than is presented in this report.

4 For example, if any of the hydrologic
5 separation alternatives identified in Plans 5 and 6
6 were implemented, they would have significant negative
7 impacts on noncommercial uses of the waterways, and
8 that is us, recreational boaters and fishermen.

9 Because the report never clearly states what
10 these negative impacts would be, it could very well
11 mean the end of the marinas, boatyards, and boat
12 dealerships on the Chicago, Illinois, and Des Plaines
13 Rivers. They could all potentially see their
14 operations cease to exist.

15 Although the nearly 25,000 boaters who boat
16 and fish on the waterways in question can certainly
17 understand the need to prevent the spread of the 13
18 aquatic nuisance species on the Great Lakes, they also
19 need to know what specific impacts any one of these
20 plan alternatives would have on recreational boating
21 and fishing and what specific efforts would be
22 undertaken to mitigate these effects.

23 This leads me to one question that I will
24 leave you with now, and that is: With the exception

1 of leaving the electric barriers in place as an
2 option, are there any alternatives that would allow
3 us, recreational boaters, to freely navigate these
4 waterways as we have for the last century?

5 Thank you.

6 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you, sir.

7 I think just to answer that last question
8 with regard to are there any alternatives, I would say
9 yes, there are.

10 Of the eight alternatives that are presented
11 in the GLMRIS Report, at least six provide for some
12 maintenance of navigation within the Chicago Area
13 Waterway System. So we believe that there's a range
14 of options and technologies that are presented within
15 the report.

16 Those eight alternatives provide excellent
17 compromise solutions to trying to control aquatic
18 nuisance species while maintaining those existing
19 species.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

22 All right. Moving on, No. 7, Michelle Carr;
23 No. 8, [REDACTED]; and No. 9, Henry Henderson.

24 So Michelle, if you're ready.

1 MS. CARR: Thank you.

2 I'm Michelle Carr, and I represent the
3 Nature Conservancy. My ZIP code is 60614. Thank you
4 for the report, first.

5 As the scientific evidence mounts indicating
6 the potential for imminent spread of Asian carp and
7 Eurasian ruffe and other invasive species through the
8 Chicago canal system, The Nature Conservancy continues
9 to advocate for an interim two-way, ecological
10 separation solution implemented in a matter of years,
11 not decades. We're deeply concerned about the
12 timeline.

13 The need for urgent action was recently
14 highlighted when the Conservancy and its partners, the
15 University of Notre Dame and Central Michigan
16 University, found evidence that Eurasian ruffe, a
17 nonnative species already present in the Great Lakes,
18 may have spread to southern Lake Michigan where it
19 would threaten the Illinois River and the Mississippi
20 River and beyond.

21 This result emphasizes the need for urgent
22 action and a two-way management system to prevent
23 invasive plants and animals from moving into and from
24 the Great Lakes.

1 While the GLMRIS study limited its
2 assessment to 13 species of current concern, these two
3 basins need a solution that considers a full range of
4 organisms, including the potential for future
5 invasions by species like the golden mussel or the
6 killer shrimp that will continue to threaten to invade
7 North America until appropriate state, provincial, and
8 binational federal policies are implemented to protect
9 North America's freshwater ecosystems.

10 The Corps' study demonstrates that a natural
11 divide restoration is feasible and that there are a
12 number of viable options that achieve interim and
13 long-term environmental separation while maintaining
14 vital transportation and economic activity.

15 But we don't have the luxury of time. In
16 short order the region must come together and make a
17 plan to identify, select, and implement measures to
18 accomplish two-way separation. Aquatic invasive
19 species are a shared problem and require a shared
20 solution, and we urge an urgent solution.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. BLUHM: Next we'll hear from No. 8
23 on the list, [REDACTED], No. 9, Henry Henderson, and
24 No. 10, Dave Ullrich.

1 When you're set, go ahead.

2 [REDACTED]: My name is [REDACTED],
3 60004. I did provide a written copy to the front
4 desk.

5 I'd like to thank the Assistant Secretary
6 and General and Colonel for inviting us here to
7 Chicago to speak about the need to physically separate
8 the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins to
9 prevent aquatic invasive species from doing
10 significantly worse harm to either basin.

11 Regarding Alternative No. 2, public
12 education, best practices on watercraft, these are all
13 critically important, necessary activities.

14 However, I couldn't stop myself from
15 thinking, looking at Alternative No. 2, of working on
16 legislative issues two years ago here in Illinois and
17 seeing a bill introduced to instruct the DNR to issue
18 permits so that people could use shotguns to shoot
19 Asian carp in the Illinois River.

20 As a result of that experience, that send-up
21 bill didn't pass, of course, but it reminded me that
22 it's a metaphor for the futility of relying only on
23 the State pending \$8.5 million a year on nonstructural
24 approaches.

1 So the other alternatives that incorporate
2 education and best practices with the structural
3 alternatives are critical.

4 We need to restore effective physical
5 separation of the two basins both to prevent the Asian
6 carp from decimating the fisheries and ecology of the
7 Great Lakes and to protect the Mississippi basin from
8 the various invasives that got shipped into the Great
9 Lakes over the years.

10 However, the time frames presented for
11 Alternatives 3, 5 through 8, 25 years, it's too far
12 out into the uncertain future. We need interim
13 measures so that the carp don't jump into the Great
14 Lakes and vice versa over the next 25 years.

15 These measures also are very costly.
16 \$4 billion to \$9 billion for the Great Lakes
17 Commission Report alternatives, \$15 billion to
18 \$18 billion in the current GLMRIS Report, but the
19 costs throughout the basins of continuing to not deal
20 with these problems would be much higher.

21 I understand the general regulation of
22 invasives is not within the ambit of this report or
23 the Corps of Engineers' regulatory structure, but
24 today we're dealing with a \$15 billion cost of Asian

1 carp and zebra and quagga mussels, et cetera.

2 Last week's news was that the Asian citrus
3 psyllid is decimating the Florida orange crop. I urge
4 you to make sure that other policymakers are aware of
5 the huge costs so that people know that there are real
6 costs of letting critters in from Asia or through
7 Rotterdam Harbor into our ecosystem.

8 We can't just let people decide that it's a
9 good idea to bring Asian carp in to eat plant life
10 down in Arkansas and then deal with the \$15 billion
11 costs mañana.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you.

14 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you.

15 MR. BLUHM: Okay. We're up to No. 9,
16 Henry Henderson; No. 10, Dave Ullrich is next; and
17 No. 11, Joel Brammeier.

18 When you're ready, go ahead.

19 MR. HENDERSON: Thank you very much.
20 Henry Henderson, Natural Resource Defense Counsel. I
21 direct the Midwest program. We're an environmental
22 organization of 1.4 million in numbers, and we're
23 deeply concerned --

24 THE REPORTER: Excuse me. Can you

1 speak into the microphone? I can't hear you.

2 MR. BLUHM: Just one second. She's
3 having a hard time hearing you.

4 Can we get the microphone just a little bit
5 higher for him?

6 I haven't started you yet.

7 MR. HENDERSON: Okay. Good.

8 MR. BLUHM: I'm just waiting for your
9 ZIP code. Can I get your ZIP code?

10 MR. HENDERSON: 60201.

11 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Great. And if you
12 can just talk as close to the microphone as you can,
13 that would be great.

14 MR. HENDERSON: 60201.

15 Thank you. Again, Henry Henderson. I
16 direct the Midwest program for the Natural Resources
17 Defense Counsel, which is an environmental
18 organization of 1.4 million members.

19 We're very concerned about the advance of
20 the Asian carp. We're very pleased that the Corps is
21 here to take testimony and take a reaction to the
22 10,000 pages we got on Monday.

23 As you recognize, getting through all 10,000
24 pages by this afternoon has been difficult, and we

1 look forward to submitting written remarks to the
2 record.

3 There are a couple things that are questions
4 that I'd like to raise with regard to the report. One
5 of the things in there is there are issues that we
6 were looking for and I can't quite find.

7 One of them is we have a very strong
8 attention to the costs of the eight measures that have
9 been evaluated. It is unclear whether there's been
10 any identification -- and I can't find it -- of the
11 benefits of taking action.

12 Often when we would look at a Corps report,
13 it looks at the cost benefits. We see cost; we don't
14 see benefits. There are a number of things like a
15 major public works project, which is what we're
16 looking at here. It generally creates jobs. It
17 doesn't involve taking \$15 billion in a dump truck and
18 putting it in a hole and not digging it up. There
19 actually are jobs created.

20 Where is there any reflection on that? Did
21 you do it? If not, why not? If so, where is it?

22 There are changes to the status quo of the
23 river that go well beyond what the issue of dealing
24 with invasive species are.

1 For instance, we've got issues of taking
2 sediment out of the bottom of the river. How is that
3 related to the charge of stopping Asian carp?

4 It is a desirable thing to remediate rivers.
5 It is a desirable thing to do the range of actions
6 like dealing with the persistent failures of
7 decontaminating the river, of dumping sewage into the
8 river, of combined sewer overflow.

9 How is this related to stopping invasive
10 species?

11 There are a number things that were added
12 into the funding that are unclear why they are a part
13 of saving the Great Lakes from invasive species.
14 That's something we'd like to know.

15 There are issues also about procedure.
16 Again, we have 1.4 million members. We are going to
17 be doing comments to the record.

18 Getting an understanding about what is the
19 process. How will these be responded to? Will there
20 be a written response? Will that response be sent to
21 Congress? What is the role of next steps with
22 Congress so that the comments we give will be relevant
23 to the process moving forward?

24 So we have some questions about data, about

1 analysis, about the cost benefit part that seems to be
2 missing, and what the process is. We look forward to
3 submitting comments to the record.

4 MR. WETHINGTON: Great, Henry. Thank
5 you for your time and for your questions today.

6 I'll try and spend a couple minutes helping
7 you better understand at least some of the processes
8 and some of the analysis that was completed in the
9 report.

10 With regard to, I guess, your last question
11 first, how will these comments be used? What we're
12 looking for in your comments is comments for the
13 public record, comments that can be used as part of an
14 administrative record for any new decision-making.

15 What these comments will do is we will
16 record them, and then we will summarize them in the
17 form of a report to let other decision-makers
18 understand what the thoughts are from the various
19 members of the public who have taken the time to come
20 out and speak and make comments about GLMRIS.

21 The report itself provides information to
22 decision-makers. Very similarly, that's what we're
23 seeking to do here with this public comment period is
24 provide information to decision-makers regarding the

1 appropriate next steps.

2 I want to talk a little bit about cost
3 benefits. The way this study was structured was as an
4 environmental protection study. So if you look at the
5 value, if you will, of the Great Lakes, some might say
6 that it's invaluable, that you cannot put a dollar
7 figure on it.

8 We did not set out to try and do a cost
9 benefit analysis in GLMRIS. We did do some baseline
10 work to identify certain economies such as commercial
11 cargo navigation, recreational navigation, fisheries,
12 recreational fisheries, charter fisheries, et cetera.

13 So we have in the report -- and granted, I
14 understand your conundrum where the report was
15 released just several days ago and you haven't had the
16 chance to wade through our economics appendix, but I
17 would assure you that all of that information is in
18 there as a part of the overall greater report.

19 That being said, we are offering until the
20 3rd of March for you to digest, read, so a good 60
21 days in order to be able to understand what is in the
22 report so you can structure your comments or your
23 advice a little bit more logically.

24 With regard to the creation of jobs, that

1 also is part of the economic appendix. We did do a
2 regional economic assessment, and you're absolutely
3 correct. If you're going to spend \$15 billion on a
4 large construction project, that will certainly create
5 jobs.

6 MR. HENDERSON: I hope so.

7 MR. WETHINGTON: How it does it and how
8 it regionally impacts the Chicago area, it's very
9 conceptual in terms of the level of analysis that we
10 perform.

11 But, again, we looked at a wide range of
12 potential alternatives and tried to estimate these
13 different markers -- these different economic markers
14 as best as possible.

15 With regard to the sediment question, I
16 think that's really important to understand in terms
17 of mitigating for adverse impacts to water quality.
18 The reason why we're pulling sediment out of the canal
19 is to replace it, to cap it so that we do not have an
20 adverse impact to the water quality of Lake Michigan.

21 Sediment remediation is a necessary feature
22 of the mid-system separation because you're opening up
23 several miles -- what is it, 10, 12 miles? -- of river
24 to Lake Michigan that is currently not open to Lake

1 Michigan.

2 I understand the sentiment in why is it okay
3 to have pollution now and it wouldn't be in the
4 future; but when you look at environmental regulation,
5 when you look at the introduction of new contaminants
6 to an existing significant natural resource like
7 Lake Michigan, there are antidegradation laws that
8 need to be complied with.

9 So if we were to effect a change, try and
10 get a permit to build a physical separation that would
11 then induce contamination to Lake Michigan, there
12 would need to be ways to mitigate for that adverse
13 impact or that new induced contaminant load.

14 So that is why sediment remediation is
15 necessary as part of the Mid-System Hydrologic
16 Separation alternative. You will note that no
17 sediment mediation is included in the lakefront
18 because you are essentially still protecting the lake
19 from that existing contamination.

20 So I hit on cost benefits, jobs creation,
21 sediment, and then next steps with regard to your
22 comments.

23 Anything else you'd like me to hit on?

24 MR. HENDERSON: So the comments

1 themselves will not be responded to. They will be
2 summarized?

3 MR. WETHINGTON: Correct. They will
4 not be responded to.

5 The purpose of this dialogue is to answer
6 technical questions with regard to the report, and I
7 hope I've done that for you.

8 With regard to comments that are submitted
9 for the record, it's more, again, information for
10 those decision-makers in moving forward.

11 MR. HENDERSON: Thank you very much.

12 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you.

13 MR. BLUHM: Moving on, we're on No. 10,
14 Dave Ullrich; No. 11, Joel Brammeier; and then No. 12,
15 Harry Drucker.

16 When you're ready, go ahead, sir.

17 MR. ULLRICH: Thank you very much.

18 My name is Dave Ullrich. I'm Executive
19 Director of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities
20 Initiative. We're a group of 112 U.S. and Canadian
21 cities around the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence that
22 have roughly 17 million people living in them.

23 MR. BLUHM: Can I get a ZIP code from
24 you?

1 MR. ULLRICH: Yes. 60606 is my
2 business ZIP code, and I'll give you double. 60657 is
3 where I live. So you can take your pick.

4 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

5 MR. ULLRICH: First, I'd also mention I
6 am a Commissioner on the Great Lakes Fishery
7 Commission. I also serve on the International Joint
8 Commission on Water Quality Board. I am not speaking
9 for them today, only the Cities Initiative.

10 First of all, I do want to thank the Corps
11 of Engineers for the excellent work that was done on
12 this over a very short period of time, the obvious
13 senior management attention that's been given to this
14 and the excellent work by the boots-on-the-ground guy,
15 Dave Wethington, who has taken all the fire over the
16 last at least 18 months and many more months than
17 that.

18 The important thing about GLMRIS to me is
19 that it has flushed out a number of very important
20 ideas about dealing with a very serious problem that
21 will inform the dialogue over the next many months
22 about what is the right thing to do. So that is the
23 important thing in my mind about GLMRIS, and I think
24 that job has been done and I appreciate it.

1 Number 2, the key thing now at this point is
2 to get from where we are today to a consensus decision
3 on what needs to be done. That will not be easy.
4 I've been in the environmental problem-solving
5 business for 40 years. This is the biggest one I've
6 ever tried to be involved in and participate in
7 solving, and it isn't going to be easy.

8 We really need to put forth all of our best
9 efforts. It is a shared responsibility. We need to
10 build consensus on that, and I'm confident that there
11 is enough commitment to this that we can do it.

12 I do want to offer as part of that
13 process -- I never like to come into something without
14 offering something as a solution.

15 We have been working quite closely with a
16 wide group of stakeholders over the last three years,
17 the Great Lakes Commission and the Cities Initiative,
18 as part of restoring the natural divide discussions to
19 create an advisory committee where there has been a
20 very open dialogue primarily focused, I will admit, on
21 physical separation but also talking about the
22 collateral issues associated with water quality,
23 transportation, and flood control that are critically
24 important.

1 We are prepared to continue that process,
2 and we think it's a good place to find that consensus
3 solution. So we want to work with the Corps and
4 everyone else on that.

5 GLMRIS, I do need to point out, I believe,
6 has highlighted that physical separation is the most
7 effective way to keep the Asian carp from getting
8 through the waterway system to the Great Lakes, but we
9 recognize there are many other issues that have to be
10 dealt with.

11 One final thought is that we should not miss
12 the opportunity that we have here of taking a big
13 challenge and turning it into a huge opportunity. We
14 can totally transform the Chicago Waterway System into
15 what I think the 1972 Clean Water Act contemplated for
16 all waters of the United States.

17 MR. BLUHM: Time is up.

18 MR. ULLRICH: We should take advantage
19 of that in this situation.

20 Thank you very much.

21 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you, Dave.

22 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

23 Next we'll hear from No. 11, Joel Brammeier,
24 and then following is No. 12, Harry Drucker, and then

1 No. 13 would be Mary-Jo Warskow.

2 When you're ready, go ahead, sir.

3 MR. BRAMMEIER: Hi, everyone. First of
4 all, thank you. I want to emphasize that -- Joel
5 Brammeier.

6 MR. BLUHM: Can I get your ZIP code?
7 I'm sorry.

8 MR. BRAMMEIER: Work 60602, home 60640.
9 I want to emphasize that I really
10 appreciated always the willingness of the Secretary
11 and General, Dave, and John to meet and discuss GLMRIS
12 during the time that it's been being developed. That
13 openness has been much appreciated by the Great Lakes
14 community.

15 While we don't always see eye to eye on
16 everything that comes out, we do appreciate your
17 willingness to sit down and have those conversations.
18 Thank you, and thank you for all your hard work.

19 I want to kind of pick up where Dave Ullrich
20 left off and really emphasize his point about regional
21 support. There is a tremendous opportunity here for
22 the Great Lakes Region, who is rallying around a
23 solution that it still can't quite contemplate even
24 after the release of this report, but it knows it

1 wants to get it done.

2 We've got to find a way to harness that and
3 take advantage of it over the next couple of months or
4 else we do run the risk of losing some of the momentum
5 that's been created by the publication of this report
6 and by the activities that were going on beforehand.

7 Attorney General Zoeller, who I just met
8 tonight for the first time and who has left, really
9 spoke to me when I heard him talking about the
10 problems in the Wabash because it told me that this is
11 actually not a Great Lakes problem.

12 It's a national problem, the problem of
13 invasive species, and thinking about it as a nation
14 and how we're going to solve it with Congress' support
15 as a nation is going to be absolutely critical to
16 getting the benefits that are being described in the
17 GLMRIS study.

18 I do want to push back a bit on something I
19 heard earlier. Dave, I understand that you
20 communicated it maybe as a legal reality about the
21 idea of a new source versus an existing source of
22 pollution.

23 This assumption -- and, again, 10,000 pages
24 or whatever it is. I haven't digested all of it yet,

1 but this assumption that seems to be being made that
2 in the long run, the standards for a river are going
3 to be lower than the standards for a lake makes me
4 very uncomfortable.

5 I think we need to aim higher as we
6 contemplate what the real solution to this problem is,
7 and we look forward to helping to flush that out as
8 time goes on.

9 I won't repeat anything that anybody has
10 said, but I do want to raise my question about what
11 the next two to three months are going to be used for
12 by the Corps. We've already heard tonight that this
13 is about providing information and not about changing
14 a report based on public comment.

15 What I've heard from members of Congress
16 since the report was released, whether you feel good
17 about separation or whether you have misgivings about
18 it or any of the solutions in there, is that we don't
19 feel these recommendations are actionable.

20 Senate consensus of 16 Great Lakes senators
21 wrote a letter to the Corps in November asking how the
22 Corps was going to get past that question.

23 I must admit that the response to that
24 letter did not help me understand the specific ways

1 that the Corps is going to use this time immediately
2 after GLMRIS to begin to build a consensus that brings
3 in the local partners and the regional partners in the
4 Great Lakes basin, at the very least, that are going
5 to be necessary in choosing a solution that I think is
6 best for the Great Lakes, hopefully, which is physical
7 separation in the long run and, also, providing those
8 additional immediate protections that are necessary.

9 So I would ask that you commit yourselves to
10 that over the next couple of months and potentially
11 use this public comment period to describe how that is
12 going to happen.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

15 MR. WETHINGTON: I guess I would just
16 like to kind of respond to the comment about the
17 collaborative solution.

18 I'm really glad to hear you kind of
19 recognizing that this whole idea of aquatic nuisance
20 species is a shared responsibility. I think that's
21 really important.

22 In terms of how to continue with that
23 forward, I think there are a couple of different ways.
24 We just heard Dave Ullrich from Great Lakes

1 St. Lawrence Cities Initiative kind of offer a group
2 that is already in existence and to help kind of
3 provide that advice.

4 The gentleman sitting next to me, John Goss,
5 is the lead for the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating
6 Committee. It's a group of federal, state, and other
7 resource management agencies that are very well
8 aligned toward this very issue.

9 Yes, the issue that they are dealing with
10 right now is Asian carp, but I feel that it could be
11 expanded in trying to come up with that kind of
12 collaborative long-term solution.

13 I think John might have a couple comments
14 about that, but certainly it's positioned towards
15 taking some of those next steps.

16 MR. GOSS: Certainly, the Regional
17 Coordinating Group will weigh in on this. We can
18 identify, I think, some of the things in the second
19 alternative that could be done in the short-term so we
20 have additional protection stopping transfer in the
21 next few years.

22 We'll look at where we could also focus some
23 of the efforts of the science teams that are involved,
24 contributing to a solution that everyone can focus on.

1 The consensus building is really important.
2 I appreciate everyone talking about ways to contribute
3 to the consensus building, and certainly I think
4 that's the most important thing is to capitalize on
5 the momentum we have, as Joel said.

6 Thanks.

7 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. We're at Harry
8 Drucker. So we're on No. 12, Harry Drucker, and
9 No. 13, then, on deck is Mary-Jo Warskow, and then
10 No. 14, Sabolch Horvat.

11 So when you're ready, go ahead, sir. Start
12 with your name and your ZIP code.

13 MR. DRUCKER: First, I'd like to thank
14 you all for your prodigious efforts producing this
15 report.

16 My name is Harry Drucker. My ZIP code is
17 60091, and that's for Wilmette. That's the village
18 where I live. It's where part of the Chicago Area
19 Waterway System enters Lake Michigan.

20 By way of background, I'm here speaking for
21 myself. I'm a businessman. I've been in the property
22 management and real estate advisory services business
23 for the last 27 years.

24 Since we're here at the University of

1 Chicago, for what it's worth, I earned my MBA here.
2 We should thank them for hosting our public meeting
3 here tonight.

4 I'm not completely unfamiliar with how to
5 evaluate the costs and benefits of various options,
6 the importance of reducing risks, or the consequences
7 of delaying actions. So my comments are pretty brief.

8 Very simply, I would like to point out that
9 the cost of delaying action on these issues is not
10 zero. There are real economic costs associated with
11 the spread of aquatic invasive species.

12 It costs real dollars, hundreds of millions
13 of dollars every year that it costs the commercial and
14 sport fishing industries, water treatment facilities,
15 and power generation facilities.

16 One other thing about the options contained
17 in the report is, unfortunately, I would have to say
18 that I believe that the options are way too long. 25
19 years is just not acceptable and that the economic
20 risks of putting off action for that long are way too
21 high.

22 I believe we must start interim measures to
23 reduce the risks now. Even if one of the options
24 contained in the GLMRIS Report may be perfect, we

1 cannot wait 25, 15, or even 10 years to start
2 instituting matters.

3 I will just wrap up by saying that any
4 solution that we implement to the passage of aquatic
5 invasive species to the Chicago Area Waterway System
6 must address at a minimum three things.

7 It must stop the species moving in both
8 directions; it has to stop all species; and work has
9 to be begin on that as soon as possible.

10 Thank you very much.

11 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you, sir.

12 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

13 No. 13, Mary-Jo Warskow, No. 14, Sabolch
14 Horvat will conclude the ones that had preregistered
15 on the Web site. Then we'll start on our list for
16 those that had registered tonight with No. 1, Kay
17 Nelson, on deck.

18 When you're ready, go ahead.

19 MS. WARSKOW: Sure.

20 First, I'd like to thank you very much for
21 your proper pronunciation of my name. I'm Mary-Jo
22 Warskow. ZIP code is 60005. Thank you very much for
23 the opportunity to offer comments on the GLMRIS
24 Report. I appreciate the time and energy that the

1 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has dedicated to
2 analyzing this very complex issue and presenting
3 several options in such a clear and comprehensive
4 manner.

5 First, let me tell you from what perspective
6 I speak to you today. I am a lifelong resident of the
7 Chicago area, and as such, I have enjoyed the Chicago
8 waterways both recreationally and economically. My
9 husband, children, and I spend quality family time on
10 the shores of the Great Lakes here in Illinois and
11 throughout other Great Lakes states.

12 When not on vacation, my husband and I own a
13 home in the suburbs of Cook County. My interest in
14 this issue, however, goes beyond my stake as a
15 taxpayer and tourist. I am a person who is deeply
16 committed to protecting and preserving our natural
17 resources, and the Great Lakes deserve the greatest
18 level of protection that we can offer it.

19 Therefore, it is my sincere hope, my wish to
20 express to you today, my sincere hope that this report
21 will be used by stakeholders to arrive at a decision
22 and implement a solution that carefully balances the
23 recreational, economic, health, and environmental
24 resources of the Chicago Area Waterway System and

1 Great Lakes but does not waste precious time in doing
2 so.

3 Stakeholders can debate the merits of each
4 of the plans presented in the report. The Evaluation
5 Criteria Summary Table clearly demonstrates that each
6 alternative has positives and negatives.

7 While some may argue for certain plans based
8 on costs, I do not believe costs should be a limiting
9 factor. The potential for the devastation of the
10 Great Lakes, its priceless ecosystem, and the economic
11 valuable fishing industry make even the most expensive
12 plan justifiable.

13 The factor that should be given the highest
14 priority is time, for if we take too long in reaching
15 a decision or implementing all or even part of a plan,
16 it won't matter how much we agree or how much money we
17 spend. It will be too late.

18 If I were a decision-maker, I would choose a
19 phased plan with an adaptive approach that provides in
20 the short-term a greater level of protection than we
21 currently enjoy and in the long-term the greatest
22 effectiveness with the least risk.

23 But I am not a decision-maker. So I'm here
24 today asking you and those who will ultimately be

1 making this decision, please do not delay. Work
2 quickly with your partners and stakeholders to
3 implement a plan that will keep the Great Lakes the
4 economic and ecological treasure that it is.

5 Thank you very much for your time and
6 consideration.

7 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

8 We're on No. 14, Sabolch Horvat. Then going
9 to those that registered today with the yellow sheets,
10 No. 1, Kay Nelson, is on deck, and then No. 2, Lynn
11 Muench, will be following.

12 Let's raise that microphone. If we can
13 start with your name and ZIP code.

14 MR. HORVAT: For the record, my name is
15 Sabolch Horvat. My ZIP code is 60614.

16 Off the record, you can always address me as
17 Sabie. I know that's easier.

18 I'm a concerned citizen. I've been living
19 in Chicago for about five years now. I'm here today
20 because I'm ashamed of how dirty the Chicago River is.
21 I'm optimistic that we finally have the opportunity to
22 make a change to that.

23 Please excuse me if any of my questions or
24 comments are already in the report. I also didn't

1 have time to read the whole thing. As the report
2 reveals, only physical separation can mitigate the
3 greatest risks of aquatic nuisance species.

4 I have a question similar to the economic
5 question earlier, maybe a little bit different. Is
6 there a benefit analysis which calculates how much
7 costs are actually reduced and damages due to flooding
8 to kind of offset what it would actually cost to
9 implement the physical separation alternative?

10 I hope that you consider the 40 million
11 residents that live around the Great Lakes when you
12 proceed with this project, and I hope you consider
13 them before you consider corporations, although I hope
14 you consider corporations as well.

15 A lot of my other comments and questions
16 have already been said, so I won't repeat them.

17 In closing, I'd like to say that I'd like to
18 see the continued effort to have swimming and
19 recreation safe waterways in the Chicago area and
20 around the Great Lakes.

21 So thank you for your work.

22 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you very much.
23 Thank you for taking the time to come out and write
24 comments tonight.

1 I wanted to address the one question that I
2 believe that we have an answer for. It's with regard
3 to flooding.

4 I just want to make sure that we all
5 understand that the mitigation described in the
6 report, so compensation for that adverse impact with
7 regard to flooding, is not meant to establish an added
8 benefit. Mainly, it is meant to offset any adverse
9 impact caused by the implementation of the plan.

10 So we are not trying to make flood risk
11 management better in the Chicagoland area. We
12 acknowledge that there are issues, but the purpose of
13 the mitigation within the study, within GLMRIS for a
14 specific alternative is to offset any adverse impacts
15 by that alternative.

16 So with regard to what costs were looked at,
17 we did do modeling for unmitigated impacts in
18 flooding, so what kind of flood damages would be
19 caused if you were to implement a barrier somewhere in
20 the system and did not construct any tunnels or
21 reservoirs to capture that water.

22 So we did quantify what those costs might
23 be, and they are detailed in quite a bit of
24 information in the Economics Appendix.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. HORVAT: Thank you.

3 MR. BLUHM: That concludes those that
4 preregistered on our Web site. We'll move to the ones
5 that registered with us today. The list is now at
6 seven.

7 We'll start with No. 1, Kay Nelson, followed
8 then by Lynn Muench, and then third, Albert Ettinger.

9 When you're ready, if we could have your
10 name and your ZIP code, please.

11 MS. NELSON: Yes. My name is Kay
12 Nelson. I'm Director of Environmental Affairs for the
13 Northwest Indiana Forum, 46368. My comments are
14 fairly simple.

15 Congratulations on meeting your deadline
16 that was set forth. I do not envy you your schedule
17 over the next four weeks during this winter weather of
18 making the rounds.

19 In Indiana we, of course, are very concerned
20 about the water quality of Lake Michigan. We are also
21 very concerned with regards to the impact of aquatic
22 invasive species on not only our recreational aspects
23 but our business aspects as well.

24 We do hope that the consensus, for whatever

1 solution is put forward, allows for the continuation
2 of marine transportation as an economical and
3 environmentally friendly means of product transfer as
4 well as protecting the citizens of northwest Indiana
5 against flooding as we undo the \$275 million Corps of
6 Engineers' flood project on the Little Calumet River
7 by reversing the flow and the Grand Calumet River
8 restoration that was done at \$250 million for
9 improving the aquatic and biodiversity there by
10 reversing the flow as well and then, of course, the
11 water quality issue of Lake Michigan.

12 So thank you very much, and we look forward
13 to continuing to work with all of you on this.

14 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you, Kay.

15 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you.

16 Okay. Next we'll hear from No. 2 on today's
17 list, Lynn Muench, then No. 3, Albert Ettinger, and
18 then No. 4, Jack Darin.

19 When you're ready, if we could start with
20 your name and ZIP code, please.

21 MS. MUENCH: Good afternoon or good
22 evening, whatever it is at this point. I'm Lynn
23 Muench with the American Waterways Operators, which is
24 a national trade association for the towboat, tugboat,

1 and barge industry. The ZIP code is 63104.

2 First of all, once again, congratulations to
3 Dave, to you and your team, for getting out a very
4 comprehensive report and on time. I think that's just
5 a remarkable thing and something that none of us
6 thought could actually happen.

7 One of the requests that I would have --
8 this is a very comprehensive report. It's very
9 robust. We talked about the number of pages. I
10 think, really, one of the things I'd ask sincerely of
11 you is we really need a lot more time to review this
12 and be able to put in public comments.

13 I would request, respectfully, at least
14 another 90 to 120 days to look at it so our comments
15 can be complete, comprehensive, and useful to you not
16 just now but as you move forward with the process.

17 There is also a very large number of
18 stakeholder group that is based where there is
19 significant products that move through the Chicago
20 waterways, and that is the carriers and shippers in
21 Louisiana.

22 So I'd request also that you do a public
23 hearing in Louisiana. I know they are watching this
24 carefully, and it would be much more helpful if they

1 could get in front of you in that location.

2 I think really the bottom line -- and I
3 think your report addresses this -- is that we need to
4 find win-win solutions to keep the invasive species
5 from moving but, also, make sure that we can maintain
6 navigation. I really appreciate all the work you've
7 done on that. So thank you very much.

8 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you, Lynn.

9 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

10 All right. So that gets us to No. 3, Albert
11 Ettinger, No. 4, Jack Darin, and then on deck No. 5,
12 Joseph O'Connor.

13 MR. ETTINGER: Yes. I'm Albert
14 Ettinger, 60626. I'm a lawyer. I represent a lot of
15 environmental groups, but I'm not representing them
16 now. I'm representing myself. They may be appalled
17 by some of the things I say.

18 I want to say -- first of all, I want to
19 agree with Dave Ullrich, who said that this presented
20 an opportunity to transform the system.
21 Unfortunately, that's what I'm not seeing here. That
22 was sort of reinforcing. Mr. Wethington just said we
23 weren't looking at adding benefits here, and I think
24 that's really what we did here.

1 I don't want to repeat the cliché of "make
2 no small plans"; but as big as this is, this is kind
3 of too small of a plan. We have a real opportunity
4 here to relook at the whole plumbing system in Chicago
5 and improve water quality, improve fish habitat, do
6 better things for endangered species and keep invasive
7 species out.

8 What we've got here is a very small plan, I
9 would say, only addressed to blocking a list of
10 invasive species. I'm not necessarily faulting
11 anybody. You probably had to do what Congress told
12 you to do; but I do believe that for voters and
13 citizens and as a whole, we should really be looking
14 at benefits and mutual things that can be done that
15 would work in several ways.

16 I think we need to look much more closely at
17 wastewater treatment improvements. I don't buy the
18 dichotomy that the only choices are the status quo and
19 reverse osmosis. I do not believe that is the truth.

20 There are a number of dischargers now to the
21 Great Lakes. I don't believe we're considering
22 reverse osmosis at Milwaukee or Cleveland or Detroit.

23 There's a lot of things I don't know, but I
24 think I understand the Clean Water Act and

1 antidegradation as well as anyone. I don't think that
2 our choice here -- well, I know our choice is not
3 between reverse osmosis and nothing.

4 So the other thing, then, that gets us to
5 this is we've got to study -- and we haven't studied
6 at all -- what water quality is needed and what we
7 need to do in order to address the existing problems
8 in the lower Des Plaines River, the Illinois River,
9 the Mississippi River, and the Gulf of Mexico.

10 When we start doing cost benefits and we're
11 avoiding all these costs of wastewater treatment in
12 Chicago, we shouldn't be counting those if those
13 things are all needed to address other problems.

14 I would emphasize nobody wants to increase
15 pollution in Lake Michigan or any of the other lakes;
16 but there are other things that need to be done, and
17 maybe we should be looking at those.

18 Also, somehow you overlooked the North
19 Branch of the Chicago River, which is also a source of
20 potential pollutants, based on what you're doing.

21 Finally, maybe I've got too little time to
22 ask a question, but I'm really wondering about this
23 physical barrier. I have a vision of the Berlin Wall
24 or something that you're planning on putting there.

1 So I hope somebody will address what you mean by "the
2 physical barrier."

3 MR. WETHINGTON: Sure. I can answer
4 that question. Thank you for your comments, by the
5 way.

6 Physical barrier would be pretty simple.
7 Much like a dam in the river, you could put sheet pile
8 walls on both sides and fill in the middle with stone
9 and earth. You could make it a bridge, a land bridge,
10 a parkway, even a recreational area.

11 We did not look to design anything
12 specifically, but there are a number of ways that you
13 could just essentially put a physical barrier. It
14 wouldn't, hopefully, have to be as symbolic as the
15 Berlin Wall. It could be something a little more
16 publicly suitable in that sense.

17 At the risk of making my own lawyers too
18 nervous, I won't comment too much about the water
19 quality because that's not my expertise.

20 I will say that we did engage with the
21 federal and the state regulators with regard to
22 putting together our plans, and we did get input from
23 them on what may be regulatorily acceptable with
24 regard to creating these alternatives. So we did not

1 decide in a vacuum to make some of the plans that we
2 did.

3 I very much appreciate your comments, and
4 thank you for your interest in GLMRIS.

5 MR. BLUHM: Excellent. Thank you.

6 All right. We're on No. 4, Jack Darin,
7 following No. 5, Joseph O'Connor, and then No. 6, Bob
8 Lund.

9 When you're ready, if you want to say your
10 name and ZIP code for us.

11 MR. DARIN: Thank you. My name is Jack
12 Darin. I'm the Director of the Sierra Club Illinois
13 Chapter. The ZIP code is 60601.

14 I do want to thank you and congratulate you
15 for meeting this aggressive deadline. I think that's
16 a lot of work. It's helpful for us, I hope, to be
17 able to move on to what may be the most critical phase
18 in the consideration of all this.

19 I am pleased and support the report's
20 finding that permanent separation gives us the highest
21 confidence and is the most effective solution for
22 meeting the goal of the report, which is preventing
23 the transfer of species.

24 I am pleased that it's your conclusion that

1 it is possible because for many years a lot of people
2 have been wondering whether that's possible and saying
3 that it's not. So I'm hopeful that this can mark a
4 new era where we begin focusing on how it can be done
5 rather than whether it can be done.

6 We also acknowledge that the report goes
7 into great detail about how this is not going to be
8 done overnight, and it's not going to be done for
9 free. We certainly recognize that.

10 We also recognize that in addition to your
11 Corps charge, that a project like this has tremendous
12 potential to advance other goals for our region,
13 reducing flooding, a cleaner Chicago River,
14 modernizing our transportation system, and creating a
15 tremendous amount of jobs.

16 We know those weren't your charge, but you
17 have great partners in this region. I know you
18 realize that, and that is their charge. I'm hopeful
19 that in the next phase, that the state of Illinois,
20 the city of Chicago, the Metropolitan Water
21 Reclamation District can really begin to get their
22 heads around these issues to design a solution that
23 would really work best for our region.

24 I think if they could do that, I'm confident

1 that they can beat the types of cost figures that you
2 put out and, hopefully, the timelines as well and make
3 sure that we not only can protect this Great Lake but
4 do so in a way that really maximizes the benefits for
5 the Chicago region.

6 Thanks.

7 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you, Jack.

8 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

9 We'll now hear from No. 5, Joseph O'Connor,
10 followed by No. 6, Bob Lund, and No. 7, then, on deck
11 is Madeleine Mahan.

12 When you're ready, sir, could we get your
13 name and ZIP code?

14 MR. O'CONNOR: My name is Joseph
15 O'Connor. I'm from River Forest, Illinois 60305.

16 I come here as John Q. Citizen with a
17 background in maritime transportation. I was a
18 seagoing skipper for a formidable American flags
19 steamship company for 33 years operating out of the
20 Gulf of Mexico in the international trades.

21 What I'm here to say today is whatever you
22 decide, I hope that you keep this vital international
23 waterway open. I equate this waterway not on the same
24 magnitude but the same idea as the Panama Canal, the

1 Suez Canal, and the Dardanelles Straits.

2 Currently, there are millions of tons of
3 bulk cargo, petroleum products, coal, grain, ore,
4 whatever, that move up and down this waterway and in
5 and out of the Great Lakes, including some vintage
6 manufactured products that happen to be shipped in
7 barges.

8 All this traffic goes on very quietly, very
9 efficiently, most of the time without incident. So
10 the general public in this area is probably not even
11 aware of the magnitude of this transportation.

12 Secondly, in the future, I've been to major
13 intermodal container ports all over the world,
14 Rotterdam, Hamburg, Antwerp, New York, Long Beach,
15 Yokohama, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

16 The general public in this region doesn't
17 realize that the Chicagoland region is a major
18 intermodal container handling port. The only thing
19 that it doesn't do, it doesn't do it by water, but
20 that doesn't mean that it can't do it in the future.
21 There's certainly an opportunity for the future for
22 intermodal container handling, both on the rivers and
23 the lakes.

24 Thirdly, during World War II out at 130th

1 and Torrence there were several destroyer escorts
2 built and shipped down to the ocean via the
3 Mississippi River waterway. The Port of Manitowoc,
4 Wisconsin, built 26 submarines and shipped them down
5 through the same way to New Orleans.

6 So again, please keep this vital
7 international waterway open. Thank you.

8 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you, sir.

9 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

10 We'll now hear from No. 6, Bob Lund,
11 followed by No. 7, Madeleine Mahan, and then No. 8,
12 [REDACTED].

13 When you're ready, if we could get your name
14 and your ZIP code.

15 MR. LUND: Bob Lund, 60633.

16 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

17 MR. LUND: I would say that most of the
18 comments today have come from the environment groups,
19 and I represent -- I'm a tugboat captain on Lake
20 Michigan and the Chicago River. I represent the
21 International Shipmasters Association, Lodge 3. It's
22 an organization of professional mariners which operate
23 on the Great Lakes.

24 We would, of course, like to enjoy continued

1 employment. We are also committed to a clean
2 environment, and we spend most of our time on the
3 water. So that's important to us, too.

4 In my 37 years on Chicago's waterways, I've
5 witnessed dramatic changes in cleaning up the rivers
6 and Lake Michigan. In fact, when I began my career,
7 the Asian carp would never have dared come to Chicago.
8 Now I occasionally see bald eagles fishing in Lake
9 Calumet. So we've come a long way.

10 I'd like to thank the Corps for their hard
11 work in keeping the carp at bay. It seems to be
12 working. They're seven miles away, and they don't
13 want to come any further.

14 Also, for their great diligence in this
15 report. It's very thorough, and we appreciate your
16 efforts.

17 I would urge, of course, that when Congress
18 makes their decision and they digest the information,
19 that they choose one of the options that keeps the
20 Chicago waterways and navigation channels open. As
21 Joe just said, it's extremely important.

22 As mentioned earlier, each barge that comes
23 up here -- they come up 15 at a time -- it's 70 trucks
24 off the highway. So imagine how congested 355 is

1 going to get.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

4 We're on No. 7, Madeleine Mahan, and No. 8,
5 [REDACTED].

6 When you're ready, give your name and ZIP
7 code.

8 MS. MAHAN: Hi. My name is Madeleine
9 Mahan. In an effort to expand your geographic data,
10 I'll give you my home ZIP code. It's 60030. I work
11 for Friends of the Chicago River.

12 On behalf of Friends, I'd like to thank the
13 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for working so hard to
14 find solutions to the movement of aquatic invasive
15 species that threaten our lakes and waterways.

16 What I want to share with you tonight is
17 Friends' unique perspective, our mission to improve
18 and protect the Chicago River. At times the solutions
19 presented to solve these complex issues are in direct
20 conflict with that mission and the many ways the river
21 has been improved for people and wildlife on which
22 billions of dollars have already been spent.

23 Clearly, many, many people support a clean,
24 healthy Chicago River, including Mayor Rahm Emanuel,

1 who is investing \$100 million in the Chicago Riverwalk
2 to bring people from the region and across the world
3 this wonderful resource.

4 As we familiarize ourselves with the eight
5 solutions put forth in the GLMRIS Report, we're
6 measuring them for effectiveness and whether they harm
7 the river in any way or include the kinds of
8 infrastructure investment and planning that will
9 ensure the river still has the potential to become one
10 of the world's greatest metropolitan rivers and hope
11 you will as well.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you.

14 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

15 As we wrap up, I want to make an
16 announcement for those on the Webinar. If you'd like
17 to make a comment or ask a question on the Webinar,
18 please dial Star 1 on your phone now and wait to be
19 unmuted, or you can use the "Send Note" button that's
20 on the top of the screen.

21 So far we haven't had any indicate that they
22 would like to. So we'll give specific instructions to
23 them and see if we get any in.

24 Then [REDACTED], if you have a second, go

1 ahead and give us your ZIP code and begin.

2 [REDACTED]: My ZIP code is 60526.

3 My name is [REDACTED], and I'm here as a
4 citizen, a resident, because my family relies on Lake
5 Michigan for recreational purposes. I have no doubt
6 in my mind that if it were not for the promise of the
7 opportunity to spend the summer on the beach of Lake
8 Michigan, my husband would have already relocated our
9 family out of the Chicago region because these winters
10 are very difficult, and the lake enhances our quality
11 of life immeasurably.

12 My primary concern is the protection of the
13 Great Lakes ecosystem. I'm going to be brief because
14 my comments have been said by several other people,
15 but you filtered down all of the known invasive
16 species that are in the Great Lakes already down to
17 5 percent of the total, and you have not accounted for
18 additional ones that are sure to be coming.

19 Only two alternatives achieve the goal of
20 the GLMRIS Study, and those are the two with
21 hydrological separation.

22 You've estimated that those alternatives
23 will take 25 years to be effective. Clearly, that is
24 unacceptable. The longer the process takes, the

1 more invasive species will enter the Great Lakes.

2 My background is in economic development,
3 and I'd just like to say to people in the shipping
4 industry I think, first of all, that Lake Michigan is
5 our location advantage, and it is incredibly important
6 to the Chicago economy. Nobody wants to hurt that.

7 I believe that this is an opportunity to
8 update our transportation system for the future and
9 improve the economic opportunities in shipping, which,
10 by the way, as an environmentalist, I want to promote.
11 Shipping has very low greenhouse gas emissions
12 compared to other forms of transportation.

13 I live in LaGrange Park, which is a western
14 suburb. I'm concerned about flooding, and I live not
15 too far from both McCook and Stickney. The MWRD
16 already has plans to bring two more reservoirs online
17 through the TARP.

18 I'd like clarification because two previous
19 persons testified. You said that it was additional
20 flooding mitigation caused by the project.

21 I was just wondering. The Thornton
22 reservoir, for example, is already supposed to be
23 coming online. Are you making it larger?

24 MR. WETHINGTON: So the answer to that

1 is, well, yes. It wouldn't necessarily -- the new
2 reservoirs would be in addition to those reservoirs
3 which are currently being constructed.

4 Although we've identified McCook and
5 Thornton as possible locations, those are, again, a
6 conceptual design. We chose McCook and Thornton
7 because there is the volume available. So it's
8 theoretically possible to have a 15- or
9 10-billion-gallon reservoir at those locations in
10 addition to those that are currently being
11 constructed.

12 So to answer your question, yes, there would
13 be additional flood risk to water quality reservoirs
14 in addition to those that are already being
15 constructed.

16 [REDACTED]: Thank you.

17 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you.

18 MR. BLUHM: All right. That concludes
19 all the people that have signed up either through the
20 Web site or today. I'm just going to check one more
21 time to see if anybody from the Webinar has decided
22 that they would like to ask a comment or make a
23 statement. Nothing? All right. Very good.

24 Seeing as though we've gone through the

1 list, I'd like to see if there is anybody at this time
2 that has had a chance to come up that would like to
3 come back to the microphone and continue their
4 statement. If you'd like to, please raise your hand
5 or move towards the microphone.

6 Then I'm going to go back to our slides here
7 and just let you know that comments can be submitted
8 in several forms, again. Obviously, this is the start
9 of seven meetings. We've got six more just like this
10 that are going to be happening in the weeks to come.

11 This yellow sheet is the common sheet we're
12 going to use throughout all of our meetings to get
13 your comments. Take the sheet with you if you have
14 not filled it out.

15 The backside is set up so you can add
16 anything that you'd like to let us know so that the
17 people that are making the decisions have as much
18 information as possible to help move things forward.

19 Our Web site is also set up with a similar
20 form. You can use that if that's more suited for your
21 style.

22 We have heard from 22 persons, a little over
23 115 minutes of testimony tonight. I do want to thank
24 you all on behalf of the Chicago District and the

1 Corps of Engineers for taking the time sitting with us
2 and listening to the comments. It's a very important
3 part of our process, and we do appreciate you taking
4 the time out of your busy schedules.

5 I'll look back to the table here at the
6 panel. Are there any questions from the panel at all?

7 MS. DARCY: I just wanted to say again
8 thank you to everyone, especially the Chicago District
9 and the Army Corps of Engineers.

10 Also, I think this is a great kickoff to
11 what it is I think we expect and had hoped for in
12 these public meetings, and that is to hear from all of
13 you about the fact that there's a needed consensus
14 from all of you in this room in order to inform
15 decision-makers about what the best way forward is on
16 this whole project idea.

17 I think hearing from the various folks in
18 this room who want to work toward that goal, I think
19 it is a great -- again, that's what we were hoping
20 for. We've heard you loud and clear that the time is
21 now and that we need to continue to develop these
22 alternatives and, also, to hear from you.

23 Someone said that they weren't a
24 decision-maker, but you really are because it's your

1 voice that decision-makers are going to hear and they
2 should be listening to.

3 Thank you again for all of your comments and
4 your interest.

5 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you.

6 Anything else?

7 The time now is 6:17. I'd like to remind
8 everyone that the Corps staff and the panel will
9 remain here at the meeting for as long as it takes to
10 answer any questions you have.

11 At the front desk we do have the handout
12 materials. If you need an extra set or did not get a
13 set, we've got more for you. With that said, at 6:17
14 I'd like to adjourn the meeting. Thank you, all.

15 (Which were all of the
16 proceedings had in the
17 above-entitled matter,
18 concluding at 6:17 p.m.)

19

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24

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS.
2 COUNTY OF DU PAGE)

I, Jean S. Busse, Certified Shorthand
Reporter No. 84-1860, Registered Professional
Reporter, a Notary Public in and for the County
of DuPage, State of Illinois, do hereby certify
that I reported in shorthand the proceedings
had in the above-entitled matter and that the
foregoing is a true, correct and complete
transcript of my shorthand notes so taken as
aforesaid.

13 IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I have hereunto set
14 my hand and affixed my notarial seal this 13th
15 day of January, 2014.

19 Jean S. Busse
20 Certified Shorthand Reporter
 Notary Public

My Commission Expires
23 July 25, 2017

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Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Meeting 01-09-2014

Page 1

<u> \$ </u>	100-year 29:23	2012 20:20,24 21:1	46368 96:13
\$1 50:7	30:3	2013 15:16	<u> 5 </u>
\$100 110:1	10-billion-gallon	2014 1:15 16:7	5 32:21 51:23 65:5
\$15 38:5 58:23	113:9	21:1 117:15	70:11 99:11
70:17,24 71:10	11 71:17 79:14	2017 117:23	103:7 105:9
73:17 77:3	82:23	2040 49:11	111:17
\$15.1 37:5	112 79:20	20-year 50:1	50 29:14 42:8
\$15.5 30:11,21	113 3:8	22 114:22	50,000 15:14
36:12	115 114:23	230-some 19:23	500-year 29:16,19
\$18 50:5 70:18	12 77:23 79:14	25 30:10 33:23	50-mile 64:15
\$18.4 33:24	82:24 88:8	36:11 37:6 38:5	<u> 6 </u>
\$250 97:8	120 98:14	39:8,23 49:2	6 20:24 21:1 32:22
\$275 97:5	13 3:5 46:11 55:18	70:11,14 89:18	65:5 103:7
\$300 50:8	65:17 68:2 83:1	90:1 111:23	105:10 107:10
\$4 70:16	88:9 90:13	117:23	6,000 64:19
\$4.7 49:24	13.5 33:19	25,000 64:16 65:15	6.5 33:19
\$531 50:2	13.9 49:14	26 107:4	6:17 116:7,13,18
\$582 50:2	130th 106:24	27 88:23	60 13:7 76:20
\$68 28:2	13th 117:14	<u> 3 </u>	600 35:15,23
\$7.5 30:22	14 88:10 90:13	3 28:9 47:9,11	60004 69:3
\$7.8 32:20	93:8	70:11 97:17	60005 90:22
\$70 64:22	15 20:4 90:1	99:10 107:21	60030 109:10
\$8.3 37:7	108:23 113:8	30-some 17:6	60091 88:17
\$8.5 69:23	16 49:18 85:20	33 105:19	60201 72:10,14
\$9 70:16	17 79:22	35 23:14,17,19	60305 105:15
\$90 64:22	18 9:13 11:1 15:23	355 108:24	60411 51:1
<u> 1 </u>	20:23 21:2 80:16	37 108:4	60526 111:2
1 13:23 25:12,13	1800s 34:4	3rd 7:13,15,23 8:6	60601 103:13
47:9,12 90:16	18-month 22:20	43:6 76:20	60602 59:11 83:8
93:10 96:7	19 3:6	<u> 4 </u>	60606 47:19 80:1
110:18	1950s 17:13	4 3:3 97:18 99:11	60610 63:12
1.4 71:22 72:18	1972 82:15	103:6	60614 67:3 93:15
74:16	<u> 2 </u>	4.4 32:18	60626 99:14
10 29:13 39:23	2 26:7 47:10	4:00 1:16	60633 107:15
68:24 71:16	69:11,15 81:1	40 81:5 94:10	60640 83:8
77:23 79:13 90:1	93:10 97:16	42 3:7	60657 80:2
10,000 72:22,23	20 29:13 35:17	450 1:12	63104 98:1
84:23	200 23:12	46204 59:17	
100 35:13 48:3,16	2010 49:23		

<hr/> <p>7</p> <hr/> <p>7 66:22 105:10 107:11 109:4</p> <p>7:00 8:12</p> <p>70 49:18 108:23</p> <p>700 35:15,23</p> <hr/> <p>8</p> <hr/> <p>8 3:4 66:23 68:22 70:11 107:11 109:4</p> <p>80 23:21</p> <p>84-1860 117:5</p> <hr/> <p>9</p> <hr/> <p>9 1:15 66:23 68:23 71:15</p> <p>90 98:14</p> <p>90s 53:9</p> <hr/> <p>A</p> <hr/> <p>abide 43:20</p> <p>ability 62:10</p> <p>able 6:14 9:3 10:19 32:12 35:7 38:1 39:20 42:6,7 46:3 76:21 98:12 103:17</p> <p>above-entitled 116:17 117:9</p> <p>abreast 41:7</p> <p>absolutely 77:2 84:15</p> <p>acceptable 89:19 102:23</p> <p>accomplish 7:6 22:19 68:18</p> <p>accomplishment 17:22</p> <p>accounted 111:17</p>	<p>accurate 46:5</p> <p>achieve 22:15 39:22 68:12 111:19</p> <p>acknowledge 9:6 21:18 95:12 104:6</p> <p>acknowledging 64:6</p> <p>across 15:23 16:15 18:9 110:2</p> <p>act 16:23 22:23 82:15 100:24</p> <p>action 18:18 25:14,16 51:6 67:13,22 73:11 89:9,20</p> <p>actionable 85:19</p> <p>actions 41:1 64:11 74:5 89:7</p> <p>active 26:12,13</p> <p>activities 25:15,16,20,24 26:3 69:13 84:6</p> <p>activity 68:14</p> <p>actually 9:2 11:19 58:6,10 73:19 84:11 94:7,8 98:6</p> <p>adaptive 39:16 92:19</p> <p>add 41:5 114:15</p> <p>added 74:11 95:7</p> <p>adding 99:23</p> <p>addition 15:9,17 104:10 113:2,10,14</p> <p>additional 15:12 17:6 22:16,21,23 24:4 28:5,6 37:24 39:13 41:12 43:24 86:8 87:20 111:18</p>	<p>112:19 113:13</p> <p>address 7:1 26:17 43:23 48:6 50:13 55:4 60:9 61:10,22 62:3,11 90:6 93:16 95:1 101:7,13 102:1</p> <p>addressed 21:13 65:2 100:9</p> <p>addresses 99:3</p> <p>addressing 61:14</p> <p>adjacent 33:8 34:3</p> <p>adjourn 116:14</p> <p>adjust 45:22</p> <p>adjustable 45:22</p> <p>administrative 75:14</p> <p>admit 81:20 85:23</p> <p>adopted 17:23</p> <p>advance 39:19 47:3 72:19 104:12</p> <p>advantage 27:13 82:18 84:3 112:5</p> <p>adverse 20:14 22:4 23:22 38:8,14 77:17,20 78:12 95:6,8,14</p> <p>advice 76:23 87:3</p> <p>advisor 63:14</p> <p>advisory 81:19 88:22</p> <p>advocate 57:9 67:9</p> <p>Affairs 96:12</p> <p>affect 15:4</p> <p>affected 17:5</p> <p>affecting 16:19</p> <p>affects 56:12</p> <p>affixed 117:14</p> <p>aforesaid 117:12</p> <p>afternoon 8:17</p>	<p>63:11 72:24 97:21</p> <p>against 97:5</p> <p>agencies 11:24 14:4 22:10,11 25:22 27:16,20 40:17 62:18,19 87:7</p> <p>agency 10:17 11:23 22:24</p> <p>agenda 4:23 8:7</p> <p>aggressive 103:15</p> <p>ago 36:3 52:22 69:16 76:15</p> <p>ahead 50:23 54:14 63:10 69:1 71:18 79:16 83:2 88:11 90:18 111:1</p> <p>aim 85:5</p> <p>AIS 59:2</p> <p>aisle 45:10</p> <p>Alaska 19:13</p> <p>Albert 96:8 97:17 99:10,13</p> <p>algae 53:15,16</p> <p>aligned 87:8</p> <p>Alliance 57:9,20</p> <p>allow 29:5 32:3 36:17 43:14 44:3,20 66:2</p> <p>allowing 49:2</p> <p>allows 97:1</p> <p>alluded 27:7 40:14</p> <p>alone 64:19</p> <p>already 16:19 18:3 51:9 67:17 85:12 87:2 93:24 94:16 109:22 111:8,16 112:16,22 113:14</p> <p>Alsip 28:17</p> <p>alternative 13:23</p>
---	---	---	--

<p>22:8 25:10,12,13 26:4,7,8 28:9,10 29:5 30:21,23 31:2 32:15,21 69:11,15 78:16 87:19 92:6 94:9 95:14,15</p> <p>alternatives 9:18,21 10:8,20 11:3,6 13:18 18:5,15 21:5,22,23 22:1,4,12,14,18 23:4 24:1,6,7 26:6 27:9 28:7,11,12 29:6 30:20 31:2 37:11 38:12 64:10 65:5,20 66:2,8,10,16 70:1,3,11,17 77:12 102:24 111:19,22 115:22</p> <p>am 9:2 19:5 51:1 63:12 80:6,8 91:6,15 92:23 103:19,24</p> <p>ambit 70:22</p> <p>amendment 9:11</p> <p>America 49:9 68:7</p> <p>American 97:23 105:18</p> <p>America's 68:9</p> <p>amongst 30:20</p> <p>amount 28:3 37:3 104:15</p> <p>analyses 22:17</p> <p>analysis 75:1,8 76:9 77:9 94:6</p> <p>analyzing 91:2</p> <p>anglers 26:24</p> <p>animals 67:23</p> <p>announcement</p>	<p>110:16</p> <p>annual 27:23</p> <p>annually 50:2</p> <p>ANS 25:1 26:10 29:2,10 30:1 31:7,9 32:1</p> <p>ANS-containing 25:1</p> <p>answer 66:7 79:5 95:2 102:3 112:24 113:12 116:10</p> <p>answerable 43:17</p> <p>answers 62:23</p> <p>antidegradation 78:7 101:1</p> <p>Antwerp 106:14</p> <p>anybody 44:24 46:21 85:9 100:11 113:21 114:1</p> <p>anyone 61:3 63:1 101:1</p> <p>anything 11:11 25:17 42:6 43:3 78:23 85:9 102:11 114:16 116:6</p> <p>apologize 47:3</p> <p>appalled 99:16</p> <p>appendices 19:24</p> <p>appendix 76:16 77:1 95:24</p> <p>Applause 41:15</p> <p>appreciate 12:11 19:8 42:11 52:18 54:19 58:14 80:24 83:16 88:2 90:24 99:6 103:3 108:15 115:3</p> <p>appreciated 83:10,13</p> <p>approach 48:22</p>	<p>92:19</p> <p>approaches 69:24</p> <p>appropriate 62:19 68:7 76:1</p> <p>approximate 28:22 33:19</p> <p>approximated 39:8</p> <p>approximately 23:14 33:23 37:4 64:16</p> <p>aquatic 5:7 9:14,17,19 20:8,11 23:12 24:15 25:2,5,6 26:9,15,22 27:12,21 28:13,14,18,24 30:6 31:6,16 32:11 38:19,21 40:2,4,10 54:24 55:16 58:1 62:14 65:18 66:17 68:18 69:9 86:19 89:11 90:4 94:3 96:21 97:9 109:14</p> <p>area 6:18,20 16:3 21:4,9,16 23:9 29:24 31:8 32:19 33:13 34:11 49:24 56:21 58:8,11 64:8 66:12 77:8 88:18 90:5 91:7,24 94:19 95:11 102:10 106:10</p> <p>areas 11:22 64:14</p> <p>argue 92:7</p> <p>Arkansas 71:10</p> <p>Army 2:7 4:6 5:8,23 7:12 8:20,22,24 9:7,8 10:4 19:6 48:4 50:10 57:12 58:6 91:1 109:13</p>	<p>115:9</p> <p>arrive 91:21</p> <p>arrived 4:21 27:19</p> <p>ASA 5:22</p> <p>ashamed 93:20</p> <p>Asia 71:6</p> <p>Asian 14:1 15:4,12 16:14,16,17 18:3,5 39:1,3 48:21 50:13 51:23 52:4,8 53:2,6 54:3,8 55:8,21 57:15,24 67:6 69:19 70:5,24 71:2,9 72:20 74:3 82:7 87:5,10 108:7</p> <p>aspects 96:22,23</p> <p>assessment 23:17 58:8 68:2 77:2</p> <p>assigned 23:20,23</p> <p>Assistant 2:7 5:23 8:19 57:18 59:21 69:5</p> <p>Associate 63:13</p> <p>associated 59:1 81:22 89:10</p> <p>association 97:24 107:21</p> <p>assumes 49:4</p> <p>assuming 27:16 61:11</p> <p>assumption 21:8 84:23 85:1</p> <p>assure 76:17</p> <p>attacking 53:16</p> <p>attempted 42:15</p> <p>attended 52:21</p> <p>attending 45:7</p> <p>attention 12:13 55:21 61:21 73:8 80:13</p>
--	---	--	--

Attorney 54:12 57:2 59:13,16,17 62:6 63:3 84:7 audience 10:14 authorities 27:15 62:17 authorizations 9:10 authorized 57:23 60:1 authorizing 30:18 55:15 available 4:22 9:23 20:7 113:7 average 27:22 avoiding 101:11 aware 71:4 106:11 awareness 4:19 41:19 away 56:9 108:12 <hr/> B <hr/> backflow 32:8 background 5:10 24:4 88:20 105:17 112:2 backside 114:15 bait 27:1 38:24 bake 59:3 balances 91:22 bald 108:8 banks 4:13 barge 49:17,20 98:1 108:22 barges 106:7 barrier 14:5,17,21 15:16,19 24:11 30:2 34:22 36:20,23 55:24 56:6 95:19 101:23 102:2,6,13	barriers 24:12 26:2 29:4 31:14 33:7 36:15 66:1 based 35:5 85:14 92:7 98:18 101:20 baseline 21:19 26:4 76:9 basic 4:11 basically 21:19 basin 9:20 17:1,2 23:20 27:1 33:10 55:6,20 58:3 69:10 70:7 86:4 basins 20:9 21:6,17 23:8,14 30:7 38:23 39:11 49:2 56:20 68:3 69:8 70:5,19 basis 27:23 bass 61:19 Bathrooms 4:12 battled 48:20 bay 108:11 beach 106:14 111:7 bear 10:21 11:23 beat 105:1 become 60:19 110:9 beforehand 84:6 begin 8:8 41:3 45:11 47:14 86:2 90:9 104:4,21 111:1 beginning 4:10 42:17 46:14 beginnings 16:16 behalf 62:9 63:17 109:12 114:24 behave 52:5 behind 25:6 31:3	believe 64:10 66:13 82:5 89:18,22 92:8 95:2 100:12,19,21 112:7 Ben 47:10,12 benefit 75:1 76:9 94:6 95:8 benefits 73:11,13,14 76:3 78:20 84:16 89:5 99:23 100:14 101:10 105:4 Benjamin 47:18 Berlin 101:23 102:15 besides 41:6 best 8:4 10:6,9 12:23 13:14 22:7 27:4,8 30:19 42:13,23 45:23 47:5 69:12 70:2 77:14 81:8 86:6 104:23 115:15 beta 62:2 better 10:3 39:19 75:7 95:11 100:6 beyond 16:22 67:20 73:23 91:14 biggest 37:18 81:5 bigheads 15:14 bill 9:12 69:17,21 billion 30:11,21,22 32:18,20 33:19,20,24 36:12 37:5,7 38:5 49:24 50:5,8 58:23 70:16,17,18,24 71:10 73:17 77:3 billions 48:10 109:22	binational 68:8 biodiversity 97:9 biologists 11:21 biology 11:11 bit 24:19 28:4 33:5 42:12 47:16 57:6 72:4 76:2,23 84:18 94:5 95:23 block 15:12 44:17 blocking 100:9 blooms 53:15,16 blue 5:6 46:10 47:9 51:18,22 Bluhm 2:12 3:3,8 4:2,5 41:16 50:16 53:22 54:10 57:1 59:9,12 63:6 66:21 68:22 71:13,15 72:2,8,11 79:13,23 80:4 82:17,22 83:6 86:14 88:7 90:12 93:7 96:3 97:15 99:9 103:5 105:8 107:9,16 109:3 110:14 113:18 116:5 Board 80:8 boat 65:11,15 boaters 61:17 63:17 64:4,17,21 65:1,8,15 66:3 boating 63:13,15 64:13 65:20 boats 27:3 boatyards 65:11 Bob 103:7 105:10 107:10,15 boil 19:23 boiled 5:16 book 20:5 25:12
--	---	--	---

bookended 29:4	57:18	carp 14:1,7,8,12	challenges 36:8
booklet 5:11	business 1:11 80:2	15:4,12,15	Chamber 47:20,24
books 19:20	81:5 88:22 96:23	16:14,16,17	chance 5:14 23:22
Booth 1:11	businessman	18:3,5 39:1,3	39:9 45:1 46:8
boots-on-the-	88:21	48:21 50:13	76:16 114:2
ground 80:14	Busse 1:21	51:24 52:1,4,8	change 78:9 93:22
border 39:4	117:4,19	53:2,6 54:3,8	changes 73:22
bottom 25:11	busy 4:8 115:4	55:9,17,22 56:3	108:5
36:16 74:2 99:2	butt 53:14	57:16,24 67:6	changing 85:13
Brammeier 71:17	button 110:19	69:19 70:6,13	channel 24:13
79:14 82:23	buy 27:11	71:1,9 72:20	35:19 36:21,23
83:3,5,8	39:13,20 52:13	74:3 82:7	channeling 34:20
Branch 101:19	100:17	87:5,10 108:7,11	channels 108:20
Brandon 31:11,20	buying 52:11	Carr 59:15 63:8	Chapter 54:17
break 13:7	bypass 28:9,13	66:22 67:1,2	103:13
bridge 102:9		carriers 98:20	charge 74:3
brief 43:10 89:7	<hr/> C <hr/>	case 25:18	104:11,16,18
111:13	cake 59:4	catch 53:11	Charles 47:10
BRIGADIER 2:4	calculates 94:6	caught 53:10	50:21,24 54:2
bring 10:20 12:8	Cal-Sag	cause 38:13	charter 76:12
17:7 57:6 59:19	36:19,21,23 37:2	caused 53:1	check 113:20
60:16 71:9 110:2	Calumet 97:6,7	95:9,19 112:20	checked 6:7
112:16	108:9	causing 23:22	check-in 4:22
bringing 62:20	Canada 39:5	34:17	Chicago 1:11,12
brings 86:2	Canadian 17:19	CAWS 2:9 31:2	2:6 5:24
broad 55:3	39:4 79:20	cease 65:14	11:17,20 12:3
Brockschmidt	canal 36:21,24	center 1:10 45:10	15:19 19:7
47:10,12,18,19	67:8 77:18	central 55:7 67:15	21:4,7,9,16 23:9
brought 11:23	105:24 106:1	century 66:4	28:23 29:12,24
buckets 27:1 38:24	cap 77:19	certain 39:21 48:3	33:12 34:11
buffer	capacity 49:21	76:10 92:7	36:20,24 38:15
31:2,7,18,22,24	capitalize 88:4	certainly 13:20	42:19 49:24 55:4
32:12	captain 107:19	18:13 28:3,4	56:9,21 57:13
build 78:10 81:10	capture 14:12	30:15 57:15	58:4,7,11 60:23
86:2	95:21	65:16 77:4	64:8,19 65:12
building 29:13	capturing	87:14,16 88:3	66:12 67:8 69:7
88:1,3	34:22,23	104:9 106:21	77:8 82:14 88:18
built 56:2 107:2,4	career 108:6	Certified 117:4,19	89:1 90:5
bulk 49:17 106:3	carefully 91:22	certify 117:7	91:7,24 93:19,20
Burcham 2:4 5:21	98:24	cetera 71:1 76:12	94:19 98:19
10:22 13:4 19:9	cargo 76:11 106:3	challenge 18:6	100:4 101:12,19
		82:13	104:13,20 105:5
			107:20 108:7,20
			109:11,18,24

Capital Reporting Company
Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Meeting 01-09-2014

Page 6

<p>110:1 111:9 112:6 114:24 115:8 Chicagoland 33:13 95:11 106:17 Chicago's 56:10 59:5 108:4 children 91:9 choice 101:2 choices 100:18 choose 29:19 92:18 108:19 choosing 36:9 86:5 chose 113:6 chosen 34:19 cities 40:15 61:14 79:19,21 80:9 81:17 87:1 citizen 93:18 105:16 111:4 citizen-based 57:10 citizens 38:14 97:4 100:13 citrus 71:2 city 1:12 32:10 104:20 city's 64:23 Civil 2:7 8:20,24 clarification 112:18 clean 50:7 54:16 56:20 82:15 100:24 108:1 109:23 cleaner 104:13 cleaning 25:8 27:3 56:13 108:5 clear 48:15 91:3 115:20 clearly 28:7 45:22</p>	<p>65:9 92:5 109:23 111:23 Cleveland 100:22 cliche 100:1 close 16:7 72:12 closely 38:12 81:15 100:16 closest 6:1 closing 3:8 43:4 49:23 94:17 Club 54:17 103:12 coal 106:3 Coalition 50:10 code 45:19 46:3 47:17 59:10 63:12 67:3 72:9 79:23 80:2 83:6 88:12,16 90:22 93:13,15 96:10 97:20 98:1 103:10,13 105:13 107:14 109:7,10 111:1,2 cohesive 14:4 collaboration 17:12 40:5 collaborative 19:10 86:17 87:12 collaboratively 55:1 collateral 81:22 collect 40:23 collecting 7:13 Colleen 47:11 50:21 54:11,14,16 56:24 Colonel 2:5 11:16 13:4 19:9 42:18,21 69:6 colored 44:12</p>	<p>colors 4:23 combination 36:16 combinations 36:14 combined 34:14,23 35:14 74:8 comes 28:21 29:2 53:15 60:9 83:16 108:22 coming 8:18 12:5 16:6 27:24 31:17,21 59:18 111:18 112:23 Commander 2:4,5 10:23 11:16,18 commend 48:4 comment 3:7 5:1,3,4 6:7 7:19,21,22 8:6,10,11,13 41:3 42:17 43:2,5,7,9,14 45:2 46:4,10,19 52:16,18 75:23 85:14 86:11,16 102:18 110:17 113:22 comments 6:16,20 7:13,14,17,18 18:9 41:24 42:13 43:6,24 44:5 45:4,9,17 46:4 51:21 54:2 62:7 74:17,22 75:3,11,12,13,15 ,20 76:22 78:22,24 79:8 87:13 89:7 90:23 93:24 94:15,24 96:13 98:12,14 102:4 103:3 107:18 111:14 114:7,13 115:2 116:3 commerce</p>	<p>47:21,24 49:20 commercial 15:13 53:10 64:7 76:10 89:13 Commission 17:15 70:17 80:7,8 81:17 117:22 Commissioner 80:6 commit 56:18 86:9 commitment 81:11 committed 91:16 108:1 committee 14:2 57:16 81:19 87:6 common 114:11 communicated 84:20 communities 55:13 56:11,12 community 38:14 83:14 Compact 17:20 company 105:19 comparatively 37:14 compare 26:5 30:19 37:13 compared 112:12 compensate 20:13 33:14 compensation 95:6 compile 24:5 compiled 7:17 complete 4:20 6:13 9:13 39:9 43:2 49:2 98:15 117:10 completed 25:20 75:8</p>
---	---	--	--


<p>completely 14:21 48:24 89:4</p> <p>completion 30:8 32:14 33:22 36:11 37:5,8</p> <p>complex 91:2 109:19</p> <p>compliance 22:22</p> <p>complied 78:8</p> <p>component 58:23</p> <p>comprehensive 48:22 50:12 91:3 98:4,8,15</p> <p>compromise 66:17</p> <p>concept 24:14 31:24 40:1</p> <p>concepts 24:16 25:6</p> <p>conceptual 21:24 28:17 77:9 113:6</p> <p>concern 16:8 26:15 55:18 68:2 111:12</p> <p>concerned 52:9 53:4 67:11 71:23 72:19 93:18 96:19,21 112:14</p> <p>concerns 7:24 9:5 65:2</p> <p>conclude 41:2 90:14</p> <p>concluded 44:4</p> <p>concludes 41:17 96:3 113:18</p> <p>concluding 116:18</p> <p>conclusion 103:24</p> <p>conditions 36:4</p> <p>conduct 9:9</p> <p>conducted 23:17</p> <p>confidence 103:21</p> <p>confident 81:10</p>	<p>104:24</p> <p>confine 63:21</p> <p>conflict 109:20</p> <p>congested 108:24</p> <p>congratulate 103:14</p> <p>congratulations 13:4 96:15 98:2</p> <p>Congress 9:8 16:23 18:17,19 55:15 60:1,8,22 74:21,22 84:14 85:15 100:11 108:17</p> <p>Congressional 17:8 22:11</p> <p>connection 16:7 21:17 58:7</p> <p>connections 15:23 16:10,12 23:7 24:2</p> <p>consensus 13:16 18:15,20,23 81:2,10 82:2 85:20 86:2 88:1,3 96:24 115:13</p> <p>consequence 23:18</p> <p>consequences 89:6</p> <p>Conservancy 67:3,8,14</p> <p>Conservation 16:5</p> <p>consider 5:9 94:10,12,13,14</p> <p>consideration 93:6 103:18</p> <p>considerations 38:1</p> <p>considered 56:14</p> <p>considering 100:21</p> <p>considers 68:3</p>	<p>construct 30:1 33:15 95:20</p> <p>constructed 24:13 32:17 113:3,11,15</p> <p>construction 22:18 26:1,11 40:4 77:4</p> <p>consumed 15:5</p> <p>contained 7:7 89:16,24</p> <p>container 106:13,18,22</p> <p>contaminant 78:13</p> <p>contaminants 78:5</p> <p>contamination 78:11,19</p> <p>contemplate 83:23 85:6</p> <p>contemplated 82:15</p> <p>content 64:1</p> <p>Continental 15:23</p> <p>continuation 97:1</p> <p>continue 15:13,17 16:21,24 18:14,21 29:5 36:18 41:12 54:7 56:5 68:6 82:1 86:22 114:3 115:21</p> <p>continued 94:18 107:24</p> <p>continues 67:8</p> <p>continuing 70:19 97:13</p> <p>contribute 88:2</p> <p>contributing 87:24</p> <p>contributions 13:20 18:10</p>	<p>contributors 19:14</p> <p>control 14:1,9 16:17 17:20 18:3,5 24:9 26:7 27:13 28:14 30:6 31:4,5,12 32:1,12 37:14 40:2 55:2 66:17 81:23</p> <p>controlled 31:9</p> <p>controls 17:13 24:3 26:10 39:13 40:4</p> <p>conundrum 76:14</p> <p>conversation 62:22</p> <p>conversations 35:5 83:17</p> <p>conveyance 21:15 22:6 29:15 33:15</p> <p>Cook 91:13</p> <p>cooperation 17:11</p> <p>coordinate 57:15</p> <p>coordinated 17:14</p> <p>Coordinating 14:2 57:16 87:5,17</p> <p>coordinator 12:14</p> <p>copy 50:17 69:3</p> <p>corporations 94:13,14</p> <p>Corps 4:6 5:8 6:17 7:12 8:3,22 9:7,8 10:4 11:19 19:6 22:23 25:21 26:1 29:18 30:14 43:15 48:4 50:10 57:12 58:6 60:3 61:2 62:16 68:10 70:23 72:20 73:12 80:10 82:3 85:12,21,22 86:1 91:1 97:5 104:11 108:10 109:13 115:1,9 116:8</p>
---	---	---	---

<p>correct 77:3 79:3 117:10</p> <p>cost 27:18 30:11,14,24 32:19 33:23 36:11 37:2,4,7,14 38:5,11 50:4 58:15 70:24 73:13 75:1 76:2,8 78:20 89:9 94:8 101:10 105:1</p> <p>costly 55:23 70:15</p> <p>costs 27:22 28:8 30:13,17,19 37:3 59:4 70:19 71:5,6,11 73:8 89:5,10,12,13 92:8 94:7 95:16,22 101:11</p> <p>Council 2:8 12:14 47:20</p> <p>Counsel 71:20 72:17</p> <p>counting 44:15 101:12</p> <p>country 11:22 12:17</p> <p>County 1:21 91:13 117:2,6</p> <p>couple 18:8,22 19:17 25:9 31:23 34:14 37:23 39:2 51:13 58:5 73:3 75:6 84:3 86:10,23 87:13</p> <p>course 69:21 96:19 97:10 107:24 108:17</p> <p>court 45:3 50:18</p> <p>create 49:23 77:4 81:19</p> <p>created 73:19 84:5</p> <p>creates 73:16</p>	<p>creating 102:24 104:14</p> <p>creation 76:24 78:20</p> <p>credit 56:5</p> <p>Creek 51:2,4</p> <p>criteria 22:12 37:10 92:5</p> <p>critical 70:3 84:15 103:17</p> <p>critically 69:13 81:23</p> <p>criticize 60:2</p> <p>critters 71:6</p> <p>crop 71:3</p> <p>CSR 1:21</p> <p>CSSC 36:22 ██████████ 63:9 66:23 68:23 69:2</p> <p>current 13:24 14:18 59:19 60:10 61:10,14 68:2 70:18</p> <p>currently 54:5,6 60:4,11,21 77:24 92:21 106:2 113:3,10</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <hr/> <p>daily 29:14</p> <p>dam 38:6 102:7</p> <p>damages 48:9 94:7 95:18</p> <p>Dame 67:15</p> <p>Darcy 2:7 3:4 5:22 8:16,17,19 13:2 19:8 25:18 57:18 115:7</p> <p>Dardanelles 106:1</p> <p>dared 108:7</p> <p>Darin 97:18 99:11 103:6,11,12</p>	<p>data 74:24 109:9</p> <p>Dave 2:9 6:1 8:16 9:22 11:4,14 15:9 19:3,5 41:16 42:22 58:14 68:24 71:16 79:14,18 80:15 82:21 83:11,19 84:19 86:24 98:3 99:19</p> <p>day 35:13,15,24 61:15 117:15</p> <p>days 13:7 43:4 76:15,21 98:14</p> <p>deadline 7:16 43:6 96:15 103:15</p> <p>deal 11:12 15:21 16:18 29:10,16 32:13 53:3 70:19 71:10</p> <p>dealerships 65:12</p> <p>dealing 70:24 73:23 74:6 80:20 87:9</p> <p>deals 35:12</p> <p>dealt 64:2 82:10</p> <p>debate 92:3</p> <p>decade 48:21</p> <p>decades 67:11</p> <p>decide 71:8 103:1 105:22</p> <p>decided 35:19,21 113:21</p> <p>decimating 70:6 71:3</p> <p>decision 48:7 81:2 91:21 92:15 93:1 108:18</p> <p>decision-maker 92:18,23 115:24</p> <p>decision-makers 37:19 41:1 75:17,22,24</p>	<p>79:10 115:15 116:1</p> <p>decision-making 22:8 40:20 75:14</p> <p>decisions 12:23 48:12 114:17</p> <p>deck 50:22 54:11 59:15 63:8 88:9 90:17 93:10 99:11 105:10</p> <p>decontaminating 74:7</p> <p>dedicated 57:11 91:1</p> <p>deeply 67:11 71:23 91:15</p> <p>Defense 71:20 72:17</p> <p>delay 93:1</p> <p>delaying 89:7,9</p> <p>delays 49:4</p> <p>delegations 17:8</p> <p>delivering 49:17</p> <p>demographic 45:20</p> <p>demonstrates 68:10 92:5</p> <p>depends 49:9</p> <p>depth 9:22</p> <p>Des 65:12 101:8</p> <p>desalination 35:11</p> <p>describe 24:5 86:11</p> <p>described 84:16 95:5</p> <p>describes 21:21</p> <p>desert 52:24</p> <p>deserve 91:17</p> <p>design 21:24 102:11 104:22 113:6</p>
---	--	---	---

designed 56:2	32:23 39:18	Division 2:4 10:22	dump 73:17
desirable 74:4,5	40:17 44:12 46:7	DNR 69:17	dumping 27:1
desire 41:24 52:18	56:1 77:13 86:23	DNR's 16:4	74:7
desk 4:22 6:8,12	94:5	dollar 76:6	DuPage 1:21
69:4 116:11	difficult 11:1 35:3	dollars 48:10	117:7
desktop 42:6	53:11 72:24	89:12,13 109:22	duration 39:6
destroy 52:10	111:10	done 8:14 10:6,23	during 4:14 7:19
destroyed 52:12	digest 76:20	11:13 13:6 22:19	8:1 29:7 33:13
destroyer 107:1	108:18	34:2 41:22 51:14	39:11 44:21
destroying 55:9	digested 84:24	57:14,17 79:7	83:12 96:17
destructive 55:23	digestible 20:1	80:11,24 81:3	106:24
detail 21:14 65:3	digging 73:18	84:1 87:19 97:8	
104:7	diligence 52:23	99:7 100:14	<hr/> E <hr/>
detailed 95:23	108:14	101:16 104:4,5,8	Eagle 16:2,8
details 58:17	direct 58:6 71:21	dot 64:20	eagles 108:8
determine 9:16	72:16 109:19	double 80:2	earlier 15:24 51:3
53:13	directed 9:8,12	doubt 111:5	84:19 94:5
deterrents 15:6	directions 32:7	download 7:3 9:24	108:22
Detroit 100:22	90:8	downloaded 7:1	early 18:22
devastation 92:9	directly 34:15 36:1	downstream 34:22	earned 89:1
develop 9:17 13:16	Director 47:19	35:22 55:13	earth 102:9
16:21 18:23	79:19 96:12	56:11	easier 93:17
115:21	103:12	dozen 14:10	easily 20:1 37:13
developed 83:12	dirty 93:20	drainage 17:2	easy 45:13 81:3,7
development 14:9	discharge 35:2	dramatic 108:5	eat 71:9
17:18 112:2	dischargers	dramatically	ecological 56:22
developments 41:7	100:20	49:13	67:9 93:4
dial 110:18	discuss 28:11	drilling 23:4	ecology 70:6
dial-in 42:10	83:11	drinking 25:7	economic 37:16
dialogue 48:6 79:5	discussion 13:8,20	35:11 56:13	48:9,14 49:9,24
80:21 81:20	17:7 18:20,21	Drive 1:12	50:1 64:13,21,24
dichotomy 100:18	discussions 81:18	driven 30:9	68:14 77:1,2,13
dictated 32:16	distressed 64:2	drought 36:4	89:10,19 91:23
Dieringer 47:11	District 2:6 4:6	Drucker 79:15	92:10 93:4 94:4
50:21,24 52:21	5:24 11:16,17,20	82:24 88:8,13,16	112:2,9
53:23	19:7 57:13	Drummond 2:5	economical 50:12
differences 37:1	104:21 114:24	11:17 13:5 19:9	97:2
different 7:6 9:10	115:8	42:19	economically 48:3
22:13 23:12	diverse 49:10	dry 29:7,8 49:17	49:16 91:8
24:19 30:20	diverted 51:4	DU 117:2	economics 76:16
	divide 15:24 27:24	due 94:7	95:24
	34:5 68:11 81:18		economies 76:10

<p>economy 64:23 112:6</p> <p>ecosystem 71:7 92:10 111:13</p> <p>ecosystems 55:9 68:9</p> <p>editor 63:13,20</p> <p>eDNA 15:18</p> <p>education 13:7 26:13,19 69:12 70:2</p> <p>effect 26:18 34:2 49:22 78:9</p> <p>effective 14:6,18 27:10 38:20 44:19 54:23 70:4 82:7 103:21 111:23</p> <p>effectively 32:13</p> <p>effectiveness 37:13 92:22 110:6</p> <p>effects 64:9 65:22</p> <p>efficiently 106:9</p> <p>effluent 34:21 35:20,21</p> <p>effort 6:19 11:19 15:17 17:14,19 19:10,11,23 28:5 61:9 94:18 109:9</p> <p>efforts 5:8 21:3 25:22 60:2,24 65:21 81:9 87:23 88:14 108:16</p> <p>eight 9:21 11:3 17:4 24:5 48:5 61:8 64:10 66:10,16 73:8 110:4</p> <p>either 29:4 36:15 69:10 113:19</p> <p>elected 62:10</p> <p>electric 14:5,17 15:16 24:11 29:4</p>	<p>55:24 66:1</p> <p>elements 20:23</p> <p>elevators 4:13</p> <p>else 61:3 63:1 78:23 82:4 84:4 116:6</p> <p>e-mail 41:10</p> <p>Emanuel 109:24</p> <p>emergency 4:16,17</p> <p>emissions 112:11</p> <p>emphasize 83:4,9,20 101:14</p> <p>emphasizes 67:21</p> <p>employment 108:1</p> <p>empty 24:21</p> <p>enacted 20:24</p> <p>endangered 60:19 100:6</p> <p>energy 52:9 90:24</p> <p>engage 102:20</p> <p>engagement 20:16</p> <p>engineer 11:8 24:13</p> <p>Engineers 4:6 5:8 6:17 7:12 8:3,22 9:7,9 10:4 11:20 19:7 22:23 25:21 26:1 29:19 30:14 43:15,16 62:16 70:23 80:11 91:1 97:6 109:13 115:1,9</p> <p>enhances 111:10</p> <p>enjoy 92:21 107:24</p> <p>enjoyed 91:7</p> <p>ensure 38:13 40:18 110:9</p> <p>enter 112:1</p> <p>entered 7:15</p> <p>enters 88:19</p>	<p>entire 5:18 11:19 13:5 31:8 34:11</p> <p>entirety 6:24</p> <p>environment 107:18 108:2</p> <p>environmental 2:8 12:15 22:22 49:16 50:11 68:13 71:21 72:17 76:4 78:4 81:4 91:23 96:12 99:15</p> <p>environmentalist 112:10</p> <p>environmentally 97:3</p> <p>envy 96:16</p> <p>equal 43:19</p> <p>equate 105:23</p> <p>equivalent 49:18</p> <p>era 104:4</p> <p>Erie 16:9 53:8</p> <p>escorts 107:1</p> <p>especially 12:1 33:11 115:8</p> <p>essentially 23:3 24:24 28:23 29:7 30:3 31:5 59:22 78:18 102:13</p> <p>establish 95:7</p> <p>established 37:11</p> <p>establishment 23:16</p> <p>estate 88:22</p> <p>estimate 27:19 58:18 77:12</p> <p>estimated 27:18 30:8,11 32:14 33:22 36:10 37:5,7 58:15 64:21 111:22</p> <p>estimating 30:14</p>	<p>et 71:1 76:12</p> <p>Ettinger 96:8 97:17 99:11,13,14</p> <p>Eurasian 67:7,16</p> <p>evaluate 89:5</p> <p>evaluated 21:4 23:11 73:9</p> <p>evaluation 22:12 37:10 92:4</p> <p>evening 19:4,18 44:8 54:15 97:22</p> <p>evening's 4:7</p> <p>event 30:3 33:14 41:6</p> <p>events 29:11,23 32:6</p> <p>eventually 60:18</p> <p>everybody 4:3,11 43:19 45:7</p> <p>everyone 8:18 12:13 13:21 19:5 43:22 45:13 56:18 82:4 83:3 87:24 88:2 115:8 116:8</p> <p>everything 45:13 83:16</p> <p>evidence 53:21 54:22 67:5,16</p> <p>example 26:14 30:18 32:5 37:13 65:4 112:22</p> <p>examples 26:12</p> <p>excellent 66:16 80:11,14 103:5</p> <p>except 36:14</p> <p>exception 65:24</p> <p>excuse 4:15 71:24 93:23</p> <p>execute 11:2</p> <p>Executive 47:19</p>
---	---	--	--

79:18 exist 65:14 existence 87:2 existing 20:14 22:14 24:19 32:3,4 34:12 36:18 38:9,15 60:5 66:18 78:6,19 84:21 101:7 exists 37:21 exits 4:17 expand 109:9 expanded 87:11 expect 115:11 expensive 38:8 92:11 experience 69:20 expertise 10:17 11:21,23 102:19 expired 44:14 Expires 117:22 explain 11:6 15:10 33:4 explained 26:9 express 91:20 extensive 14:6 25:19 extent 20:12 35:7 external 22:24 extra 116:12 extremely 108:21 eye 83:15 <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <hr/> Facebook 41:9 facilities 89:14,15 fact 12:11 40:2 108:6 115:13 factor 92:9,13	failures 74:6 fair 21:8 fairly 24:16 96:14 fall 32:9 familiar 8:22 21:8 24:10 36:3 familiarize 110:4 family 91:9 111:4,9 fantastic 19:22 faster 39:22 fate 55:12 faulting 100:10 feasibility 58:16 feasible 48:3 68:11 feat 11:9 feature 29:4 46:22 77:21 features 30:9 32:16 federal 11:24 14:3 22:10 25:14,16,21 35:6 40:12 62:18 68:8 87:6 102:21 Federally 57:23 Federation 63:15 feed 34:15 feedback 18:14 40:21 feel 4:14 12:4 27:9 41:9 58:24 85:16,19 87:10 field 15:1 41:19 fight 26:22 figure 76:7 figures 105:1 fill 24:21 102:8 filled 114:14 filtered 111:15	final 43:4 82:11 finally 93:21 101:21 finding 103:20 findings 14:20 finish 10:24 fire 80:15 first 6:21 7:6 10:11 17:14 23:7 28:10 42:14 45:18 46:9 50:2,20 57:22 58:18 67:4 75:11 80:5,10 83:3 84:8 88:13 90:20 91:5 98:2 99:18 112:4 fish 14:20 15:4,5,18 16:20 52:14 55:10 56:3,4 60:12,17 61:17 62:3 65:16 100:5 fisheries 17:15 70:6 76:11,12 fisherman 65:2 fishermen 64:5 65:8 Fishery 80:6 fishing 53:10 61:19 64:14 65:21 89:14 92:11 108:8 five 17:24 29:21 46:16 93:19 fix 59:6 flags 105:18 flood 16:7 21:15 22:6 29:16,20 32:16 33:2,4,22 38:9 48:8 81:23 95:10,18 97:6 113:13 flooding 34:9	59:1,4 94:7 95:3,7,18 97:5 104:13 112:14,20 Florida 71:3 flow 28:21 29:7,9 35:24 36:7 97:7,10 flows 36:1 flush 85:7 flushed 80:19 flushing 24:18 focus 12:8 14:16 59:20 60:6,22 61:20 87:22,24 focused 21:3 60:13 81:20 focusing 104:4 folks 20:19 42:7 45:7 46:9,15 115:17 food 52:8,15,24 force 14:23 foregoing 117:10 Forest 105:15 form 5:2,4 7:21 8:9 18:15 43:9 60:16 63:23 75:17 114:20 formal 45:2 formally 7:18 46:3 format 7:8 20:5 formed 14:4 formidable 105:18 forms 112:12 114:8 formulate 21:19 formulation 29:20 forth 81:8 96:16 110:5 fortunate 10:18
---	---	---	--

Forum 96:13		80:18,23 82:5	85:20 86:4,6,24
forward 12:19,24	<hr/> G <hr/>	83:11 84:17 86:2	91:10,11,17
13:15,18 16:6	gallons 32:18	89:24 90:23	92:1,10 93:3
18:16 19:1 41:13	33:20	95:13 103:4	94:11,20 100:21
42:17 50:9 54:20	35:13,15,23	110:5 111:20	104:7,17 105:3
55:1 56:19 59:7	gas 112:11	GLMRIS.anl.gov	106:5 107:23
73:1 74:23 75:2	gating 24:11	41:11	108:14
79:10 85:7 86:23	Gefilte 52:13	goal 22:15 103:22	111:13,16 112:1
97:1,12 98:16	general 2:4 5:21	111:19 115:18	115:10,19
114:18 115:15	10:22 13:4 19:8	goals 7:6 20:10	greater 29:23 65:3
fountain 4:12	20:5 22:3 54:13	104:12	76:18 92:20
four-part 14:5	57:3,17	goby 56:3	greatest 20:12
fourth 57:1	59:13,16,17 62:6	golden 68:5	48:17 91:17
frame 11:1	63:3 69:6 70:21	gone 57:19 113:24	92:21 94:3
frames 70:10	83:11 84:7	goods	110:10
frankly 52:7	106:10,16	49:10,13,17,18	greatly 51:11
FREDERIC 2:5	generally 73:16	Goss 2:8 3:5 6:2	green 4:23 8:7
free 4:14 29:2	generation 89:15	12:8 13:2 19:9	34:20 44:13
41:10 104:9	gentleman 87:4	57:15 87:4,16	greenhouse 112:11
freely 66:3	genuine 8:23	gotten 12:12	Greg 54:13 57:3
freight 49:8,10,12	geographic 109:9	grain 106:3	59:13,17
frequently 5:6	gets 99:10 101:4	Grand 97:7	 107:12
29:11	getting 13:5,22	granted 76:13	109:5 110:24
freshwater 68:9	14:8 27:20 60:5	grass 52:1	111:2,3 113:16
friendly 97:3	72:23 74:18 82:7	gravity 24:20	GRI-sponsored
Friends	84:16 98:3	great 1:4 2:4 4:3	26:3
109:11,12,17	given 7:19 43:22	9:16 10:23	ground 58:12
front 1:12 4:18	44:1 80:13 92:13	11:12,13	groundwater
6:12 47:5,13	gives 103:20	12:1,5,17 13:17	51:12
69:3 99:1 116:11	giving 11:5 44:24	14:9 15:20 16:22	group 13:13 40:6
full 5:14 9:23 16:6	glad 6:22 86:18	17:5,10,17,20	46:17,18 79:20
28:9,12 58:16	Gleacher 1:10	18:1,6,10 20:9	81:16 87:1,6,17
68:3	GLMRIS 2:9 4:4	33:9 41:11,20	98:18
funding 16:24	5:7,13 6:21,24	49:1 55:6,14,20	groups 18:9 50:11
18:2 74:12	7:1,5,7,18 8:9	57:10,11,21 58:2	99:15 107:18
futility 69:22	9:5,9 13:5 14:14	61:12 62:1,3	Growing 55:7
future 27:11 41:1	15:7 18:11 23:8	63:13,14,18 64:3	growth 48:14
54:7 68:4 70:12	24:10,14,17,18,2	65:18 67:17,24	guess 75:10 86:15
78:4	1 29:3 31:16	69:8	guide 5:9
106:12,20,21	37:9,22 39:18	70:7,8,13,16	Gulf 101:9 105:20
112:8	40:24 41:8 44:5	72:11,13 74:13	guy 80:14
	55:15 57:13	75:4 76:5	
	63:24 66:11 68:1	79:19,21 80:6	
	70:18 75:20 76:9	81:17 82:8	
		83:13,22 84:11	<hr/> H <hr/>

habitat 100:5	63:7 68:22 72:1	89:21	hub 49:8
half 14:10 30:24 36:6 37:6	82:23 86:18 97:16 105:9 107:10	higher 70:20 72:5 85:5	huge 58:3 71:5 82:13
hallway 6:8	115:12,22 116:1	highest 16:3 92:13 103:20	human 58:9
Hamburg 106:14	heard 14:3,19 18:19 38:17	highlight 20:15 24:8	humanitarian 52:8
hand 114:4 117:14	41:20 84:9,19	highlighted 67:14 82:6	humans 48:18
handle 42:13	85:12,15 86:24 114:22 115:20	highway 9:12 108:24	humbled 9:2
handling 106:18,22	hearing 12:19 60:24 72:3 98:23 115:17	hit 62:13 78:20,23	hundred 34:14
handout 4:21 116:11	hearings 10:12,13 52:22	hold 33:16	hundreds 89:12
handouts 7:2	help 8:3 10:21 16:11	hole 73:18	hurt 112:6
happen 13:19 53:18 58:24 59:2 86:12 98:6 106:6	18:14,15,24 22:13 23:24 44:10 46:5 60:7,14,19,21 62:21 85:24 87:2 114:18	home 12:5 83:8 91:13 109:10	husband 91:9,12 111:8
happens 34:10	helped 12:8	Hong 106:15	hydraulic 11:7
Harbor 71:7	helpful 50:18 98:24 103:16	Honorable 5:22	hydrologic 21:5 32:22,23 33:6 34:5 38:18 54:23 65:4 78:15
harbors 64:20	helping 26:22 27:10 57:14 61:13 75:6 85:7	hope 19:19 37:23 38:1 40:22 77:6 79:7 91:19,20 94:10,12,13 96:24 102:1 103:16 105:22 110:10	hydrological 111:21
hard 48:22 72:3 83:18 108:10 109:13	Henderson 66:23 68:23 71:16,19,20 72:7,10,14,15 77:6 78:24 79:11	hoped 115:11	hydrology 34:7
harm 69:10 110:6	Henry 66:23 68:23 71:16,20 72:15 75:4	hopeful 104:3,18	<hr/> <div>I</div> <hr/>
harness 84:2	herbicides 26:17	hopefully 13:16 18:22 86:6 102:14 105:2	I'd 4:2,10 5:19 8:15 13:23 19:12,17 21:10 51:20 57:12,13 69:5 73:4 80:5 88:13 90:20 94:17 98:10,22 108:10 109:12 112:3,18 114:1 116:7,14
Harry 79:15 82:24 88:7,8,16	hereby 117:7	hoping 115:19	idea 31:3 46:23 71:9 84:21 86:19 105:24 115:16
harvesting 14:13 15:13	Here's 59:22	horizon 50:1	ideally 13:18
haven't 55:21 61:5 72:6 76:15 84:24 101:5 110:21	hereunto 117:13	horse 53:20	ideas 80:20
having 31:4 52:21 72:3	He's 11:12 12:9,10	Horvat 88:10 90:14 93:8,14,15 96:2	identification 73:10
havoc 56:22	Hi 83:3 109:8	hosting 6:17 42:19 89:2	identified 15:24 23:7,14 55:19 65:5 113:4
heads 104:22	high 23:23 37:3	House 57:17	
health 91:23		http:// glmr.is.anl.gov 7:3	
healthy 109:24			
hear 6:2 10:13 12:21 13:11 14:15 15:8 20:19 41:22 45:13 46:8,13,16 54:11			

identify 20:6 23:24 26:14 28:8 68:17 76:10 87:18 identifying 48:4 II 106:24 I'll 17:12 20:14 28:11 30:12 31:3 44:9,11,23 47:6 52:7 60:16 62:5 63:21 75:6 80:2 109:10 115:5 illegal 39:1 Illinois 1:12,21 15:15 31:21 32:19 36:2,5 47:20,23 48:20 49:8,12 50:10 52:12,22 53:11 54:17 55:7,8 65:12 67:19 69:16,19 91:10 101:8 103:12 104:19 105:15 117:1,7 I'm 4:5 8:19 10:11 12:3,4,5 15:22 18:24 20:3 25:9 37:20 38:4 47:19 50:24 51:13 52:3,7 53:8 54:16,17 57:9 60:23 61:7 63:16 67:2 72:8 79:18 81:10 83:7 86:18 88:20,21 89:4 90:21 92:23 93:18,19,20,21 96:12 97:22 99:13,14,15,16,2 1 100:10 101:22 103:12 104:3,18,24 105:15,21 107:19 111:3,13 112:14 113:20 114:6 imagine 108:24	immeasurably 111:11 immediate 50:1 86:8 immediately 86:1 imminent 67:6 impact 22:14 23:22 34:9,16,18 38:14 48:8 51:11 58:2 64:13,21,24 77:20 78:13 95:6,9 96:21 impacted 10:16 16:16 impacts 20:14 22:5 33:1 34:19 37:16 38:8 59:2 65:7,10,19 77:8,17 95:14,17 impending 10:10 59:20 implement 27:14 37:15 68:17 90:4 91:22 93:3 94:9 95:19 implementation 26:9 27:6 30:23 39:7 40:3 95:9 implemented 27:16 49:6 65:6 67:10 68:8 implementing 27:21 92:15 importance 12:16 89:6 important 7:14 13:21 16:23 20:18 21:18 37:18 40:21 56:6 69:13 77:16 80:18,19,23 81:24 86:21 88:1,4 108:3,21 112:5 115:2 importantly 7:9	39:24 impressed 64:1 improve 48:13 100:5 109:17 112:9 improved 109:21 improvement 18:2 improvements 100:17 improving 56:18 97:9 incident 106:9 include 16:24 21:14 26:12 27:7 29:3 110:7 included 7:19 29:14 78:17 includes 14:5 34:12 including 12:13 26:1 38:9 48:21 68:4 106:5 109:24 incorporate 70:1 increase 49:13,20 101:14 increasing 49:14 incredibly 112:5 indeed 43:17 52:6 independent 22:24 Indiana 12:10 16:2,4 32:18 54:12 57:2 59:13,17 64:18 96:13,19 97:4 indicate 49:11 110:21 indicated 8:7 41:23 43:8,18 46:11 indicating 67:5 induce 78:11	induced 58:9 78:13 industries 89:14 industry 14:22 92:11 98:1 112:4 ineffective 30:4 inform 80:21 115:14 information 5:10,12 7:7,10 8:13 22:9 24:4,5 27:20 30:16,17 37:19,21 40:20,23,24 41:12,17,21 42:24 43:1 46:6 59:23 63:2 75:21,24 76:17 79:9 85:13 95:24 108:18 114:18 informative 51:19 infrastructure 34:12 40:8 47:20 110:8 inherent 59:5 Initiative 17:17 18:1 79:20 80:9 81:17 87:1 inland 31:13 60:10 input 7:10 32:9 40:5 102:22 instance 74:1 instances 29:22 39:3 instead 29:13 34:17 35:19 instituting 90:2 instruct 69:17 instructions 8:13 110:22 Interbasin 1:4 4:4 interest 18:9 91:13 103:4 116:4
---	--	---	---

interested 10:5	49:19 50:7 110:8	Jack 97:18 99:11	41:3
interests 22:11	investments 50:5	103:6,11 105:7	key 81:1
interim 67:9 68:12	inviting 69:6	Jacksonville 19:13	kick 10:11
70:12 89:22	involve 73:17	January 1:15 21:1	kickoff 115:10
intermodal	involved 53:14	117:15	kill 15:5
106:13,18,22	81:6 87:23	Jared 50:22 54:12	killer 68:6
international	involvement 26:22	57:2,8	kinds 10:19 110:7
17:19 80:7	irreparable 48:9	Jean 1:21 117:4,19	kitchen 59:3
105:20,22	isn't 81:7	Jerome 57:3 59:14	knew 11:10
107:7,21	Israel 52:11	63:7,12	known 111:15
interrupting	issue 12:16 53:4	job 8:24 10:3,23	Koncel 57:4 59:14
44:20,21	62:14 69:17	11:13 38:20 47:6	63:7,11,12
introduce 5:19	73:23 87:8,9	80:24	Kong 106:15
12:7	91:2,14 97:11	jobs 12:4 50:10	Krista 107:12
introduced 20:21	issued 57:24	73:16,19 76:24	109:5 110:24
61:4,24 69:17	issues 59:19 69:16	77:5 78:20	111:3
introducing 48:10	73:5 74:1,15	104:15	
introduction	81:22 82:9 89:9	Joe 108:21	<hr/> L <hr/>
61:12 78:5	95:12 104:22	Joel 71:17 79:14	LaGrange 112:13
introductions	109:19	82:23 83:4 88:5	lake 16:9
55:14	Item 51:23	Jo-Ellen 2:7 8:19	31:12,13,18,22
invade 68:6	it's 5:15 7:13	John 2:8 6:2	32:8 33:17
invaluable 76:6	10:1,3 15:24	12:7,8,14 25:18	34:15,18 35:3,8
invasions 68:5	16:17,22 19:10	40:14 57:15	51:6 52:4,5
invasive 9:19	20:17 21:7	83:11 87:4,13	53:1,5,8,12,16,1
17:14 26:16	23:5,21 27:19	105:16	7 55:12 56:10,17
47:22	35:3,22 38:5	joining 19:9	64:20 67:18
48:6,13,16,18,20	45:23 53:2,10	Joint 80:7	77:20,24
49:3,6 50:13	69:22 70:11 71:8	Joliet 31:11	78:7,11,18 85:3
56:21 58:1,10,12	76:6 77:8 79:9	Joseph 99:12	88:19 96:20
61:3,6 67:7,23	82:2 83:12 84:12	103:7 105:9,14	97:11 101:15
68:18 69:9 73:24	87:6,14 88:18	JR 2:5	105:3 107:19
74:9,13 84:13	89:1 95:2 98:8	July 20:20,24	108:6,8
89:11 90:5 96:22	103:16,24	117:23	111:4,7,10 112:4
99:4 100:6,10	104:3,8 107:21	jump 70:13	lakefront 33:6,8
109:14 111:15	108:15,21,23	justifiable 92:12	78:17
112:1	109:10 113:7		lakes 1:4 2:4 4:3
invasives 55:14	115:2,24		9:16 12:1,5,17
70:8,22	I've 38:1,2,17 55:8	<hr/> K <hr/>	13:17 14:9 15:20
inverse 49:22	79:7 81:4,5	Kay 90:16 93:10	16:22
investigation 28:6	85:15 88:21	96:7,11 97:14	17:5,10,17,20
investing 110:1	93:18 101:21	Kenosha 64:17	18:1,6,10 20:9
investment 40:9	106:12 108:4	Kevin 2:12 4:5	33:9 49:1
	<hr/> J <hr/>		55:6,14,20

57:10,11,21 58:2 61:12 62:1,4 63:13,14,18 64:3 65:18 67:17,24 69:8 70:7,9,14,16 74:13 76:5 79:19,21 80:6 81:17 82:8 83:13,22 84:11 85:20 86:4,6,24 91:10,11,17 92:1,10 93:3 94:11,20 100:21 101:15 106:5,23 107:23 109:15 111:13,16 112:1 lamprey 17:13 25:23 land 102:9 lanyard 8:2 large 19:11 28:18 29:11,14 33:15,18 40:6 42:1 77:4 98:17 largely 24:20 larger 29:10 112:23 largest 35:11,16 last 40:1 51:20 66:4,7 71:2 75:10 80:16 81:16 88:23 late 92:17 later 49:7 Lawrence 79:19,21 87:1 laws 26:13,19 78:7 lawyer 99:14 lawyers 102:17 laying 58:15 lead 11:18 16:11 87:5 leadership 11:15	13:3 16:4 leads 65:23 learn 6:20 learned 11:11 least 14:12 19:20 21:10 29:22 38:2 61:20,23 66:11 75:7 80:16 86:4 92:22 98:13 leave 6:15 37:23 39:24 44:7 50:17 62:5 65:24 leaving 36:21,23 66:1 led 25:24 legal 84:20 legislated 23:10 legislation 20:21,24 22:1 62:11 legislative 69:16 less 28:3 let's 53:20 56:18 93:12 letter 85:21,24 letting 71:6 level 41:19 77:9 91:18 92:20 levels 17:21 life 71:9 111:11 lifelong 91:6 likely 24:10 30:22 35:5 36:7 60:24 limited 68:1 limiting 92:8 line 10:24 32:19 99:2 linked 38:12 list 21:23 68:23 90:15 96:5 97:17 100:9 114:1	listen 9:4 12:21 listening 115:2 116:2 listing 6:13 little 5:11 13:6 24:19 28:4 33:4 42:12 44:18 47:15 57:6 72:4 76:2,23 94:5 97:6 101:21 102:15 114:22 live 10:14 39:3 61:15 80:3 88:18 94:11 112:13,14 living 79:22 93:18 load 78:13 local 11:24 14:3 40:12 62:19 86:3 localized 29:24 55:4 located 4:17 7:2 28:16,17 location 99:1 112:5 locations 16:13 113:5,9 lock 15:7 24:14,18,19 29:3 31:11 locks 24:20,21 31:17 49:23 Lodge 107:21 logically 76:23 logistical 4:11 long 5:16 10:5 37:15 38:7 48:2 56:8 61:18 85:2 86:7 89:18,20 92:14 106:14 108:9 116:9 longer 111:24 long-term 14:14 40:9 68:13 87:12	92:21 loquacious 63:20 losing 84:4 loss 49:24 50:1 lost 52:10 lot 15:17 19:19 32:3 39:17 54:4 61:17 94:15 98:11 99:14 100:23 103:16 104:1 loud 115:20 Louisiana 98:21,23 low 16:13 23:24 112:11 lower 17:2 85:3 101:8 Lund 103:8 105:10 107:10,15,17 luxury 68:15 lynchpins 26:20 Lynn 93:10 96:8 97:17,22 99:8 <hr/> M <hr/> Madeleine 105:11 107:11 109:4,8 magazine 63:13 magnitude 105:24 106:11 Mahan 105:11 107:11 109:4,8,9 mail 44:6 main 22:5 23:5 Mainly 95:8 maintain 99:5 maintaining 66:18 68:13 maintenance
--	--	---	---

66:12 major 11:10 17:14 64:3 73:15 106:12,17 manage 43:13 managed 31:7,9 management 21:15 22:6 25:22,23 26:12,14 27:5,8,21 32:16 39:13,16 67:22 80:13 87:7 88:22 95:11 Manager 2:9 6:1 19:6 manaña 71:11 Manitowoc 107:3 manner 91:4 manufactured 106:6 MAP-21 9:11 March 7:13,15,23 8:6 43:6 76:20 Margaret 2:4 5:21,22 marinas 65:11 marine 97:2 mariners 107:22 maritime 105:17 mark 104:3 markers 77:13 market 39:4 Marsh 16:2,8 Mary-Jo 83:1 88:9 90:13,21 material 53:5 materials 4:22 116:12 matrix 37:12 matter 1:3 38:16	67:10 92:16 116:17 117:9 matters 90:2 maximizes 105:4 may 8:21 13:19 14:20 29:18 30:24 37:16 38:20 39:10,13,20,21 45:19 53:18 56:6 62:19 67:18 89:24 92:7 99:16 102:23 103:17 maybe 13:17 24:12 44:19 52:3 84:20 94:5 101:17,21 Mayor 109:24 MBA 89:1 McCook 112:15 113:4,6 mean 53:18 65:11 102:1 106:20 means 41:10 53:10 56:7 97:3 meant 95:7,8 meantime 49:3 measures 68:17 70:13,15 73:8 89:22 measuring 26:5 110:6 mediation 78:17 medium 16:14 23:23 meet 35:8 40:17 83:11 meeting 1:8 4:4,14 5:3 6:5,21 7:6 8:1,7,15 40:16 42:12,19,24 43:8 44:4 46:15 89:2 96:15 103:15,22	116:9,14 meetings 6:18 7:20 18:21 20:18 114:9,12 115:12 members 2:3 18:19 40:6,13 54:18 72:18 74:16 75:19 85:15 mention 17:12 19:12 58:6 80:5 mentioned 8:5 9:23 10:2 42:23 59:21 108:22 merits 92:3 message 40:15 met 84:7 metaphor 69:22 metropolitan 104:20 110:10 Mexico 101:9 105:20 Michelle 59:15 63:8 66:22,24 67:2 Michigan 12:4 31:12,22 32:8 33:17 34:15,18 35:3,8 51:6 52:4 53:1,6,17 55:12 56:10,17 64:18,20 67:15,18 77:20,24 78:1,7,11 88:19 96:20 97:11 101:15 107:20 108:6 111:5,8 112:4 micromatrix 15:3 microphone 45:8,12,17,21,23 47:13 57:6 72:1,4,12 93:12 114:3,5	middle 34:3 102:8 midpoint 18:13 mid-system 34:1 58:22 77:22 78:15 Midwest 71:21 72:16 miles 77:23 108:12 million 28:2 35:13,15,23 49:14 50:2 52:13 64:22 69:23 71:22 72:18 74:16 79:22 94:10 97:5,8 110:1 millions 89:12 106:2 Milwaukee 100:22 mind 42:3 43:5 80:23 111:6 mindful 55:12 minimize 32:24 33:2 minimum 90:6 minute 45:24 minutes 6:3 13:24 19:18 38:2 43:14 44:14 75:6 114:23 misgivings 85:17 mispronounce 47:3 miss 82:11 missing 58:17 75:2 mission 8:23 62:17 109:17,20 Mississippi 1:4 4:3 9:15 16:24 17:2 20:9 33:10 36:5 49:1 51:7 55:5,20 58:2 63:18 64:4 67:19
--	--	---	--

69:8 70:7 101:9 107:3 Missouri 17:1 mistakes 53:17 mitigate 33:3 34:19 38:8 64:9 65:22 78:12 94:2 mitigating 77:17 mitigation 20:13 22:3 29:15 30:9 33:3,21 36:9 37:3 38:3,12 48:9 58:20,23,24 59:1 95:5,13 112:20 modeling 95:17 moderator 2:12 4:7 modernizing 104:14 moment 20:15 21:11 23:2 30:12 31:3 moments 25:9 momentum 84:4 88:5 Monday 72:22 money 28:3 92:16 monitor 32:1 monitoring 14:7 26:2 51:23 months 9:13 11:1 18:22 20:23 21:2 80:16,21 84:3 85:11 86:10 mostly 14:15 Mother 51:5 mount 49:12 mounts 67:5 move 19:1 32:6,13 33:12,17 35:21 41:13 49:10	55:1,20 56:19 96:4 98:16,19 103:17 106:4 114:5,18 movement 39:1 48:17 49:3 56:1 109:14 movements 27:12 moves 11:8 49:17 moving 18:16 22:18 43:7 49:12,13 54:20 58:10,13 59:7 66:22 67:23 74:23 79:10,13 90:7 99:5 much-needed 56:19 Muench 93:11 96:8 97:17,21,23 multimedia 42:15 multiple 4:22 32:7 multiplying 27:23 mussel 68:5 mussels 53:2 71:1 mutual 40:19 100:14 MWRD 112:15 myself 5:20 6:1 45:13 51:1 63:22 69:14 88:21 99:16 <hr/> N <hr/> nation 84:13,15 national 16:17 22:22 84:12 97:24 nationwide 50:6 native 16:19 55:9 60:18 natural 16:5 68:10 71:20 72:16 78:6	81:18 91:16 nature 51:5 53:17 67:3,8 navigate 63:18 66:3 navigation 21:14 22:5 24:20 29:5 35:22 36:8,18 38:10 64:7 66:12 76:11 99:6 108:20 nearly 64:19 65:15 necessarily 38:21 100:10 113:1 necessary 22:17 28:7 30:15 35:17 37:4 38:13 52:20 69:13 77:21 78:15 86:5,8 negative 64:9 65:6,10 negatively 48:7,8 negatives 92:6 Nelson 90:17 93:10 96:7,11,12 nervous 102:18 net 49:24 nets 53:10 netting 15:18 network 25:19 49:10 news 71:2 nice 13:19 nobody 61:16,18 101:14 112:6 noncommercial 65:7 none 98:5 nonnative 67:17 nonstructural 26:7 27:13 39:12 69:23	North 1:12 49:8 68:7,9 101:18 northwest 32:18 96:13 97:4 Nos 47:9 notarial 117:14 Notary 1:21 117:6,20 note 44:4 58:20 78:16 110:19 notes 6:5 117:11 nothing 11:10 64:12 101:3 113:23 Notre 67:15 novel 25:4 November 85:21 nuisance 5:7 9:15 20:8,11 23:12 24:15 25:2,5,6 26:9,15,23 27:12,21 28:14,15,19,24 30:6 31:6,16 32:11 38:19 40:2,4,10 54:24 55:16 62:14 65:18 66:18 86:19 94:3 <hr/> O <hr/> obligations 48:11 obvious 80:12 obviously 39:12 58:16 114:8 occasionally 108:8 ocean 107:2 O'Connor 99:12 103:7 105:9,14,15 offer 63:17 81:12 87:1 90:23 91:18 offering 76:19
--	---	---	--

81:14 offers 49:5 office 5:23 official 7:15 officials 62:10 offset 22:4 94:8 95:8,14 Ohio 2:4 16:10,11 17:1 okay 5:5 44:22 46:6 47:16 56:16 57:6 71:15 72:7,11 78:2 97:16 oldest 57:10 ones 10:15 46:9 90:14 96:4 111:18 one-way 31:13 ongoing 54:5 online 6:10 42:7 47:1 112:16,23 open 34:11 36:19,21,22,24 37:2 53:12 77:24 81:20 105:23 107:7 108:20 opening 3:3 77:22 openness 83:13 operate 29:7 31:24 107:22 operating 105:19 operation 21:9 26:2 29:14 32:3 operations 65:14 Operators 97:23 opportunities 6:19 31:23 54:20 112:9 opportunity 6:15 19:20 39:10 41:24	43:11,19,22 44:2 48:5 50:15 57:22 58:3,19 63:16 82:12,13 83:21 90:23 93:21 99:20 100:3 106:21 111:7 112:7 opposed 31:4 opposite 34:1 36:17,22 optimal 20:7 optimistic 93:21 optimized 34:7,8 option 48:15 66:2 options 7:23 39:13 48:5,24 49:5 54:7 61:8 66:14 68:12 89:5,16,18,23 91:3 108:19 oral 6:6 7:19 43:7 orange 71:3 order 11:2 12:24 29:10 33:14 35:7 56:17 68:16 76:21 101:7 115:14 ore 106:3 organic 53:5 organisms 56:1 68:4 organization 10:5 13:13 45:18 57:11 71:22 72:18 107:22 organize 46:23 organized 7:5 45:24 Organizer 54:16 original 22:1 34:4,5 Orleans 107:5	osmosis 35:7,10,12 100:19,22 101:3 others 15:10 ourselves 51:17 110:4 outcompeting 55:9 outfall 34:23 outfalls 34:14 outflow 35:14 outreach 26:13,19 outside 28:24 38:6 overall 76:18 overflow 74:8 overlooked 101:18 overnight 5:17 104:8 overrun 60:11 oversee 8:24 overwhelmed 55:8 <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <hr/> p.m 1:16 8:12 116:18 PAGE 3:2 117:2 pages 19:23,24 72:22,24 84:23 98:9 Panama 105:24 panel 2:3 5:19 6:15 41:20 42:1 43:23 45:12 63:1 115:6 116:8 panel's 42:5 Park 112:13 parkway 102:10 partially 48:24 participants 42:8 participate 81:6 participating 17:16	partners 67:14 86:3 93:2 104:17 pass 69:21 passage 32:2 90:4 passed 51:18 past 17:24 29:21 39:2 59:24 85:22 path 12:23 28:22 44:21 pathway 16:9 pathways 9:17 15:22 Paul 4:6 63:8 66:23 68:23 69:2 pause 30:12 peer 22:24 pending 69:23 people 6:3 10:13,14 14:22 46:7,11,13 47:1,9 69:18 71:5,8 79:22 104:1 109:21,23 110:2 111:14 112:3 113:19 114:17 Peoria 55:7 per 25:17 35:15,23 percent 23:22 35:17 48:3,16 111:17 perfect 89:24 perform 77:10 perhaps 62:21 period 7:20 8:6,10,11,13 22:20 41:4 42:18 43:2,5,7 45:3 52:11 75:23 80:12 86:11 permanent 103:20 permit 43:24
---	---	--	--

<p>78:10</p> <p>permits 69:18</p> <p>persistent 74:6</p> <p>person 12:7 43:12 50:20 57:2 91:15</p> <p>persons 46:18 112:19 114:22</p> <p>perspective 57:20,21 91:5 109:17</p> <p>persuaded 47:24</p> <p>petroleum 106:3</p> <p>phase 22:18 103:17 104:19</p> <p>phased 92:19</p> <p>phenomenal 11:7</p> <p>philosophy 11:10</p> <p>phone 110:18</p> <p>physical 4:19 24:11 26:11 30:2 33:7 36:15,20,23 56:14 70:4 78:10 81:21 82:6 86:6 94:2,9 101:23 102:2,6,13</p> <p>physically 48:18 69:7</p> <p>pick 19:20 80:3 83:19</p> <p>pictures 51:2</p> <p>piece 46:20</p> <p>pieces 7:3</p> <p>pile 102:7</p> <p>pipe 34:20</p> <p>placed 45:9</p> <p>Plaines 65:12 101:8</p> <p>plan 16:12 21:20 25:12,13,14,15 30:5 65:20 68:17 92:12,15,19 93:3</p>	<p>95:9 100:3,8</p> <p>planned 29:20</p> <p>planning 101:24 110:8</p> <p>plans 21:19 23:1 25:10 27:21 32:21 65:5 92:4,7 100:2 102:22 103:1 112:16</p> <p>plant 24:15 25:2,3 26:16 28:19,20 29:1,13 30:2 35:16,21 71:9</p> <p>plants 26:17 29:8,10 31:16 34:13,21 35:2,12 36:1 67:23</p> <p>play 53:7</p> <p>playing 41:19</p> <p>Plaza 1:12</p> <p>please 6:12 8:1 12:20 44:4 93:1,23 96:10 97:20 107:6 110:18 114:4</p> <p>pleased 4:7 72:20 103:19,24</p> <p>pleasure 61:17</p> <p>plumbing 100:4</p> <p>point 13:22 18:4,12 31:10,11,20 34:21 41:10 48:19 60:15 61:12 81:1 82:5 83:20 89:8 97:22</p> <p>points 28:16,22 31:4,5,12,15 34:2 54:22 58:5</p> <p>poised 18:4 55:19</p> <p>policies 68:8</p> <p>Policy 22:22 57:9</p>	<p>policymakers 71:4</p> <p>pollutants 101:20</p> <p>polluted 56:11</p> <p>polluting 56:16</p> <p>pollution 56:20 78:3 84:22 101:15</p> <p>population 16:20</p> <p>populations 16:18</p> <p>port 106:18 107:3</p> <p>portfolio 9:1</p> <p>portion 9:1</p> <p>portions 11:5</p> <p>ports 106:13</p> <p>pose 23:15</p> <p>position 9:3 12:15 45:24</p> <p>positioned 87:14</p> <p>positive 16:3</p> <p>positives 92:6</p> <p>possibilities 15:11</p> <p>possible 15:6 16:9 18:18 20:12 40:16 46:6 47:6 54:7 61:9 77:14 90:9 104:1,2 113:5,8 114:18</p> <p>possibly 53:6</p> <p>posted 7:17</p> <p>potential 12:12 15:23 32:2 39:1,15 55:22 67:6 68:4 77:12 92:9 101:20 104:12 110:9</p> <p>potentially 23:13 34:17 65:13 86:10</p> <p>pounds 52:13</p> <p>power 89:15</p> <p>practice 27:2,5</p>	<p>61:10,23 62:2</p> <p>practices 27:8 69:12 70:2</p> <p>precious 92:1</p> <p>precipitation 29:23 32:6,10 33:13</p> <p>precipitation- driven 29:11</p> <p>prefer 25:14</p> <p>prepared 9:24 82:1</p> <p>preregister 46:8</p> <p>preregistered 6:6 46:11 90:14 96:4</p> <p>present 2:3,11 7:7 67:17</p> <p>presentation 8:1,8 20:3 40:1 42:15 62:13</p> <p>presented 7:11 54:22 65:3 66:10,14 70:10 92:4 99:19 109:19</p> <p>presenting 91:2</p> <p>presents 54:20</p> <p>preserving 91:16</p> <p>president 12:13 63:14</p> <p>pretty 35:10 51:19 52:24 53:11 89:7 102:6</p> <p>prevent 20:8,11 21:6 26:18 31:17 33:8 38:19 48:12 49:5 55:1,16 56:4 65:17 67:22 69:9 70:5</p> <p>prevented 61:3</p> <p>preventing 38:21 47:22 56:21 103:22</p>
--	---	--	--

<p>prevention 22:15 28:13 40:10 48:16 54:23</p> <p>previous 12:3 112:18</p> <p>previously 8:5</p> <p>priceless 92:10</p> <p>primarily 17:4 18:3 21:13 30:9 81:20</p> <p>primary 21:17 24:9 111:12</p> <p>prior 22:18</p> <p>priorities 13:12</p> <p>priority 47:23 56:14 92:14</p> <p>probability 23:18</p> <p>probably 14:3,19 21:7 100:11 106:10</p> <p>problem 10:10,21 12:12,24 55:2 59:5,19,21 68:19 80:20 84:11,12 85:6</p> <p>problems 55:4 60:4,10 61:10,14,22 70:20 84:10 101:7,13</p> <p>problem-solving 81:4</p> <p>procedure 74:15</p> <p>proceed 27:10 94:12</p> <p>proceedings 116:16 117:8</p> <p>process 18:13 20:17,20 42:2 57:19 74:19,23 75:2 81:13 82:1 98:16 111:24 115:3</p>	<p>processes 75:7</p> <p>prodigious 88:14</p> <p>produce 20:23</p> <p>produced 21:1</p> <p>producing 88:14</p> <p>product 97:3</p> <p>products 10:3 98:19 106:3,6</p> <p>professional 107:22 117:5</p> <p>professionals 10:19</p> <p>program 14:7,14 16:17,18 18:3 71:21 72:16</p> <p>programs 14:1</p> <p>progress 14:11 15:3</p> <p>project 2:9 5:24 6:6 7:22 13:6 15:24 16:4,6 18:2 19:6 30:18 51:14 73:15 77:4 94:12 97:6 104:11 112:20 115:16</p> <p>projects 17:11 50:4 51:11</p> <p>promise 111:6</p> <p>promote 48:14 112:10</p> <p>promotes 49:19</p> <p>promulgate 62:11</p> <p>pronunciation 90:21</p> <p>proof 61:5</p> <p>proper 27:15 90:21</p> <p>properly 45:14</p> <p>property 88:21</p> <p>proposal 16:6</p>	<p>protect 17:21 56:17 68:8 70:7 105:3 109:18</p> <p>protecting 55:5 57:11 78:18 91:16 97:4</p> <p>protection 76:4 87:20 91:18 92:20 111:12</p> <p>protections 86:8</p> <p>protective 30:5</p> <p>proud 9:2 12:6 37:20</p> <p>provide 6:19,20 37:19 40:23 41:18 62:23 66:11,16 69:3 75:24 87:3</p> <p>provided 22:9</p> <p>provides 21:24 22:3 75:21 92:19</p> <p>providing 48:5 61:21 85:13 86:7</p> <p>provincial 68:7</p> <p>psyllid 71:3</p> <p>public 1:8,21 3:7 4:4 6:18 7:5,10 8:5,7,9,11 10:12,13 18:21 26:22 40:6,13 69:11 73:15 75:13,19,23 85:14 86:11 89:2 98:12,22 106:10,16 115:12 117:6,20</p> <p>publication 84:5</p> <p>publicly 9:6 102:16</p> <p>published 19:15</p> <p>pull 18:7</p> <p>pulling 17:22 24:23 27:3 77:18</p>	<p>pump 24:21</p> <p>purpose 28:20 31:15,20 59:18 79:5 95:12</p> <p>purposes 45:20 111:5</p> <p>pursue 27:2 38:18</p> <p>push 24:22 84:18</p> <p>pushing 24:23</p> <p>puts 36:20,22</p> <p>putting 27:4 34:24 73:18 89:20 101:24 102:22</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Q</p> <hr/> <p>quagga 53:2 71:1</p> <p>qualitative 23:23</p> <p>quality 2:8 12:15 17:17 33:1 34:18 35:9 38:10 48:8,13 56:18 59:2,5 77:17,20 80:8 81:22 91:9 96:20 97:11 100:5 101:6 102:19 111:10 113:13</p> <p>quantify 95:22</p> <p>question 43:12 60:16 62:5,8,21 64:14 65:1,16,23 66:7 75:10 77:15 85:10,22 94:4,5 95:1 101:22 102:4 110:17 113:12</p> <p>questions 5:2,7 7:24 43:11,14,16 45:5,16 51:13,15,20 63:19,20,22 73:3 74:24 75:5 79:6 93:23 94:15 115:6 116:10</p> <p>queue 6:14</p>
--	--	--	---

quick 5:16 15:22 27:14 44:11 59:10 quickly 32:7 93:2 quietly 4:15 106:8 quit 61:17 quite 11:9 52:7 73:6 81:15 83:23 95:23 quo 73:22 100:18 <hr/> R <hr/> Racine 64:17 radius 64:15 Rahm 109:24 railcars 49:18 raise 47:15 73:4 85:10 93:12 114:4 raise-the-hand 46:22 rallying 83:22 range 20:7 21:21,24 22:11,12 40:12 66:13 68:3 74:5 77:11 ranges 35:14 ranging 64:17 ranking 21:23 23:23,24 rather 49:7 104:5 rating 23:20 rationale 36:9 Re 1:3 reach 49:21 reaching 92:14 react 39:19 reaction 72:21 reactions 9:5	reading 5:17 63:24 ready 47:16 50:23 66:24 71:18 79:16 83:2 88:11 90:18 96:9 97:19 103:9 105:12 107:13 109:6 real 44:11 58:18 71:5 85:6 88:22 89:10,12 100:3 realigned 20:21 reality 84:20 realize 104:18 106:17 really 9:2 12:6,19 13:11 14:4 18:12 19:22,23 23:5 27:9 32:15 37:18,20 51:16 52:6,9 53:4,14 57:22,24 58:14,24 59:18 60:13,17 77:16 81:8 83:9,20 84:8 86:18,21 88:1 98:10,11 99:2,6,24 100:13 101:22 104:21,23 105:4 115:24 reason 10:12 29:21 35:20 61:9 77:18 reasons 10:7 received 55:21 recent 9:10 14:20 41:7 recently 67:13 reclamation 34:13,21 35:21 36:1 104:21 recognize 11:4 26:24 59:20 72:23 82:9 104:9,10	recognized 58:6 recognizing 86:19 recommend 61:8 recommendation 21:22 recommendations 12:23 16:1 85:19 record 7:15 45:15 46:3 50:18 59:23 73:2 74:17 75:3,13,14,16 79:9 93:14,16 recorded 45:14 recording 45:4 recreation 94:19 recreational 26:24 64:4,6,13 65:1,8,20 66:3 76:11,12 91:23 96:22 102:10 111:5 recreationally 91:8 red 8:2 44:17 reduce 27:11 89:23 reduced 94:7 reducing 89:6 104:13 reduction 39:22 56:7 refined 51:16 reflection 73:20 regard 31:24 54:3,5,8 62:10,14 66:8 73:4 75:10 76:24 77:15 78:21 79:6,8 95:2,7,16 102:21,24 regarding 69:11 75:24	regards 96:21 region 12:2,10 33:12 40:16 50:11 54:21 56:22 68:16 83:22 104:12,17,23 105:5 106:16,17 110:2 111:9 regional 14:2 18:2 57:16 77:2 83:20 86:3 87:5,16 regionally 77:8 registered 6:10,11 46:14 90:16 93:9 96:5 117:5 registration 5:1 6:7 43:9 regulation 70:21 78:4 regulations 26:13,20 regulatorily 102:23 regulators 35:6 102:21 regulatory 70:23 reinforcing 99:22 related 74:3,9 release 83:24 released 76:15 85:16 relevant 74:22 relies 111:4 relocated 111:8 relook 100:4 rely 24:20 56:8 relying 69:22 remain 116:9 remains 47:23 48:18
--	--	---	---

remarkable 98:5	117:8	61:21 72:16	9:15,20 15:15
remarks 3:3,4,5,6,8 41:2 73:1	reporter 50:18 71:24 117:5,6,19	91:17,24	16:9 17:1,2 20:9
remediate 74:4	reports 10:6	respectfully 98:13	28:23 29:8 31:21
remediation 77:21 78:14	report's 103:19	respond 43:16 86:16	33:10 36:2 38:6
remind 116:7	represent 13:13 51:1 54:18 67:2 99:14 107:19,20	responded 74:19 79:1,4	49:1 51:7,24
reminded 69:21	representations 28:18	response 14:7 43:15 74:20 85:23	52:12 53:12
remiss 19:12 21:10	representing 45:19 99:15,16	responsibility 26:21 27:7 40:3,11 62:15 81:9 86:20	55:6,8 56:9 58:2
remote 42:10	request 43:13 98:13,22	rest 16:15	60:10 61:16
remove 36:6 49:15	requests 98:7	restoration 18:1 68:11 97:8	63:18 64:4
renovate 59:3	require 26:10 40:5 68:19	restore 70:4	67:19,20 69:8,19
repeat 85:9 94:16 100:1	required 4:19 27:17	restoring 81:18	73:23 74:2,7,8
replace 24:24 77:19	requirements 22:4,23	result 48:9 67:21 69:20	77:23 85:2 93:20
report 5:13,15,18 6:24 7:8,11 8:9 9:6,23 10:24 12:21 15:21 19:15,19 20:23 21:1,3,21 22:9 23:4,8 24:10 37:9,10,17,20,22 39:18 40:19,24 48:1,2,15 49:5 54:19,22 55:19 57:13,24 58:21 60:6,8,9 63:24 64:2,11 65:3,9 66:11,15 67:4 70:17,18,22 73:4,12 75:9,17,21 76:13,14,18,22 79:6 83:24 84:5 85:14,16 88:15 89:17,24 90:24 91:20 92:4 93:24 94:1 95:6 98:4,8 99:3 103:22 104:6 108:15 110:5	research 13:7 14:10 24:17 28:5 51:15 54:5	reveals 94:2	97:6,7
	reservoir 32:17 34:24 51:9 112:22 113:9	reversal 56:9	101:8,9,19 102:7
	reservoirs 29:16 30:10 33:16,18 95:21 112:16 113:2,13	reverse 35:7,10,12 100:19,22 101:3	104:13 105:15
	resident 91:6 111:4	reversing 97:7,10	107:3,20
	residents 94:11	review 22:24 23:1 98:11	109:11,18,20,24
	residual 38:17 39:7	rid 14:12	110:7,9
	resource 16:5 25:22 27:15 52:19 53:19 71:20 78:6 87:7 110:3	risk 16:3,13,14 21:15 22:6 23:15,17,20 27:11 29:16 32:16 33:4,22 38:9 39:7,14,15,21,22 48:17 55:13 56:7 58:8 84:4 92:22 95:10 102:17 113:13	rivers 16:18,20 56:16 65:13 74:4 106:22 108:5 110:10
reported 1:21	resources 27:17 30:24 51:12	risks 33:2 38:17 89:6,20,23 94:3	Riverwalk 110:1
		river 1:4 2:4 4:3	RO 35:16
			Road 31:20
			robust 98:9
			role 53:6 74:21
			room 4:18 55:11 115:14,18
			Rotterdam 71:7 106:14
			roughly 79:22
			round 56:3 61:23
			rounds 96:18
			route 49:16
			RPR 1:21
			ruffe 25:23 67:7,16
			run 28:23 44:11,23 51:21 84:4 85:2 86:7
			running 42:4
			<hr/> S <hr/>

Sabie 93:17	seeking 75:23	114:9	shown 42:7
Sabolch 88:10	seeks 55:4	seven-year 60:3	shows 48:2
90:13 93:8,15	seem 44:18	sever 16:12	shrimp 68:6
safe 94:19	seems 75:1 85:1	several 4:21 7:2	shy 12:20
sampling 15:18	108:11	19:24 42:2 52:22	sides 4:18 102:8
Sanitary 36:20,24	seen 51:2 55:8	63:17 76:15	Sierra 54:17
save 51:19	61:5	77:23 91:3	103:12
saving 53:14 74:13	select 68:17	100:15 107:1	sign 46:7
scenario 33:7	Senate 85:20	111:14 114:8	signed 113:19
36:9,19,22	senators 85:20	sewage 56:10 74:7	significant 14:11
scenarios 32:21,22	Send 110:19	sewer 34:14,23	17:11,18,22
37:2 39:8,18,20	send-up 69:20	74:8	18:10 19:14
schedule 4:8,24	senior 63:14 80:13	shaded 31:8	21:11 23:15 28:2
19:16 96:16	sense 29:15 32:13	share 109:16	32:5 33:13
scheduled 8:11	33:11 102:16	shared 26:21 27:7	34:8,13,18
schedules 115:4	sent 74:20	40:2,11 62:15	36:4,8 40:8
School 1:11	sentiment 78:2	68:19 81:9 86:20	64:7,12,24 65:6
science 87:23	separate 49:1	sheet 4:23 5:1,6	78:6 98:19
science-based	56:20 69:7	44:6 51:18,22	significantly 16:19
48:23	separately 56:14	102:7 114:11,13	33:4 69:10
scientific 67:5	separation 21:5	sheets 46:10,15	silly 44:19
scientists 15:2	32:22,23 33:6	47:9 93:9	silver 15:15
screen 24:11	38:18 48:1,2	She's 72:2	similar 25:7 28:12
110:20	49:15,22 54:23	Ship 36:20,24	55:11 94:4
Sea 17:13	55:3 56:15	Shipmasters	114:19
seagoing 105:18	58:19,21 65:5	107:21	similarly 75:22
seal 117:14	67:10 68:13,18	shipped 70:8	simple 23:5 44:18
second 31:1 35:20	70:5 77:22	106:6 107:2,4	96:14 102:6
50:20 72:2 87:18	78:10,16 81:21	shippers 98:20	simply 24:18 26:8
110:24	82:6 85:17 86:7	shipping	44:11 89:8
secondly 7:9 46:17	94:2,9 103:20	112:3,9,11	sincere 91:19,20
106:12	111:21	shoot 53:20 69:18	sincerely 98:10
Secretary 2:7 5:23	series 6:22 31:12	shores 91:10	Singapore 106:15
8:19 13:2 57:18	serious 80:20	short 56:7 68:16	single 22:17
59:21 69:5 83:10	serve 31:13 80:7	80:12	sir 50:23 66:6
sediment 74:2	Service 16:5	shorthand	79:16 83:2 88:11
77:15,18,21	services 88:22	117:4,8,11,19	90:11 105:12
78:14,17,21	sets 62:17,19	short-term 87:19	107:8
seeing 69:17 99:21	seven 6:17 10:12	92:20	sit 83:17
113:24	50:3 55:18 59:24	shotguns 69:18	site 6:6
	96:6 108:12	showed 58:9	7:1,18,21,22
			9:24 41:11 42:23

44:6 90:15 96:4 113:20 114:19 sitting 87:4 115:1 situation 14:1 82:19 six 66:11 114:9 sized 29:8 skipper 105:18 skis 61:16 slide 42:22 44:13 slides 20:4 44:9,12,13 45:1 114:6 slightly 20:21 slips 64:20 slowly 45:21 small 14:20 64:23 100:2,3,8 smallmouth 61:19 Smith 47:11 50:21 54:11,15,16 snakehead 25:24 solely 56:17 solicit 7:10 solution 10:9,21 12:9 48:1 50:12 59:6 67:10 68:3,20 81:14 82:3 83:23 85:6 86:5,17 87:12,24 90:4 91:22 97:1 103:21 104:22 solutions 9:19 14:23 48:23 51:17 66:17 85:18 99:4 109:14,18 110:5 solve 12:24 84:14 109:19 solving 81:7 somebody 8:2 44:20 102:1	somehow 101:18 Someone 115:23 somewhat 51:8 somewhere 32:10 95:19 sooner 39:21 49:7 sorry 83:7 sort 23:15 99:22 sought 55:15 sound 25:17 source 42:23 52:8,15 84:21 101:19 south 15:16 southeast 32:19 southern 67:18 spans 19:13 speak 6:4,11 19:18 43:20 44:2 45:21 46:12 54:3,19 62:9,12 69:7 72:1 75:20 91:6 speakers 8:8,14 50:16 speaking 38:3 80:8 88:20 speaks 4:24 specie 20:11 26:15 28:14,15 species 5:8 9:15,16,19 17:14 20:8 23:11,13 24:3,15 25:5 26:10,23 27:12,21 28:19 30:7 31:6,16,17,21 32:2,12 38:19,23 39:1,10,21,22 40:2,4,10 47:22 48:6,13,17,18,21 49:3,6 50:14 54:6,24	55:10,16,18,19 56:22 58:1,10,13 60:18 61:3,6 62:14 65:18 66:18,19 67:7,17 68:2,5,19 69:9 73:24 74:10,13 84:13 86:20 89:11 90:5,7,8 94:3 96:22 99:4 100:6,7,10 103:23 109:15 111:16 112:1 specific 8:23 26:15 62:23 65:19,21 85:24 95:14 110:22 specifically 23:9,21 25:5 33:21 54:4 102:12 specificity 30:16 specify 64:11 spectacular 52:24 speech 44:21,24 spelled 47:5 spend 19:17 21:10 23:2 25:9 31:3 36:13 39:17 52:9 75:6 77:3 91:9 92:17 108:2 111:7 spending 40:14 spent 109:22 splits 31:6 spoke 22:7 38:24 84:9 sport 64:5,13 65:2 89:14 spot 64:15 spread 47:22 48:6,12,16 49:6 55:16 65:17 67:6,18 89:11	spring 16:6 18:22 SS 117:1 St 4:6 79:19,21 87:1 staff 8:3 116:8 stage 16:7 stake 17:6 91:14 stakeholder 20:16 51:1 98:18 stakeholders 10:15 12:1,22 22:10 40:6,12,18 81:16 91:21 92:3 93:2 stand 38:4 standards 35:9 85:2,3 standing 51:8 Star 110:18 start 44:13,15 47:8,17 88:11 89:22 90:1,15 93:13 96:7 97:19 101:10 114:8 started 17:13 23:11 46:14 72:6 Starting 5:20 starts 18:20 state 14:3 16:11 22:10,24 25:21 27:20 32:19 35:6 40:12,17 52:23 54:18 62:18 68:7 69:23 87:6 102:21 104:19 117:1,7 statement 43:10 113:23 114:4 statements 42:1 45:9 63:17,22 states 13:17 16:15,22 17:1,2,4,6,15,22
--	---	---	--

18:6 27:23 60:4 61:13,22 65:9 82:16 91:11 status 73:22 100:18 stay 41:6,7 43:1 steamship 105:19 stenographer 45:3 step 45:17 58:18 stepped 10:23 steps 23:3 56:19 64:8 74:21 76:1 78:21 87:15 sterilize 52:3 stick 26:5 Stickney 28:16 112:15 stone 102:8 stop 55:24 56:2 61:6,13 69:14 90:7,8 stopped 14:21 39:4 52:11 stopping 74:3,9 87:20 storage 51:10 stormwater 51:10 56:11 Straits 106:1 strategy 14:5 15:14 40:9 stream 32:9 strictly 32:10 strong 73:7 structural 70:2 structure 26:11 70:23 76:22 structured 76:3 studied 101:5 style 114:21	submarines 107:4 submit 5:3 43:5 51:17 submitted 7:20,21 79:8 114:7 submitting 73:1 75:3 substantially 5:15 suburb 112:14 suburbs 91:13 success 19:14 24:1 successful 17:10 26:21 27:6 successfully 48:20 Suez 106:1 sufficiently 35:8 suggest 61:7 suggests 36:19 suitable 102:16 suited 114:20 summarize 59:24 75:16 summarized 37:12 79:2 summary 5:11,12 7:8 8:9 10:2 19:22 92:5 summer 111:7 supplied 59:23 supply 21:14 support 61:22,24 83:21 84:14 103:19 109:23 supporter 52:7 supposed 112:22 sure 4:10,17 6:13 14:8 17:21 38:18,22 43:19 45:11 46:5 52:19 71:4 90:19 95:4 99:5 102:3 105:3	111:18 surface 33:8 sustained 25:15 swamped 30:2 swimming 94:18 symbolic 102:14 system 14:6,18 20:14 21:4,9,12,16 29:9,17,24 31:6,7,18 32:4 33:1,2 34:3,9,11 35:18 36:15,16,18 38:15 50:6 58:12 60:23 66:13 67:8,22 82:8,14 88:19 90:5 91:24 95:20 99:20 100:4 104:14 112:8 systems 34:6 35:24 50:8,9 64:8 <hr/> T <hr/> table 5:20 37:12 42:5 44:7 92:5 115:5 tablet 5:11 tagged 51:24 taking 27:22 42:11 73:11,17 74:1 82:12 87:15 94:23 115:1,3 talk 6:15 13:23 30:12 62:24 63:4 72:12 76:2 talked 51:23 58:21 98:9 talking 21:11 23:2 39:17 47:1 51:10 81:21 84:9 88:2 target 39:21 targeted 39:22	TARP 112:17 task 14:23 taxpayer 48:10 91:15 team 7:5 11:12,14 13:5,21 14:4,16 19:11,12 98:3 teams 14:10 87:23 technical 11:5 79:6 techniques 30:14 technological 9:18 39:20 technologies 10:8 14:9,13 15:2 20:7 24:9 25:3,8 26:8 27:14 36:17 39:19 66:14 technology 15:9 24:22 26:16 28:10,11 31:1 37:14 telephone 42:5 ten 32:15 tenfold 49:20 term 14:24 56:7 terms 33:3 51:15 52:10 77:9,16 86:22 test 47:13 62:2 testified 112:19 testimony 72:21 114:23 117:13 testing 15:1 thank 5:21,23 8:17,18 11:14 13:1,2 19:2 41:14,16 42:10,18,21 50:15,19 52:17 53:23 54:9,10 56:23,24 57:12,13
--	---	--	--

59:8,9,12,16 62:7 63:5,6 66:5,6,20,21 67:1,3 68:21 69:5 71:12,13,14,19 72:15 75:4 79:11,12,17 80:4,10 82:20,21,22 83:4,18 86:13,14 88:7,13 89:2 90:10,11,12,20,2 2 93:5,7 94:21,22,23 96:1,2 97:12,14,15 99:7,8,9 102:4 103:4,5,11,14 105:7,8 107:7,8,9,16 108:10 109:2,3,12 110:12,13,14 113:16,17 114:23 115:8 116:3,5,14 thanks 13:21 48:22 54:1,2 88:6 105:6 that's 4:18 7:11 8:2 11:8 12:12,15 16:20 20:1,17 23:10 25:4,17 29:13 32:15 36:8 37:20 40:24 45:11 46:21 47:4 50:20 74:14 75:22 77:16 80:13 84:5 86:20 88:4,17 93:17 98:4 99:21,24 102:19 103:15 104:2 108:3 110:19 114:20 115:19 themes 62:13 themselves 24:8	54:6 79:1 theoretically 113:8 Therefore 33:18 91:19 there's 35:20 51:15 54:4 66:13 73:9 100:23 106:21 115:13 they'd 18:17 They're 108:12 they've 47:5 53:9 57:14 thicker 5:15 third 50:22 59:14 63:8 96:8 Thirdly 106:24 Thornton 51:2,4,9 112:21 113:5,6 thorough 30:13 108:15 thoroughness 64:1 thoughts 75:18 thousands 19:24 threat 17:5 52:6 threaten 67:19 68:6 109:15 three-minute 43:10,21 44:16 throughout 6:18 11:19 43:1 54:18 70:19 91:11 114:12 throughput 35:17 Thus 56:5 timeline 43:21 67:12 timelines 105:2 today 4:9,24 6:11 9:3 10:11 13:10,11 14:15 15:8 16:1 18:20 19:2,9 20:3	28:11 37:24 38:3 39:17 40:1 42:3 48:7 51:3,18 54:19 59:18 61:21 62:21 63:16 64:16 70:24 75:5 80:9 81:2 91:6,20 92:24 93:9,19 96:5 105:21 107:18 113:20 today's 4:3 97:16 tomorrow 27:16 tonight 6:5 8:12 40:22 41:6 44:7 46:12 84:8 85:12 89:3 90:16 94:24 109:16 114:23 tons 49:14 106:2 tool 22:7 top 36:15 47:23 110:20 Torrence 107:1 total 35:24 36:7 111:17 totally 82:14 touch 38:2 41:7 tourist 91:15 toward 87:8 115:18 towards 4:12 19:14 87:14 114:5 towboat 97:24 toxicant 15:4 trade 97:24 trades 105:20 traditional 30:13 traffic 106:8 transcript 117:11 transfer 20:8,11 21:6 23:13,15	26:18 28:14,15 30:7 31:5 38:19,21,23 39:10 40:10 54:24 87:20 97:3 103:23 transferred 56:10 transferring 9:20 23:19 33:9 48:19 transform 82:14 99:20 transportation 9:12 14:22 68:14 81:23 97:2 104:14 105:17 106:11 112:8,12 treasure 93:4 treat 28:21 35:8 treated 25:1 56:10 treating 25:5 treatment 24:15 25:2,3,6 28:19,20 29:1,8,10 30:1 31:16 89:14 100:17 101:11 tremendous 51:14 57:19,22 83:21 104:11,15 Trends 49:11 trickled 36:5 tried 77:12 81:6 trillion 50:7 truck 73:17 truckloads 39:3 trucks 49:18 108:23 true 117:10 truth 100:19 try 8:3 10:9,21 22:19 40:15 42:16 62:2 75:6
---	---	--	---

<p>76:8 78:9</p> <p>trying 22:15 41:18 52:10 59:22 66:17 87:11 95:10</p> <p>Tuetsch 50:22 54:12 57:2,8 59:11</p> <p>tugboat 97:24 107:19</p> <p>tunnels 29:15 30:10 33:15 34:23 95:20</p> <p>turn 8:15 41:3 44:7,9,15 60:14,20</p> <p>turning 44:17 82:13</p> <p>turns 37:24</p> <p>twist 24:12</p> <p>Twitter 41:9</p> <p>twofold 20:10</p> <p>two-way 28:13,14 31:4,5 67:9,22 68:18</p> <p>types 22:13 23:12 56:1 105:1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">U</p> <hr/> <p>U.S 17:19 19:6 50:10 79:20 91:1 109:13</p> <p>Ullrich 68:24 71:16 79:14,17,18 80:1,5 82:18 83:19 86:24 99:19</p> <p>ultimately 92:24</p> <p>unable 33:11</p> <p>unacceptable 111:24</p> <p>uncertain 70:12</p>	<p>unclear 73:9 74:12</p> <p>uncomfortable 85:4</p> <p>understand 4:17 11:8 22:13 52:18 65:17 70:21 75:7,18 76:14,21 77:16 78:2 84:19 85:24 95:5 100:24</p> <p>understanding 13:8 40:19 74:18</p> <p>undertaken 64:12 65:22</p> <p>undo 97:5</p> <p>unfamiliar 89:4</p> <p>unfortunately 62:9,22 89:17 99:21</p> <p>unique 8:23 12:9 18:2 42:12 51:8 109:17</p> <p>United 82:16</p> <p>University 1:11 67:15,16 88:24</p> <p>unmitigated 34:15 95:17</p> <p>unmuted 110:19</p> <p>update 15:22 16:3 112:8</p> <p>upgrade 35:2</p> <p>upon 38:2</p> <p>urge 68:20 71:3 108:17</p> <p>urgent 67:13,21 68:20</p> <p>useful 98:15</p> <p>users 22:14 64:3,7,10</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">V</p> <hr/> <p>vacation 91:12</p>	<p>vacuum 103:1</p> <p>valuable 52:15 53:19 92:11</p> <p>value 76:5</p> <p>various 27:20 70:8 75:18 89:5 115:17</p> <p>venue 42:20</p> <p>versa 70:14</p> <p>versus 5:16 30:23 84:21</p> <p>via 107:2</p> <p>viable 49:16 50:12 68:12</p> <p>vice 70:14</p> <p>village 88:17</p> <p>vintage 106:5</p> <p>vision 55:3 101:23</p> <p>visit 41:11</p> <p>visual 44:9</p> <p>vital 68:14 105:22 107:6</p> <p>vitality 49:9</p> <p>voice 116:1</p> <p>volume 28:23 113:7</p> <p>volumes 24:24 30:16 33:19</p> <p>voters 100:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">W</p> <hr/> <p>Wabash 16:9 60:10 61:16 84:10</p> <p>wade 76:16</p> <p>wait 60:3,8 90:1 110:18</p> <p>waited 59:24</p> <p>waiting 72:8</p> <p>Wall 101:23</p>	<p>102:15</p> <p>walls 102:8</p> <p>War 106:24</p> <p>Warskow 83:1 88:9 90:13,19,22</p> <p>Washington 60:7 61:13</p> <p>wasn't 11:14,20</p> <p>waste 92:1</p> <p>wastewater 50:9 100:17 101:11</p> <p>watched 60:17</p> <p>watching 98:23</p> <p>water 4:12 11:8 16:7 17:17,20 21:14 22:6 24:22,23 25:1,7 29:1 32:6,8,9,13,24 33:12,16 34:13,18,21 35:8,9,11,13,21 36:1 38:10 48:8,13 49:1,13 50:7 54:16 56:12,13,18 57:9 59:2,5 77:17,20 80:8 81:22 82:15 89:14 95:21 96:20 97:11 100:5,24 101:6 102:18 104:20 106:19 108:3 113:13</p> <p>waterborne 64:17</p> <p>watercraft 69:12</p> <p>waters 33:9 82:16</p> <p>watershed 27:24 51:2,4,5,11</p> <p>waterway 15:19 21:4,9,16 27:4 28:21 29:24 34:11 50:6 58:7,8,11 60:23 64:8 66:13</p>
--	--	--	---

82:8,14 88:19 90:5 91:24 105:23 106:4 107:3,7 waterways 23:9 29:12 36:6,7 49:19 55:5 56:21 60:11 65:1,7,16 66:4 91:8 94:19 97:23 98:20 108:4,20 109:15 ways 14:11,12,18 15:12 38:22 41:6 46:8 78:12 85:24 86:23 88:2 100:15 102:12 109:20 wealth 37:21 41:21 weather 29:7,9 96:17 Web 6:6 7:1,18,21,22 9:24 41:11 42:23 44:5 90:15 96:4 113:20 114:19 Webinar 42:4,9,14 45:6 46:19,21,22 110:16,17 113:21 we'd 6:8 35:17 41:22 74:14 week 18:19 weeks 13:11 96:17 114:10 week's 71:2 weigh 87:17 welcome 4:2 we'll 4:24 15:1 42:15 44:13 45:10 46:8,16,22,24 47:13 54:11 60:19 63:7 68:22 82:23 87:22	90:15 96:4,7 97:16 105:9 107:10 110:22 we're 8:14 12:20 14:21 15:10 25:12,17 36:10 40:16 41:9,18,19 42:12 51:10 57:1,10 58:17,22 59:22 60:13,20 67:11 70:24 71:15,21,22 72:19,20 73:15 75:11,22 77:18 79:13,20 84:14 88:7,8,24 93:8 100:21 101:10 103:6 109:4 110:5 114:11 western 112:13 Wethington 2:9 3:6 6:1 19:3,4,5 52:17 54:1 56:24 62:6 63:5 66:6 71:14 75:4 77:7 79:3,12 80:15 82:21 86:15 90:11 94:22 97:14 99:8,22 102:3 105:7 107:8 110:13 112:24 113:17 we've 6:13 9:21 10:6,7 11:23 14:10 17:5,24 19:15 22:19 27:18 29:22 34:2,7,8,19 41:20 42:1,4,6,14 43:22 44:11,19 46:7,10,15 51:2,14 52:1,10,23 59:24 60:17 74:1 84:2 85:12 100:8 101:5 108:9 113:4,24 114:9	115:20 116:13 whatever 10:16 84:24 96:24 97:22 105:21 106:4 WHEREOF 117:13 whether 52:5 53:13 73:9 85:16,17 104:2,5 110:6 white 31:9 57:17 whole 7:4 11:12 12:18 18:13 39:17 86:19 94:1 100:4,13 115:16 wide 40:12 77:11 81:16 wildlife 109:21 willingness 83:10,17 Wilmette 88:17 winter 96:17 winters 111:9 win-win 99:4 Wisconsin 64:18 107:4 wisdom 13:3 wish 6:11 46:2,19 91:19 wishing 6:4 witnessed 108:5 wonderful 110:3 wondering 101:22 104:2 112:21 work 9:6 13:14 14:17 15:7 17:8 22:21 48:22 51:14 57:14,16,18 76:10 80:11,14 82:3 83:8,18 90:8 93:1 94:21	97:13 99:6 100:15 103:16 104:23 108:11 109:10 115:18 worked 10:4 working 12:4 14:22 15:3 45:11 50:9 69:15 81:15 108:12 109:13 works 2:7 8:20 9:1 42:20 73:15 world 35:12,16 106:13,24 110:2 world-renowned 10:18 world's 110:10 worse 60:5 69:10 worth 89:1 wrap 90:3 110:15 wreaking 56:22 write 94:23 written 5:4 7:21 63:23 69:3 73:1 74:20 wrong 48:7 wrote 85:21 <hr/> Y <hr/> yellow 5:1 43:9 44:6,15 46:15 93:9 114:11 yet 72:6 84:24 Yokohama 106:15 York 106:14 you'll 6:2 24:9 43:11 61:23 yourself 4:15 yourselves 20:19 40:7,21 86:9 you've 5:14 6:5 9:23 18:18 41:20 51:24 99:6
--	--	---	--

111:22 <hr/> Z <hr/> zebra 53:2 71:1 zero 58:12 89:10 ZIP 45:19 46:3 47:17 59:10 63:12 67:3 72:9 79:23 80:2 83:6 88:12,16 90:22 93:13,15 96:10 97:20 98:1 103:10,13 105:13 107:14 109:6,10 111:1,2 Zoeller 54:13 57:3 59:14,16,17 62:7 63:3 84:7 zone 31:2,7,9,19,22,2 4 32:1,12			
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