

NEPA Public Scoping Meeting

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GREAT LAKES AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER INTERBASIN STUDY

NEPA SCOPING MEETING

Chicago, Illinois
December 15th, 2010
12:00 o'clock p.m.

MR. KEVIN BLUHM, Moderator

PANELISTS:

MR. JOHN GOSS,

GENERAL JOHN PEABODY

COLONEL VINCE QUARLES

MR. DAVID WETHINGTON

MS. SUE DAVIS

MR. MIKE SAFFRAN

Gleacher Center

450 North City Front Plaza Drive

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

2 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Okay, I've got 12:00 o'clock
3 so with that I'd like to start the meeting. Welcome and
4 thank you all for attending our meeting this afternoon.
5 I'm going to start with introductions on the main table
6 panel. First, I would like to introduce to my left,
7 your right, on the left side of the table, we'll start
8 with that, Mr. John Goss, he's the Asian Carp Director,
9 Council on Environmental Quality in the White House.
10 He'll be our first speaker. Sitting next to him is
11 General John Peabody, Commander, Great Lakes and Ohio
12 River Division. And next is Colonel Vince Quarels, the
13 commander here in the Chicago District. And then
14 fourth on the table, Mr. Dave Wethington, he is the
15 project manager. And then last on the table is Mike
16 Saffran, he is the project for the second track on the
17 other pathways and you'll hear more about that as we
18 get into the presentations. My name is Kevin Bluhm, I'm
19 going to be the moderator for today's meeting and I
20 work out of the St. Paul District office. I've been
21 brought here to help moderate the series of meetings
22 and help have a neutral voice for the people that are
23 at large and put this together in the scoping context
24 and I'm pleased to be here. This is the first meeting

1 for the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin
2 Study, otherwise known as the GLMRIS study and this is
3 our official NEPA public scoping meeting. Couple
4 things I would like to mention. If you have an
5 electronic cell device with you, I would ask you to it
6 either turn that off or put it into a silent mode. And
7 then also because there is an open comment period, just
8 ask that everybody respect everybody else's opinion and
9 their right to speak today. We want to keep this an
10 open and honest dialogue and let people feel
11 comfortable in this setting that we've provide. Also,
12 some logistics, if you need to use a restroom, we've
13 got a long period scheduled here today, restrooms are
14 located out back, past the registration desk and just
15 beyond the elevators. And emergency exits, we have them
16 both in the front of the room here and also there is a
17 stairwell by the elevators, if it's necessary. When you
18 arrived out by the elevators there is a sign-in table
19 there and you should have received a packet of
20 materials similar to what I have in my hand here. I
21 would like to go through that. The green sheet of
22 paper here, half size, is the agenda that will explain
23 our process for what we are going to do today. Also at
24 the table there was a larger thicker blue brochure,

1 pamphlet that actually has all the details in the study
2 overview as well as a little bit smaller tri-fold
3 version that was available for you. There is a white
4 business card that can be helpful with contact
5 information on how you can stay informed. Also in the
6 packet is a white comment form. If you wish to make
7 any comments in a written fashion today, we would ask
8 that you take this with you, fill it out here either
9 today and deposit it on your way out or in the back of
10 the room, we have an electronic method for doing that,
11 we have several computer stations set up you can use
12 that as well. And then also if you would like to take
13 more time, up until the end of the comment period,
14 there are instructions on the front of this on how you
15 can mail that in as well.

16 If you are going to be making an oral
17 presentation for us today, the yellow form is a key
18 piece for you to have filled out prior to sitting down
19 or prior to making a comment. If you want to make an
20 oral presentation, we would ask that you fill this out
21 and then go take it to the front registration table to
22 get your place in line for the oral statements. If you
23 pre registered you will have a slightly different
24 process for that. And then also we have a FAQ sheet

1 that is in a purple color this has a lot of our common
2 questions that we have put together for you that might
3 answer a few of the normal questions that we receive.
4 And then also we've got a more of a salmon colored
5 paper, this has additional information on other type
6 evasive efforts that are going on. And then lastly we
7 have a blue sheet here that talks about if you want to
8 submit any additional documents or paperwork for
9 discussion and part of inclusion in the environmental
10 scoping document, use this blue form to submit any type
11 of additional materials with you. If you do not have a
12 packet of materials, I would ask that you either raise
13 your hand now and we can make sure that somebody in the
14 Corps staff can help get that for you or make sure
15 before you exit today to make sure you grab any of the
16 materials that you may be missing. And then, again, for
17 anybody who has pre registered to speak, you can make
18 statements here and we'll talk about that once we begin
19 the oral comment period. And if you pre registered,
20 you've got a slightly different process for getting the
21 comments in tonight and we have two different
22 microphones and I'll explain that a little bit later.
23 Our main purpose here, our team has organized the
24 public meeting to accomplish two goals. Our first is

1 to present you with information on this study itself
2 and what we're working on. And then secondly, and more
3 importantly, for the meetings that we've got on this
4 schedule, is to gather your comments on the significant
5 issues that should be included in the GLMRIS efforts
6 and then any of the insignificant issues that can be
7 eliminated from the study. So we need to find out
8 what do we need to keep considering or include and then
9 what can be taken or weeded out from the study. The
10 Corps is hosting 10 public meetings of which this is
11 the first one, throughout the study area in an effort
12 to provide opportunities to those interested in the
13 study to learn more about the study itself and to
14 provide us with your oral comments. Please note that
15 the NEPA public scoping period closes on March 31st,
16 2011. As indicated in the agenda, this public meeting
17 is organized in two sessions. An identical
18 presentation will be given at the beginning of each
19 session followed by an oral comment period. The first
20 session -- first comment period, excuse me, will end at
21 3:30. If we have people that are still talking until
22 then, we will adjourn and then restart the second
23 session at 4:00 p.m. There will be a 30-minute break
24 between the two sessions. Corp staff will be available

1 during the break session for any questions that you may
2 have. The second public period, as well of this
3 meeting, will end at 7:00 p.m. If you have any
4 additional questions or concerns, our staff can be
5 found in the lobby during the meeting. If you want to
6 talk to them feel free to excuse, as well as during
7 that 30-minute break. Please note you are welcome to
8 speak to any of the panelists or staff members during
9 the meeting, but any comments presented during the oral
10 comment period must be submitted as a written comment
11 or submitted via the web or they will not become part
12 of the NEPA document. So it's real important to either
13 write those down on the half sheet of white paper here
14 or take the time to go back to the computers in the
15 back of the table, in the room here, to jot them all
16 down or during the actual oral comment period. So
17 those are the three methods that your comments will be
18 entered into the record. Okay, so those are the
19 introductory remarks I would like to make. With that,
20 I would like to introduce our first panel member that
21 is going to speak today, Mr. John Goss, the Asian Carp
22 Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality.

23 MR. JOHN GOSS: Thanks a lot. I first got
24 involved with the Asian carp issue more than 10 years

1 ago when I was the Indiana DNR director and a member of
2 the Great Lakes Commission. And we were all lobbying
3 for funding for that second barrier and trying to
4 explain to members of Congress and people in our own
5 states what this concern was all about why we needed to
6 work on a united effort to stop invasive species. We
7 did get that accomplished and I think it's because we
8 had a unified effort, we had people from all around the
9 Great

10 Lakes working together on that. Also on the
11 GA: Great Lakes compact, certainly one of the amazing
12 accomplishments for the Great Lake states to come up
13 with their own version of how they want to manage the
14 quantity of water in the lakes and protect that water
15 in perpetuity. And also with the Great Lakes
16 Restoration funding and all the many projects that we
17 are now in the middle of, Asian Carp Control Strategy
18 is one of those projects funded by the Great Lakes
19 Restoration program. And I just want to take a few
20 minutes to give you an overview of where we are on the
21 whole effort, that is there are more than 30 different
22 federally funded actions out there currently in motion,
23 in addition to the GLMRIS project which is huge. The
24 biggest project for this coming year is the GLMRIS

1 project, but I just wanted to run through a little bit
2 of the other projects and talk to you just a little bit
3 about the whole strategy. You've all seen the videos,
4 we know that silver carp have attracted or kind of
5 gotten the fascination of people all over the country
6 as a very unique species. Since their escape in the
7 1980's, Asian carp have destroyed habitat of native
8 fish in the Mississippi River Basin from the Gulf of
9 Mexico to the upper Midwest. Now, we are focusing on
10 keeping them out of the Great Lakes. And we know that
11 it's far more effective and cheaper to stop an invasive
12 species from getting established than it is to try to
13 eradicate it after it does become established. Asian
14 carp are voracious eaters, prolific breeders, they
15 consume vast quantities of plankton, crowding out
16 native species, like the food fish for some of our
17 favorites in the Great Lakes, perch, walleye, small
18 mouth bass, whitefish. And we are particularly
19 concerned about if they did enter our major
20 tributaries, what it's going to do to our spawning
21 species, steelhead, salmon and others. So last February
22 the Federal agencies that are involved in this project
23 put together what's called the Asian Carp Control
24 Strategy Framework and developed a number of

1 coordinated strategies. This was updated last summer
2 and a we have already invested tens of millions of
3 dollars in the project, in the framework and that is
4 going to continue in the coming year. At the White
5 House the Council on Environmental Quality decided that
6 there was a need for a coordinator for this project, so
7 I have been hired to be that coordinator. I chair the
8 Regional Coordinating Committee, which works to unify
9 and build momentum for all these collaborative
10 projects. Initially it was Federal agencies, then we
11 added State of Illinois staff and more recently, each
12 of other Great Lake states have designated two people
13 that are going to be active members of the regional
14 coordinating body in the future. In the past year alone
15 we've accomplished quite a few things. I think in
16 addition to what you are going to hear from the Corps
17 of Engineers today, you will be impressed, I think, as
18 you see tomorrow we are going to release a report on
19 2010 projects and also on the plan for 2011. But Fish
20 and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, EPA,
21 Coast Guard and Illinois DNR have had dozens and dozens
22 of people in the field, nearly every day. And
23 particularly this fall we have been very active. The
24 collaboration is improving, I think, with all the

1 states involved and certainly I look forward to working
2 with their representatives as we improve that plan for
3 next year. I want to just identify some of the things
4 that have been done recently. The immediate actions to
5 make sure that we are containing Asian carp, both above
6 and below the electric barriers, that we are refining
7 the eDNA process, and also with tracking and removal of
8 fish, commercial fisherman have removed over 100,000
9 pounds of Asian carp below the barrier to take
10 population pressure off the number of fish that might
11 be trying to migrate. Also, sampling has been doubled
12 up to 120 samples for eDNA each week this fall and we
13 continue to do that, although weather has just caused
14 that to stop this past week and it will resume probably
15 in March. I'm not going to speak much to this slide,
16 because it's the focus of a lot of the GLMRIS
17 discussion, but I just want to congratulate the Corps
18 of Engineers on building the third electric barrier,
19 which construction is complete, testing is under way
20 again this week, right? And we are going to have a
21 full battery of three barriers in succession down there
22 in the area of the Lockport dam.

23 Also, over in Indiana where you see that
24 star, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources with

1 help from the Corps and GLRI funds has put up a fence
2 right there, No. 6. That is a temporary barrier, but
3 it's a fish barrier in an area that has flooded 3 out
4 of the last 4 years and we are concerned because there
5 are adult Asian carp within a few miles of that
6 location. Also, out on the Des Plaines River, the
7 completion, again, just a few weeks ago of a 13 mile
8 fish barrier to keep carp from the Des Plaines from
9 getting over into the ship canal, which is in many
10 locations there is less a hundred yards. So this is a
11 water can get through, fish can't get through and I
12 think this is a very significant accomplishment that is
13 going to be another fish barrier on the south side of
14 Chicago that we can count on. Also we are working on
15 building markets for carp, the State of Illinois,
16 working with commercial fisherman, have some contracts
17 in place, to stimulate and hopefully get the commercial
18 operators out there to remove some of the population.
19 We are enforcing carp inspection at bait shops, fish
20 processors, fish markets and retail establishments. And
21 there was a significant accomplishment yesterday,
22 President Obama signed the amendment to the Lacey Act
23 to list bighead carp, along with silvers that were also
24 listed, as being illegal to transport live fish across

1 state lines. And also in the last year Canada has also
2 tightened down on transportation of live fish. So I
3 think we are going to be in much better shape as of
4 yesterday with that action. Some of the longer term
5 projects we're going to be looking at, structural,
6 chemical, biological, operational ways that we can
7 manage the waterway system. And also research and
8 technology is hopefully going to get some
9 breakthroughs. We have a number of projects funded and
10 under way, looking at biological controls, possibly
11 specific poisons, also sonic barriers have some
12 promise. Looking at possibly using shock waves to
13 repel carp or hurt carp and reproductive interference
14 could be another possibility. So I must say the way
15 that we've gotten all of these things accomplished is
16 from funding primarily through the Great Lakes
17 Restoration Act, along with budget money from the Corps
18 of Engineers from these other departments. We are
19 going to need a lot of help in the coming year
20 educating the public and our Congressional delegation
21 how the money has been spent, what's worthwhile and so
22 that we can keep these projects going. So we
23 appreciate your help on that education process. And I
24 want to close by just thanking everyone for taking the

1 time to become involved in this process. Certainly
2 your time and your talents are very valuable. We need
3 your help. And we'll need your continuing help as we
4 go through the future on this GLMRIS project and on the
5 rest of the projects that we'll be working on. So
6 thank you very much and we will be having some
7 additional meetings around the region, over the next 2
8 months, and probably have some updates here in Chicago
9 in the future also. So thank you very much.

10 (Applause.)

11 MAJOR GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: Good afternoon,
12 everybody, I'm John Peabody, I'm the commander of the
13 Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. We really
14 appreciate you coming out right before Christmas as we
15 begin our scoping meetings for this very important
16 study to our region and to our nation. I want to
17 highlight that you don't see a single person's name on
18 there because this is the product of a great team
19 effort and all of you are part of this team. Whether
20 you are assigned to the Corps of Engineers, whether you
21 are a federal stakeholder or whether you work for some
22 nongovernmental agency or a state or a tribe, if you
23 are here and you are interested in this, then we need
24 your views, we need your input. We need your feedback.

1 And especially we need your active involvement, most of
2 all, in terms of providing us the information, the data
3 that we will need to prosecute this enormous and
4 complex study very successfully. Now, you just heard
5 from Mr. Goss who is the Asian Carp Director for the
6 Council of Environmental Quality. And although we will
7 be happy to entertain questions associated with the
8 Asian carp, the fish barrier, eDNA and other associated
9 issues of concern, I do want to emphasize that the
10 purpose of this meeting is to scope out the Great Lakes
11 and Mississippi River Interbasin Study. So if you have
12 issues or questions when we get to that question period
13 related to non-GLMRIS issues, I would request that you
14 take a bit of an appetite suppressant and let those
15 folks who want to talk about the GLMRIS study have the
16 first shot at the podium. But I do not want to
17 discourage anybody from discussing anything that is of
18 interest to you relating to this broad issue of aquatic
19 nuisance species. There are a few points I want to
20 start off with in terms of what this is about you can
21 see what the authority is that's a direct lift from the
22 2007 Water Resources Development Act that was passed.
23 In fact, there was an override of the President's veto,
24 as those of you may recall, of this Act. And the

1 Congress directs us and there are some things that are
2 highlighted there, but directs us to do basically three
3 things. Number one, identify aquatic pathways through
4 which, number two, aquatic nuisance species may
5 migrate. So figure out the pathways, figure out the
6 species, okay. And then the third thing is, develop
7 and recommend options and technologies, to prevent the
8 migration of aquatic nuisance species between the two
9 basins. And it specifies Chicago Sanitary and Ship
10 Canal, but there are other aquatic pathways which we'll
11 talk about. Now, as a result of engagement that we've
12 had today, we have already highlighted at least three
13 special considerations that we think it's important to
14 emphasize. The first is that the notion of ecological
15 separation or what some people call ecosep, what we are
16 calling hydrologic separation because we are not going
17 to deal terrestrial or airborne migration vehicles, is
18 something that will be considered as part of the study.
19 It is not, however, the purpose of the study to find a
20 solution and drive toward the solution before the study
21 process has occurred. So we do not know, in priority,
22 what conclusions we are going to arrive at with regard
23 to hydrologic separation. We are committed, though, to
24 studying that concept and all the options and

1 technologies related to that concept as this study goes
2 forward. Second, in some of the documentation and our
3 engagements with the public we've used the term risk
4 reduction, which has caused some, perhaps, confusion
5 and certainly has caused some concern on the part of
6 some stakeholders. We want to emphasize that it is our
7 intent to follow the Congressional language, however
8 the term prevent inherently carries with it the concept
9 of risk reduction. And we can talk about this more
10 later. I think in your packet there should be a white
11 paper that discusses this in some detail, about four or
12 five paragraphs, a little over a page. For those of
13 you who are interested and concerned with this issue, I
14 would ask you to read that. And then finally the study
15 is 100 percent Federally funded. That does not mean
16 that we will get all of the funds that we need in any
17 given year or at any moment in time to execute the
18 study to the limits of our capability. It does mean
19 that it's not going to be cost shared by any local
20 sponsors. That's an important point to emphasize. So
21 Mr. Goss used a good portion of this map. If you look
22 at anything that is not in the, what I would
23 characterize as the lighter gray, there is a bit of a
24 darker gray in the Missouri, Arkansas River Basins, if

1 you look at the lighter gray, which is kind of the
2 coastal regions of the United States and that little
3 sliver in North Dakota and Minnesota and the upper
4 regions of the Midwest, that part of the land mass of
5 the United States is not under consideration,
6 everything else is. Everything else is. And as my peer
7 from the Mississippi Valley Division always reminds me,
8 this is the third largest river basin in the world in
9 geographic scope. The area where we will spend the
10 detailed analysis of this study is going to be the
11 brown area, which is the Great Lakes Basin, on the U.S.
12 side of the border, we're not going to go
13 into Canada. And the dark green area which includes
14 both the upper Mississippi and the Ohio River Basins.
15 And of course we'll spend a great deal of detailed
16 analysis, along the nearly 1500-mile divide that is
17 indicated in the dashed line. The primary effort will
18 be in that area in the vicinity of that little red box,
19 which encompasses the Chicago River and the Chicago
20 Sanitary and Ship Canal, just behind us here. Because
21 that is, as far as we know and have been able to
22 ascertain to far, the only continuously open waterway
23 that you can follow in transit between the two basins.
24 All the other pathways that we've identified and there

1 are 36 of them total, all the other pathways are
2 intermittent in nature, depending upon weather
3 conditions and hydrologic factors. One of the
4 complicated aspects of this study, is this is
5 relatively flat terrain. And that is -- that is
6 complex from a topographic standpoint and from a
7 hydrologist standpoint, because small nuances in the
8 terrain can make a big difference in terms of how water
9 flows. And so that really makes it much more difficult
10 to understand some of the details. And when it comes
11 to how water flows and how species can transfer via
12 those waterborne pathways, that can make a big
13 difference. Okay, now, some specifics in terms of what
14 this includes and what it doesn't include and this all
15 derives from the Congressional language and policies
16 and other laws. Number one, in terms of pathways, it's
17 going to be aquatic, that's what we are going to look
18 at. Anything that doesn't swim or move via aquatic
19 pathways will not be considered. Second, we are going
20 to look at things that move naturally through the
21 waterway systems. We are just not going to address
22 other vectors such as human release and so forth. That
23 is just a scope of complexity that we cannot get into.
24 And then of course I've already talked about the

1 specific locations, but there are portions of 17 states
2 in the detailed study area, that is the Great Lakes
3 Basin and Ohio River and upper Mississippi Basin, does
4 not include another 17 or so states that are part of
5 the greater Mississippi River Basin. That doesn't mean
6 it won't be addressed, but that's not going to be the
7 focus area. And by the way we do have one of our
8 scoping meetings in Vicksburg, Mississippi, as an
9 effort to pull in the stakeholders from the lower
10 Mississippi Basin. We will not look at the Atlantic
11 slope, we are not looking at the St. Lawrence Seaway,
12 we are not looking at Canada.

13 So what are the elements of study the key?
14 Again, the key focus there is the range of options and
15 technology to prevent or reduce the risk to the degree
16 possible, given the technological capability of those
17 options and technologies of all aquatic nuisance
18 species. And we are working with the Fish and Wildlife
19 Service to help enumerate what those are. We talked
20 about hydrologic separation. We will use our regional
21 economic model. And we will produce an environmental
22 impact statement. So we will follow the NEPA law as
23 part of this effort. Okay, our strategy, just a few
24 simple points I want to make. First, the study effort

1 is going to be divided in two geographic locations. One
2 is really finely honed and that is the Chicago Area
3 Waterway System. Mr. Dave Wethington, Dave please
4 raise your hand, who is the overall program manager, is
5 the project manager for that portion of the study. And
6 the other pathways, which are anything outside of the
7 Chicago Area Waterway System, will be led by Mr. Mike
8 Saffran and Mike please raise your hand. And we'll
9 give both of these gentlemen an opportunity to speak
10 momentarily. We've got to organize for success. We
11 have an internal organizational plan to do that. It
12 includes all of the Corps of Engineer districts that
13 are involved or that have geographic responsibilities
14 with the study area, that is 7 districts in the Great
15 Lakes and Ohio River system and the vast majority of
16 two districts and a small element of the third district
17 from the Mississippi Valley Division. And we do have
18 Mississippi Valley Division Research and Development
19 Center folks here. And I want to emphasize that point
20 about stakeholders. You stakeholders are really
21 important, you have information, you have knowledge,
22 you have concerns, you have interests that we really
23 want to understand and we really want to take on and
24 make part of this study process. Especially the data

1 that you can help provide us. For the states, this is
2 especially important. Because of the nuances of the
3 topography, it's really important to have the local
4 knowledge of local experts, land owners, regulators who
5 understand how that topography works and how those
6 nuances function in the vicinity of some of these
7 pathways. Just as we did with the efficacy study
8 associated with the fish barrier, we intend to cycle
9 out interim products and interim reports as they are
10 matured. So I can't give you a specific timeline of
11 when a specific product will come out but, for example,
12 as we excuse data gathering associated with aquatic
13 nuisance species data, we will publish that
14 information. It is possible that as we move forward in
15 the study, we may arrive at solution sets that don't
16 provide a full prevent kind of protection that we are
17 looking for or that Congress is looking for, but that
18 could increase the risk reduction of the transfer of
19 aquatic nuisance species, and if we think the
20 technology is mature enough and that the chances that
21 it will work are good enough, we may cycle out a report
22 related to that option or that technology. So those
23 are just examples of the kinds of things that we might
24 cycle out as we move forward. Because we don't want to

1 wait until we get the full study completion and have
2 some beautiful, perfect 100 percent study and not have
3 done anything at all that might have been able to have
4 been done sooner, because we do have a sense of urgency
5 on the time aspect of this. And it will take a long
6 time to do this study. And of course we'll adapt any
7 new involvement information as it becomes available,
8 just as we do with any study and we have to abide by a
9 whole suite of legal policy and regulatory guidelines.
10 I've talked about most of this, but the photographs on
11 this slide, I think, depict some of the complexity.
12 Typically most of us think today, when we think of
13 aquatic nuisance species related to this issue, Asian
14 carp jumps to mind, pun not intended, as John Goss just
15 talked about, but it's not just about Asian carp. In
16 fact, Asian carp is a subset of this study. It is a
17 relatively small component in terms of the number of
18 species that we have to deal with, although, of course,
19 because of the threat that it portrays it is a
20 relatively large and component issue of concern. But we
21 really have to look at the broad variety of species and
22 all the different controls that can deal with all those
23 different species of concern. Okay, I would like Dave
24 Westhington who is the program manager for the Chicago

1 Area Waterway System element to go ahead and discuss
2 this slide. Dave.

3 MR. DAVE WETHINGTON: Thank you, sir. As you
4 can see those of you who may not be familiar with the
5 Chicago Area Waterway System map on the right-hand side
6 of the screen, indicates that there are 5 points at
7 which the Mississippi River Basin and the Great Lakes
8 Basin may interact within the Chicago Area Waterway
9 System. Three are within Illinois, two are within the
10 neighboring state of Indiana. Basically the purpose of
11 the CAWS, that General Peabody had spoken to
12 previously, with this part of the study is that the
13 Chicago Area Waterway System is the only continuous
14 connection that we know of between the Great Lakes and
15 Mississippi River Basin. As we are evaluating the
16 transfer of aquatic nuisance species and looking at
17 what potential control technologies, or ANS controls
18 could be implemented, we have to also look at the
19 impact to waterway users. Those impacts could be
20 economic, environmental or social impact. So we have
21 to evaluate an entire slew of information with regard
22 to this small project area. So where we are at right
23 now, these major bullets you see are what the Corps
24 kind of uses as a planning process. And part of what

1 we are doing here today is specifying those problems
2 and opportunities. We want to know from you, what is
3 of concern, what is of interest and what is just as
4 equally important what is not of as much interest.

5 Now, just because we haven't completed this
6 step doesn't mean we can't go on to the next step,
7 which is the inventory and forecast conditions and this
8 is where we are right now in collecting that wide
9 variety of baseline base data, economic data, for
10 example, what does commercial cargo and navigation or
11 recreational boating or commercial navigation look like
12 in this area and regionally within the Great Lakes.
13 Like the Great Lakes fisheries, the habitat, et cetera.
14 From there, once we gather all that information, what
15 we are going to do is formulate these alternative plans
16 and use that data to evaluate the effects and compare
17 the different alternatives. Once those processes have
18 been completed, we will be able to select a recommended
19 plan, which we've presented in a feasibility report. As
20 General Peabody mentioned earlier, we will also put
21 together an Environmental Impact Statement to get to
22 the record a decision for the CAWS Focus Area. As
23 General Peabody mentioned earlier, stakeholder
24 participation and engagement is key to this entire

1 process. We are not going to be coordinating with our
2 federal, state, local governmental families, but we
3 must pull in tribal interests as well as the interests
4 of nongovernmental organization and other stakeholders.
5 Thank you.

6 GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: Thanks, Dave. And
7 moving on to the next geographic focus area, the other
8 pathways, Mr. Mike Saffran will discuss what we've done
9 so far and where we're going with that.

10 MR. MIKE SAFFRAN: Yes, sir, thank you. I
11 guess the first thing is if you go back to slide No. 2,
12 there was the other pathways and I guess the issues
13 associated with the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, the
14 fact that silverhead carp and bighead carp are in the
15 Illinois River, it was very well defined basically that
16 we have significant risk there and there is a
17 significant aquatic pathways for the transfer of carp.
18 Any other aquatic pathways, it was a much, much larger
19 area and much less was known about that when we started
20 into the study. And so the objectives of the
21 preliminary risk characterization were, number one, to
22 help refine the scope of the rest of the GLMRIS outside
23 of the Chicago Area Waterway System. And one of the things
24 had to do there is, one, determine the number of other

1 aquatic pathways that either exist or could form and
2 then determine what level of risk of ANS transfer there
3 was to each one of those pathways. So that's what we
4 attempted to do with the preliminary risk
5 characterization. We conducted it over a relatively
6 short period of time, it was more of a screen level
7 sort of investigation, but the strategy was based on
8 one of the things that General Peabody has already
9 alluded to, which was getting the best local expert
10 from the Corps of Engineer districts and the state
11 DNR's, and the people responsible for water resources
12 management and species wildlife type management in each
13 state and enlist their help in identifying where these
14 locations can be and what were the species of most
15 significant concern. Also, in that mix are the U.S.
16 Fish and Wildlife Service and USGS. Fish and Wildlife
17 Service was very helpful in identifying two lists for
18 us. Basically a list of nonindigenous aquatic species
19 that are present in the Great Lakes, that are not yet
20 known to be established in the river basin and vice
21 versa, a list of nonindigenous aquatic species that
22 exist in the river basins but aren't yet in the Great
23 Lakes. But that helped define basically what the
24 universe of the biology issues that were associated

1 with it, as well as determining which pathways, where
2 they are and which ones we need to to be concerned
3 with. It was a very, like I said, relatively rapid
4 effort, but we had a lot of very good experts within
5 the Corps and the other agencies contributed to our
6 study. What we figured out is that we have a total of
7 36 locations that were identified initially as being
8 potential aquatic pathways. We went in and did
9 basically a likelihood of the aquatic pathway forming
10 assessment. Would it take, one, is there a perennial
11 connection? If it's not a perennial connection, is
12 there the potential for an intermittent connection
13 associated with varying degrees of storm events, all
14 the way up to a 500 level storm. So we had a very
15 difficult process in the way we went about identifying
16 those pathways, assessing the likelihood that the
17 aquatic pathway will form and then also assessing the
18 risk that each one of those pathways where there is a
19 significant potential that it would form. The results,
20 basically we found one location that was very
21 significant and that was Eagle Marsh in Ft. Wayne.
22 You've seen a picture of the interim measure that was
23 put in place by the State of Indiana. That location is
24 basically, and John mentioned it also, 3 times in the

1 last 4 years there has been water flowing across that
2 basin from the basin divide there. And we do know that
3 we have silver and bighead carp that are within about
4 20 miles of that particular location. There were 17
5 other locations that we identified that pose
6 significant risk and we said significant risk. Some of
7 that was much as an uncertainty in the risk, as well as
8 knowledge of the risk. So we were very conservative in
9 this first cut to not eliminate locations unless we
10 were very sure that there was not a significant risk
11 there. So, in essence, that is basically where we are
12 at. We are now starting on a process to go in to
13 completing the preliminary risk characterization
14 process. And going back to each of those other 17
15 locations, completing the risk characterization process
16 and more define the scope of the rest of the GLMRIS if
17 other locations like Ft. Wayne are identified that pose
18 a significant risk, it's very likely that we will
19 develop some sort of a feasibility study that will look
20 at that individual location and what are the options
21 and technologies that could be expected at that
22 location and mitigate the unacceptable risk.

23 GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: For each of the
24 geographic states we will be forming a project delivery

1 team with a team leader that comes from the Corps of
2 Engineer district that has the lead for that state, to
3 work in coordination with Mr. Saffran to develop, in
4 detail, the issues associated with the various pathways
5 in that state. Where are we now? It's not like we're
6 starting from zero, we already have a lot of work done.
7 Unfortunately we did not receive any funds to take
8 action on the study authority until June of 2009 and
9 the Corps of Engineers can do nothing without two
10 things, an authority and a funding mechanism, So it
11 wasn't until June of '09 that we received the first
12 funds, which as I recall was around \$200,000 and that
13 allowed us to begin on the study process. And you can
14 see the highlights on the left side of the slide here
15 of all the study steps that we have to go through to
16 develop the project management plan. Simultaneously,
17 some of which was done in coordination or association
18 with issues associated with the efficacy study and the
19 fish barrier efforts and so forth, we've got a lot of
20 other efforts that we can build upon. So, for example,
21 we have a pretty thorough review of literature
22 associated with Asian carp that's already been put well
23 on its way. We have a draft, aquatic nuisance species
24 white paper, that the Corps has developed. We are

1 beginning the process of coordinating that information
2 with Fish and Wildlife information and that will inform
3 additional data gathering associated with aquatic
4 nuisance species that we want to understand how they
5 move and what could be effective in impeding or
6 preventing their movement. Mike just talked about the
7 preliminary risk characterization of the other
8 pathways, which is actually a very big step forward
9 because we had notions of where some of these pathways
10 were. We, in some cases, had pretty good ideas but we
11 found a number a pathways we didn't know exist, some of
12 which are associated about things like drainage ditches
13 or a sewage pipeline or so forth. And then of course
14 we've already talked about the action that's been taken
15 with Eagle Marsh. And these are just some of the
16 highlights. It is important to understand that in July,
17 about halfway through the Project Management Plan
18 development, we did have a coordination session with
19 some of our stakeholders and we used that to help
20 inform the completion of the Project Management Plan.
21 But I also want to emphasize, this Project Management
22 Plan is a living document. We will change it as
23 circumstances dictate and as information comes to our
24 attention that warrant changing the Project Management

1 Plan. So it's not fixed in stone, it's not ended when
2 we publish it in November. It's just like the
3 framework that Mr. Goss talked about, which is on its
4 third iteration now, will continue to revise and
5 improve this, with your help, as we go along. This is
6 kind of a visual depiction of two things. One is a
7 notion of what we think our schedule could be in a near
8 perfect world. And also a notion of how we will cycle
9 out the kinds of interim products that I talked about
10 earlier. Now, notice there is a big asterisk next to
11 the word scheduling. If you look at the bottom of the
12 page that tells you best case scenario. And to be
13 realistic this is very unlikely to play out on this
14 timeline. The reason for that is twofold. Number one,
15 it is highly unusual for any Corps Engineer's study to
16 be fully funded by the Congress because of the limited
17 funds that the Congress and the administration must
18 allocate to all of the, literally hundreds, I think the
19 last I heard was over 800 studies that are authorized,
20 only about 300 of which are funded in the Corps of
21 Engineers. So there are a lot of studies out there
22 competing for these limited funds. The second challenge
23 that we are going to have, is you don't know what you
24 don't know, is a famous recent Secretary of Defense

1 said. And that's what the whole purpose of the study
2 is to find out data and information that we don't know
3 and then use that to information, the development of
4 the options and technology. So as we uncover
5 information we didn't know before, that's likely to
6 generate additional mini study efforts to develop that
7 data and that information and that will just take a lot
8 of time. However, I want to emphasize this, to help
9 kind of compensate for the inability to get to a full
10 recommended solution at the end of a study, what we do
11 intend to do, as we go forward, as data is mature, as
12 options and technologies are uncovered and may be
13 beneficial, we will cycle interim reports. And if we
14 have an authority like we did with Section 126, in the
15 last year and that is still actually relevant today
16 because of it's active under the CRA, we may be able to
17 take actions associated with those issues. So all is
18 not lost because because we can't get to a full study
19 completion on a particular timeline. Under this
20 scenario, under this best case scenario, we could get
21 to a release of a report for public review in the fall
22 of '14. And that would get us to finalize the report
23 in the middle of 2015 calendar year.

24 What are the kind of products? I've really

1 already talked about this and so has Mr. Wethington but
2 some of the data products associated with ANS and
3 transport mechanisms. Some of the control technologies
4 were particularly interested. And some of you have
5 relationships with academia and scientists and your
6 organization has information associated with options
7 and technology. We need your input to help inform this
8 study and that will help accelerate and put a little
9 fuel in our tank to help move us forward because this
10 is a huge, huge challenge. Now I've kind of already hit
11 this a number of times, but we do need your help, we
12 can't do this alone. We have to have your support. I
13 would comment that any data or information that you
14 provide to us, the higher the quality, the more likely
15 we are going to be able to use it. We do have both in
16 law and under a number of policy guidelines certain
17 standards of information that we have to follow. We
18 have to follow the NEPA process, which requires us to
19 essentially look at all of the different impacts to
20 available alternatives and what they might have, so
21 that is fully understood by the Congress and the
22 nation. And then here is just a partial list of some
23 examples of the kinds of specific inputs that we would
24 be looking to get from a variety of mostly governmental

1 stakeholders, but you can let your imagination run wild
2 as to the kinds of information that you may have that
3 we just don't know about that you could use as inputs
4 to help us accelerate the study and move it forward as
5 quickly as is humanly possible. Okay, to wrap it up,
6 this is the first, as mentioned, of 10 public scoping
7 meetings that we'll have and you can see listed both by
8 date and on the map and the stars where the other
9 public scoping meetings will be held and when they will
10 be held. I personally intend to go to the one in
11 Cincinnati. I kind of can't avoid that since that's
12 where my headquarters is. I will also go to Ann Arbor,
13 pending no scheduling challenges that I have between
14 now and then. And possibly even Vicksburg,
15 Mississippi. It's possible I might attend one or more
16 of the other ones, depending upon how my schedule falls
17 out. But I personally am committed to 3 of the 10
18 scoping meetings. And there will be someone from the
19 Great Lakes and Ohio River Division headquarters at
20 each of these meetings and we will also have, in
21 addition to our civilian professionals, a uniformed
22 Corps of Engineer officer at each of the meetings. And
23 I've asked the Mississippi Valley Division to support
24 us in insuring that we have a local district

1 representative, a Corps of Engineer district
2 representative, at each one of the meetings that they
3 have responsibility for. And finally there is a
4 website, if those of who who are here haven't found it
5 yet. Just Google GLMRIS and I think you'll find it.

6 glmris.anl.gov. And we are on Facebook and
7 Twitter. We need your support, we thank you for your
8 patience and we look forward to your questions. Thank
9 you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Well, that concludes part
12 one of today's meeting. And before we begin with part
13 two, I want to note that the website, as noted here, is
14 a very good place for study information. Interested
15 persons can subscribe also to the study e-mail list
16 through the project website, at any time. The Corps
17 will be using the GLMRIS e-mail website list to
18 distribute updates on such things as documents that
19 have been added to the website, opportunities for the
20 public involvement and other important news and events
21 as they are established. The GLMRIS project website can
22 be found in the study brochure and several of the other
23 handouts that you received today, including the small
24 business card. And then also as noted here, other

1 social ways to keep in touch, Facebook, Twitter and
2 that information is also on the small business card
3 that you received. Now, as we move into the oral
4 comment period of the meeting, those who indicated on
5 the yellow sheet, and that was the full sized yellow
6 sheet of paper, that they wanted to make a brief 3-
7 minute formal presentation statement or ask a question
8 will have an opportunity to do so. If a person wants
9 to ask a question, in addition to making any type of a
10 statement or comment, we ask that you manage your 3
11 minutes to allow for your comment, question, and the
12 Corps of Engineer's response in that 3 minutes. The
13 Corps will answer the questions that are answerable
14 here today. Again, in order for everyone to have the
15 opportunity to speak we ask that you abide to our 3-
16 minute limit. After everyone has had an opportunity to
17 address the panel, and if time permits, those who have
18 additional comments or questions will be given the
19 opportunity to obtain a new number at the registration-
20 to-speak table and reenter that comment queue. If time
21 does not allow us to address the panel a second time,
22 please note that you can enter any remaining comments
23 on the written comment form found in the back of the
24 room or submit the web comment through the project

1 website. The laptops that are in the back of the room
2 here are provided for your convenience to enter any
3 comments here today. All forms of comments received
4 during the scoping period will be weighted equally and
5 that's real important to note. You do not have to come
6 to the microphone to be heard. Then next I want to show
7 a visual here, we're going to take technology and make
8 it equal opportunity without being too obstructive to
9 the people that have chosen to come up to the
10 microphone and talk. We've put together this Power
11 Point slide here to help manage that 3-minutes. At the
12 beginning, once you start your comments, I will start
13 the slide presentation. It starts with a green slide.
14 That green slide will go for 2 minutes exactly and then
15 change to yellow when there is 1 minute remaining.
16 Every 15 seconds after that, it will update to show the
17 remaining time. At 30 seconds remaining I will get on
18 the microphone and also remind that there is 30 seconds
19 remaining and ask you to make a concluding comment or
20 statement. Once the 3 minutes has passed, the yellow
21 box will turn to a red box and at that time I will
22 mention to you that your time is up and ask you to
23 please conclude your comment. I won't start the timer
24 until after you've had a chance to introduce yourself

1 and say who you are affiliated with, if any affiliation
2 is necessary. Okay. So it's time to start the second
3 part of our meeting. I would like to mention that we
4 have a stenographer here with us here this afternoon.
5 She will be recording your comments and questions. When
6 you come to the microphone to make your comment or to
7 ask your question, we ask that you get close enough to
8 the microphone so that all can hear you. Please give
9 your name, any organization or affiliation that you
10 have, that you represent and if you wouldn't mind a Zip
11 code. That will help us do it a little geographic
12 tracking. Again, speak directly into the microphone
13 and we ask that you speak slowly, thank you. Okay, so,
14 how are we going to do this? We will now hear from
15 those who preregistered to speak on the project website
16 before today's meeting and then followed by those who
17 indicated on the yellow registration form that they
18 would like to make oral statements.

19 For those of you who pre registered on the
20 website before today, I would ask that you come to the
21 middle microphone right in front of me that has the red
22 coded labeling on it at any time you are ready
23 throughout this afternoon's session. For those who did
24 not pre register on the project website before today

1 and registered at the table this morning when you
2 arrived, we would ask that you go to the microphone
3 coded green just in front of the panel. When you
4 registered to speak you received a small index card and
5 on that index card there is a colored number on that.
6 That number will be your speaking order, if your number
7 is green. And if the number is red that will just give
8 us a visual cue which person that preregistered is
9 standing and that way I can match it up to my
10 preregistration list. I will be calling by the
11 numbers, as well as the last name for you to come to
12 the microphone. I will recognize anybody at the green
13 line and then alternate, as needed, to accommodate any
14 of the preregistered people as they arrive. For those
15 who did not preregister on the project website, please
16 come to the microphone when I call your name and
17 number. Let me read the first three persons' names who
18 noted they wanted to make a formal statement. And let
19 me apologize in advance if I mispronounce your name.
20 That's the main reason why we ask you to introduce
21 yourself before you make your statement. So let's see
22 here, I've got a couple cards that were just brought up
23 here, with the green list on the microphone in front of
24 the panel, I would ask person No.1, Muench; No. 2,

1 Nelson and No. 3 Darin. If you want to prepare
2 yourselves and make your way to the microphone when you
3 are ready. And we've got six of the pre registered
4 persons here that pre registered on the website. At
5 any time you are interested you can make your way to
6 the microphone as well. And the red line is right in
7 front of me here. We will start with anybody in the
8 red line, if you are interested in starting. If you
9 want to show me your number that you have.

10 No. 2, okay. So on the red line we will
11 start with No. 2, Cmar, and when you are ready, please
12 begin.

13 MR. THOMAS CMAR: Good afternoon. My name is
14 Tom Cmar and I'm an attorney at the Natural Resources
15 Defense Council in Chicago. Thank you for the
16 opportunity to comment today on your critical efforts
17 to prevent invasive species from moving between the
18 Great Lakes and the city river watershed. It is NRDC's
19 belief that we need to move beyond areas of conflict
20 and come together as a region to develop a permanent
21 solution to the problem not just of Asian carp getting
22 into the Great Lakes, but to the longer term issue of
23 the Chicago Area Waterway System functioning as a two way
24 highway for invasive species moving in both directions.

1 We need to separate the two basins permanently, as
2 quickly as possible. Separation is the only reliable
3 solution that will achieve close to 100 percent
4 prevention of invasive species transfers through the
5 Chicago Area Waterway System. In October, NRDC released a
6 report entitled Re-envisioning the Chicago River in
7 which we worked with engineers at the Shaw
8 Environmental firm to identify the hydrological and
9 water quality issues that would need to be addressed to
10 create a permanent separation in the Chicago Area Waterway
11 System. Our report found that separating the two basins
12 doesn't require a magic bullet, it can be done with off
13 the shelf technology and done relatively quickly. The
14 only thing we are missing is the political will. NRDC
15 will be submitting the technical report on hydrological
16 separation prepared by Shaw Environmental as well as
17 additional written comments during the public comment
18 period on the study. We are here today, though, because
19 Congress mandated the Army Corps in 2007 to study how
20 to prevent these invasive species transfers, which cost
21 the regional economy hundreds of millions of dollars
22 every year and have had a devastating impact on the
23 ecology of the Great Lakes. We cannot afford to let
24 another harmful species invade Lake Michigan. In

1 September the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
2 Administration released new research showing that zebra
3 and coaga mussels alone have caused unprecedented
4 changes to Lake Michigan reducing phytoplankton
5 populations over 80 percent in the last 25. If
6 bighead, silver and Asian carp are allowed to establish
7 a reproducing population in Lake Michigan, it could
8 further push Lake Michigan and the entire Great Lakes
9 system close to the brink of an ecological disaster. It
10 has been over a year since Asian carp DNA were first
11 detected in the Chicago Area Waterway System. It's
12 remarkable that even today we are still saying that we
13 have a study that will take over five years just to
14 initially look at long-term solutions to the problem.
15 We cannot afford to wait that long. At a minimum, the
16 Chicago portion of the study needs to be expedited and
17 completed as soon as possible. We need these answers
18 on the order of 18 months, at least, not 5 years.

19 As you'll hear from other speakers today,
20 we're deeply concerned about how you framed the
21 Congressional mandate for the study in your study plan.
22 You say that the plan to look at the feasibility of
23 measures, quote, that could be applied to prevent or
24 reduce the risk of ANS transfer between Great Lakes and

1 Mississippi River Basin, even though the legislation
2 directing you to do the study only says that the study
3 should look at measures to prevent the spread of
4 aquatic nuisance species.

5 This reduce risk language potentially opens
6 the door to the Army Corps studying all sorts of half
7 measures that won't actually prevent the spread of
8 aquatic nuisance species. We urge you to correct this
9 before you proceed any further with the GLMRIS study.
10 Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

11 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Very good, thank you. And
12 next in the red line, can I see the number? No. 1,
13 okay. Number 1, Mr. Smith. When you are ready, go
14 ahead.

15 MR. MARC SMITH: Great, thank you. I'm Marc
16 Smith, I'm with the National Wildlife Federation. I
17 want to thank you all for hosting this meeting and
18 especially kudos to Social Media, you guys are really
19 going above and beyond in your outreach to get folks to
20 attend and make sure that their comments are
21 incorporated. And that's what National Wildlife
22 Federation really is, we want to help you guys do the
23 study because it is a big concern for us. Asian carp
24 getting to the Great Lakes could potentially jeopardize

1 a lot of the work we are doing across the basins,
2 working with governments, working with NGO's to work
3 and restore the Great Lakes. This is a big concern for
4 us. Two things I want to stress today. The first
5 thing, thank you General Peabody for talking about the
6 prevent versus reduce the risk. I appreciate the
7 effort to explain what that means, but in our mind and
8 reading over your white paper that you provided today,
9 it actually, the third bullet where you say reducing
10 the risk to varying degrees give an absolute solution
11 that guarantees complete prevention of ANS transfer may
12 not be feasible or even technologically possible. To me
13 that sounds like you're already predetermining the
14 outcome of the study. And the point of this study is
15 to actually analyze all options. So we have a lot of
16 concerns with that. Congress authorized you all to do
17 this, to prevent, not reduce the risk. Let's not
18 squabble over legal terms. Let's find a permanent
19 solution because we are throwing a lot of money at band
20 aid fixes like electrical fence. The second thing is
21 obvious. We want this study done quicker, by the time
22 this study is done my 8-year-old will be in high
23 school, that's frightening to me, as the carp keep
24 swimming. So I think what we need to do is do two

1 things, I think, at least to potentially speed up. I'm
2 glad to see that you guys have Chicago Area Waterway System
3 as your first priority. That is the biggest factor and
4 the biggest threat at this time. One way to potentially
5 speed that up would be two things, you identified the
6 need to do an economic analysis. I'm sure you guys are
7 aware that Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes
8 City Initiative is doing a study that would look just
9 at separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River,
10 that will do its own economic analysis, that actually
11 is doing a third party analysis. I would highly
12 suggest to you all to use that economic analysis. It's
13 the same -- it's the same type of criteria that you
14 would be doing for your study, so why waste time when
15 someone else will be doing it. The second thing to
16 potentially speed up this study would be to do not do
17 your own risk assessment of carp into the Great Lakes.
18 Fish and Wildlife Service and I think Fisheries Canada
19 has done their own risk assessment. I would highly
20 recommend that you use those, rather than wasting time
21 and money on analyzing something that we pretty much
22 already relatively know what the risk is. So again,
23 appreciate your time here. We look forward to working
24 with you. We are going to submit more formal comments

1 for you all, but again, we are concerned about the carp
2 getting in just as much as you and we are here to help
3 you. Thank you.

4 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Next in the red line. Okay,
5 No. 3. Mr. Melvin when you are ready. Thank you.

6 MR. DARREN MELVIN: Thank you and good
7 afternoon. My name is Darren Melvin, I'm with Hanson
8 Materials Service, also represent the Illinois River
9 Carriers and at times the American Waterway Operators.
10 I would like to thank you today for the opportunity to
11 speak. I would also like to commend the general on his
12 comments regarding what the study's intent is. There
13 is a lot of focus on one invasive species, we've even
14 got a director for the invasive species. We never had
15 one for the zebra mussel, we never had one for the
16 round goby. Both of those have transited down into the
17 river system I would also like to ask you to keep the
18 focus on the aquatic nuisance invasives, of all
19 species. Because even as I look at your handout here
20 today, I'm reading off the top of the orange one, it
21 says, besides GLMRIS, what are the other current
22 efforts used to prevent aquatic nuisance species from
23 establishing sustainable population in the Great Lakes.
24 This is a one sided comment. We are supposed to be

1 looking at both directions and hopefully we can keep
2 that focus.

3 As you know, I represent a barge company. I'm
4 also a recreational user of the waterway and I'm also a
5 resident, I have a home down on the Kankakee River,
6 just upstream from the Dresden Island Lock. We want to
7 see the river usable, in all modes and I think that you
8 guys can perform the study, find a way to prevent the
9 migration of all invasive species, not just one species
10 that has everybody's attention in the current media.
11 Thank you.

12 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Next. Can I see your
13 number? No. 5. Mr. Brammeier, when you're ready, go
14 ahead.

15 MR. JOEL BRAMMEIER: Joel Brammeier with the
16 Alliance of the Great Lakes, 60602. I won't name
17 names, but thanks to all of you, just to save time.
18 I've worked with several of you for a lot of years. And
19 also I specifically want to thank you for the enhanced
20 monitoring and the surveillance efforts that have been
21 going on recently and enhanced data reported, it's been
22 very helpful. I'll keep this brief. We'll of course be
23 submitting copious written comments to you, as I'm sure
24 you are aware. But to expand a bit on this issue of

1 prevention versus risk reduction and I don't think this
2 comes out in the memo that's provided today. If the
3 Corps wants to make the argument that risk reduction is
4 a viable strategy to achieve prevention of spread, then
5 the Corp should do that somewhere in this study and it
6 should talk about that strategy somewhere in the PMP.
7 What the PMP does right now is it actually makes the
8 strategies of prevention and risk reduction equivalent
9 defined the scope of work. And that's a serious
10 problem. It's a serious barrier to this study.
11 Beginning on the note that it needs to, certainly for
12 the Great Lakes to achieve complete prevention and you
13 can't start with the assumption that reduction of risk
14 is an acceptable outcome. And that's what the first
15 paragraph of the scope of work does right now. We share
16 the concerns that have been expressed already about the
17 timeline. General Peabody, in your comments, talking
18 about best case scenario versus other scenarios, I
19 would like to think after a year and a half of
20 planning, there is a very good understanding of all the
21 contingencies that would lead to delays in that
22 timeline. Certainly the timeline, as it stands, is not
23 acceptable to us. A more specific expression of those
24 contingencies to allow stakeholders to work on them and

1 try to compress that timeline would be exceedingly
2 helpful. I want to also mention the location of these
3 hearings. I've got a number of angry e-mails over the
4 last week regarding the location. And I would say,
5 certainly I've gotten a couple from Northwest Indiana
6 wondering why they weren't -- I would say most of them
7 are from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a city, that as you
8 know, has been very vocal about the Asian carp problem.
9 I would encourage you to consider hosting a meeting in
10 Milwaukee, if not elsewhere.

11 The question of risk assessment goes beyond,
12 as you know, to the issue of Asian carp. Obviously the
13 DFO and the work Fish and Wildlife Services have done
14 and including right now, should be included. There has
15 also been some scholarly work done on the risk
16 assessment of potential species spread in the United
17 States, I know Dr. Lodge, who did your monitoring
18 program, has done some of that work. Other academics in
19 the Great Lakes have done so and I encourage you to
20 draw on that for your risk assessments. A lot of that
21 work has already been completed. And the last thing
22 that I would mention is to ensure that the PMP is very
23 strongly aligned to the monitoring and surveillance
24 strategy. A permanent solution will not do anybody any

1 good if it comes after the marquee invader, the Asian
2 carp, have already established in the Great Lakes. And
3 the more you can do to align the schedule of the study
4 with an accurate understanding of the threat we are
5 facing, the better. Thank you.

6 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Okay, next. Our fifth
7 person today, Mr. Bullard. When you're ready, to ahead.

8 MR. CLARK BULLARD: Yes, my name is Clark
9 Bullard, I'm a professor of engineering at the
10 University of Illinois and representing Prairie Rivers
11 Network. I came prepared -- with a prepared statement
12 based on the plan, but I'm going to depart from that
13 and try to address some of these things in your one
14 page handout, which was sort of a surprise, about
15 debating the meaning of the word prevention. If
16 terrorists were advancing on the White House and you
17 received an order from your commanding officer to
18 prevent entry, I don't think you would detect any
19 ambiguity in that order. The plan does reveal a
20 commitment to do a careful study and that's
21 commendable, but it also calls for expanding the scope
22 beyond what Congress directed and we see that as
23 unacceptable. There are several ways to accelerate the
24 time line, it slipped 3 years since February. The most

1 obvious is to focus within the plan on prevention of
2 the most urgent threat, the Asian carp. There is
3 already, as I recall, about \$77 million worth of risk
4 reduction strategies already begun as part of this --
5 the control strategy framework unveiled last year. But
6 GLMRIS is supposed to be about prevention. The timeline
7 has already been accelerated by focusing first on the
8 Chicago Area Waterway System. That decision did not require
9 years of study, only common sense given the rapid
10 advance of the invasion front as shown by the DNA data
11 and the value of the national treasures at risk.
12 Similarly Congress didn't need a multi year study
13 before mandating prevention instead of risk reduction.
14 Only common sense and the wisdom to know letting carp
15 through the canal just to see what happens to the Great
16 Lakes is an experiment that is not worth conducting.
17 Please respond to the urgency of this threat by
18 narrowing the scope of your study and setting
19 intelligent priorities within it. You've got \$15
20 million, but you don't think all of that is going to
21 come on schedule. So the logical thing to do is to set
22 priorities and you can eliminate, I can tell you as an
23 engineering professor, you can eliminate most of the 10
24 categories of options that you listed in your report,

1 because many of them like bubble barriers and sonic
2 barriers and light barriers and those sorts of things
3 will do absolutely nothing to prevent the downstream
4 transfer of parasites, pathogens and aquatic invasive
5 plants. It's time to think big like our predecessors
6 did a century ago in the Burnham plan. No amount of
7 detailed study could have forecasted the economic,
8 social and environmental costs and benefits of
9 connecting the basins. Today our challenge is similar.
10 The way to redesign Chicago's transportation,
11 wastewater and storm water infrastructure for the 21st
12 Century integrated with intermodal freight terminals
13 that enable thriving water borne commerce, recreational
14 boating on both sides of the divide. Thank you.

15 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Thank you. And next in our
16 red line, Mr. Borgstrom. When you are ready.

17 MR. MICHAEL BORGSTROM: Good afternoon, Mike
18 Borgstrom, I'm president of Wendella Boats here in
19 Chicago, a passenger vessel. I'm also a past president
20 of the Passenger Vessel Association located in the
21 State of Virginia just outside of DC. I have a mix of
22 comments and I guess questions of sorts here. Have
23 been sort of listening in and reading some of the
24 materials and so forth. First of all, I would like to

1 commend the Corps of Engineers on all the work they've
2 been doing with the barriers, and, you know, there is a
3 lot of criticism from surrounding states that the Corps
4 and the government is not doing enough and they are the
5 only ones that have been doing any work, so I applaud
6 them for the work they are going and embarking on this
7 great study here. I think we are all for keeping
8 invasive species out of the Waterway systems.

9 The concern I have, however, is that while we
10 are focusing on the Chicago Area Waterway System, I also
11 noticed that the St. Lawrence Seaway was not included
12 in this study, and I guess, I don't know the answer to
13 this question, but from what I understand there haven't
14 been a whole lot of invasive species that have come
15 through the Chicago Area Waterway System and into the Great
16 Lakes system. However, the other way around, there have
17 been all sorts of invasive species that have come in
18 through the seaway. And as far as I know, there has
19 never been or has ever been a study contemplated that
20 has included the seaway. So while we are looking to
21 protect the Great Lakes we are sort of leaving one door
22 open while we are focusing on another. And again, I
23 think the only reason Asian carp panic that is being
24 created. I also like to point out that the Federal

1 court recently ruled that there is no imminent invasion
2 of Asian carp. We've had a lot of hyperbole and
3 rhetoric to the contrary, but it's in the federal
4 courts now. I do feel that -- I want to applaud you
5 also for including the industry as stakeholders and as
6 we move forward with this participants in the Study I
7 know that my industry, the passenger vessel industry is
8 not necessarily included in the Asian carp working
9 group, and we look forward to working with you on this
10 as well. Again, thank you for the time. I see I have
11 a minute remaining here and I think I'm just going
12 through my notes here quickly, but that's all I have.
13 Thank you again. Look forward to working with you.

14 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Thank you. Now we'll move
15 to the green line. First, No. 1 is Muench, second
16 Nelson, third Darin. So.

17 MS. KAY NELSON: Lynn Muench stepped out.

18 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Okay, so Nelson, when you
19 are ready, go ahead.

20 MS. KAY NELSON: I'm Kay Nelson, my Zip code
21 is 46368 and I am the representative from northwest
22 Indiana, it appears. We had conflicts with meetings.
23 Mostly I will have formal comments coming at a later
24 date. Couple of questions and comments. First, in

1 reference to the Natural Resource Defense Council
2 commentator, the engineering report that was presented
3 to the 21st Century Advisory Board, of which I am a
4 member, in October, did not include any hydrological
5 impacts or flooding to the State of Indiana. So I
6 would caution the audience with regards to that report,
7 that it did not take that into account. We still have
8 800 families displaced from their homes from the 2008
9 flood. NGO is a term of art that traditionally does not
10 reflect private industry as a part of that. It's -- and
11 so I would ask that perhaps all of your educational
12 outreach material have a specific private industry,
13 comma, as part of the stakeholder group. Also, when
14 you were talking about your regional economic modeling
15 program or process, I would like to know whom the
16 interested parties could contact if we have materials
17 that would be of value to that initiative? The State of
18 Indiana, the ports of Indiana did commission an
19 independent economic impact of the Burns Harbor port on
20 Lake Michigan of which we identified 1.2 billion
21 dollars a year of commerce associated with the Chicago
22 Area Waterway System. I don't know whether or not the
23 details that are contained in that economic study are
24 detailed enough for what you are looking for, but

1 certainly if they are not, we would like to offer our
2 support to expand upon that as well. That was the port
3 of Indiana numbers, it does not include the private
4 industry numbers associated with the industries on our
5 shoreline who depend heavily on the Chicago Area
6 Waterway System for moving of raw, unfinished materials
7 in our global commerce aspect. So those are my comments
8 and concerns for today. I don't know if you have the
9 answer for the modeling? Is there a contact person in
10 particular?

11 MR. DAVE WETHINGTON: Absolutely, mine,
12 myself, an excellent contact. I can get you in touch
13 directly with Mark Kramer who is my navigation econ
14 team lead. But by all means, feel free to contact me
15 and we'll move on from there.

16 MS. KAY NELSON: Thank you very much, thank
17 you.

18 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: And next, No. 3, Darin. When
19 you are ready.

20 MR. JACK DARIN: Thank you, very much. I'm
21 Jack Darin, I'm the director of the Sierra Club
22 Illinois Chapter. I want to thank you very much for
23 coming to Chicago and for all the future hearings you
24 are going to be having as you begin this important

1 project. We certainly want to applaud the Obama
2 administration for making this problem a top priority
3 and to the Army Corps for taking this project on. I
4 think that as the people of this particular part of the
5 Great Lakes Basin we're in a unique position, because
6 not only do we love the Great Lakes, but we are also
7 very proud of the work that we've done, not only as
8 clean water advocates, but as taxpayers in our entire
9 community and the recovery of the Chicago River System,
10 the Des Plaines, the Illinois River system, these are
11 waters that we have really grown to love and to get to
12 know as aquatic and recreational aspects. And permanent
13 separation of these two watersheds seems, to us, to be
14 the only real solution that will not only protect our
15 lakes but will allow that recovery to continue and
16 perhaps accelerate. So thank you for making what you
17 term hydrologic separation a major part of this study.
18 I just wanted to mention a few things that we would
19 urge you to look at in terms of benefits. Obviously
20 there will be costs to any project of that size and
21 they may indeed be very substantial, but we also think
22 that the benefits may be very substantial as well. And
23 just a few that we would ask you to take a look at over
24 the course of the study would be the economic, the

1 recreational and the health benefits of the upgraded
2 water quality in the Chicago River System. If
3 hydrologic separation means treating sewage in this
4 region differently and disposing it in different
5 locations, that is bound to mean upgrades to better
6 pollution controls. We have seen the benefits of some
7 improvement in sewage treatment in this region and I
8 think that we have a lot more upside to go there if we
9 are treating our sewage to the level of other Great
10 Lake cities are and there could be tremendous economic
11 and other benefits to that. Similarly, benefits to the
12 Illinois River and the Des Plaines River, if it is no
13 longer primarily composed of treated wastewater, from
14 the Chicago region, they are potentially tremendous
15 benefits for that watershed and a well. I think flood
16 control is an area that we need to do better in this
17 region. Every time we get a heavy rain we are reminded
18 that our flood control system does not work for so many
19 communities in this city and in this region and there
20 could be benefits there. Transportation benefits, this
21 going to be a major focus, I'm sure, of your study.
22 Taking the broadest possible look at those issues and
23 the benefits of alternative means of moving goods and
24 people of this region would be very significant.

1 Finally, on the timing, I think the reason that we are
2 uncomfortable with not finishing this project until
3 2015 is that we know that that really will just begin
4 the work of actually implementing a solution. So in
5 terms of speeding that up, it was very interesting to
6 see you note the risk of interrupted funding to slowing
7 down the timeline. I would encourage you, also, to be
8 open to the possibility of increasing the timeline if
9 we could increase the funding. I think that there are
10 lots of members of the Congressional delegations of
11 these states and the community who would be happy to
12 support the administration and the Corps to getting you
13 the resources that you need to complete the job faster.
14 Thank you for your time.

15 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Okay. We've went through
16 then entire list of everybody who had preregistered or
17 had said at the registration table that they would like
18 to make a comment to the panel. I would like to ask,
19 seeing that the time is 1:20, if there is anybody else
20 in the room that has decided that they would now like
21 to make a statement for the first time, to please come
22 to either microphone and make your statement at this
23 time.

24 Yes, sir, go ahead. And because you haven't

1 registered, if you could give us your name and any
2 affiliation that would be helpful. Captain.

3 CAPTAIN MIKE McELROY: Sure, Captain Mike
4 McElroy, chief engineer on the Merchant Marine here on
5 Lake Michigan. I have several questions, actually. One
6 was the comments and information that we had gathered
7 from some of the previous meetings we have had, the
8 technical framework, will that information also become
9 part of this document?

10 GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: Yes, it will.

11 CAPTAIN MIKE McELROY: The second question was
12 the ongoing Section 126 authority. How is that
13 continued on? I know there was an expiration date.

14 GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: That's a very good
15 question, thank you. And Mr. Goss may want to comment
16 on this. The Section 126 authority is still in effect
17 under the continuing resolution authority that the
18 Federal government is operating under. It's unclear
19 how or when that authority will be extended, whether we
20 have a year long continuing resolution or whether we
21 actually get appropriations. However, the Assistant
22 Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Ms. Darcy, has
23 requested that the Congress consider extending that
24 authority for a 2-year period and expanding that

1 authority in scope to cover what is basically the area
2 of study for the GLMRIS study. So right now it only
3 encompasses the Chicago Area Waterway System. Rather
4 than having one-year authority, just on the CAWS, the
5 secretary has requested that Congress consider
6 expanding it to 2-year authority along the entire
7 basin.

8 Anything you want to add, John?

9 MR. JOHN GOSS: No, just that they are
10 considering an omnibus funding bill. And I think our
11 office in Washington has been working with the Corps on
12 getting language in, whatever version goes in the next
13 couple of weeks for a vote. So they are working with
14 key members of Congress to make sure that one or the
15 other is included. At a minimum, it would be the
16 authority for -- that they've had in the past, current
17 authority, but we are trying to get the expanded
18 authority into each of those versions.

19 CAPTAIN MIKE McELROY: Which would basically,
20 in essence, allow the Army Corps to act on any
21 recommendations and any early plans that are generated
22 as a result of the study, correct?

23 GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: Yes.

24 MR. JOHN GOSS: Right or emergency response.

1 MR. DAVE WETHINGTON: Could you give your Zip
2 Code.

3 CAPTAIN MIKE McELROY: 60482.

4 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Okay, thank you. Anybody
5 else? Yes, come on up. When you get to the
6 microphone, can you say your name and your Zip code for
7 us and then make any comments or statements you have.
8 Thank you.

9 MS. JAN BOUDART: I'm Jan Boudart, my Zip Code
10 is 60626. I live in Rogers Park, Chicago. I graduated
11 in biology in 1958. And I worked as a zooplankton
12 analyzer in Waukegan, Illinois and Two Rivers,
13 Wisconsin for a combination of 8 years, working for the
14 electrical producers, the nuclear power plant in --
15 someplace up by Two Rivers, I'm missing the name of it,
16 Kewanee, up at Kewanee, Wisconsin and the coal fired
17 power plant in Waukegan, but this was a long time ago.
18 And I just wanted to say, the thing that has been
19 impressing me today about the whole idea of setting up
20 a barrier is this, I believe that that is a very, very
21 good idea. And I'm interested in this little water
22 flea, because that was my specialty when I was working
23 on the Great Lakes. But I don't think that there is a
24 barrier that can be set up that will be good in all

1 contingencies, because nature is going to come over
2 your left shoulder and do something that you don't
3 expect. And a barrier is a good idea, maybe 95 percent
4 of the time, but there is going to be that storm that
5 is going to knock down your barriers. And so I would
6 recommend, very strongly, the work of biologists in
7 trying to stop the reproductive potential of the Asian
8 carp. This would be a work of biologists and it would
9 have to be quite specific and also the silver carp. And
10 also with those other ANS's, I guess you call them,
11 they need to be paid attention to by someone who is
12 really good at biology and can figure out ways, because
13 when that big storm hits, those Asian carp are going to
14 get across it. And so we need to get rid of them
15 before it happens. And so that would be my
16 recommendation.

17 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Okay. Anybody else that
18 hasn't had a chance to come to the microphone today
19 that would wish to now, please either raise your hand
20 or make your way to the microphone. Okay, not seeing
21 any action. It's 1:28. If anybody that has already
22 made a 3-minute comment or presentation and would like
23 to come back to the microphone and continue or make
24 additional comments, you may do so, this would be the

1 appropriate period. We've got a couple takers on that
2 one. If you can start with your name, again.

3 MR. CLARK BULLARD: Clark Bullard, Prairie
4 Rivers Network and I was in such a hurry I forgot to
5 say 61820. Sorry, I tried to do too much in too little
6 time, but I do want to flush out this, pick up on the
7 statement in your white memorandum for the record that
8 says prevention may not be technologically possible. If
9 you really believe that, I would have hoped that you
10 would have told Congress back in 2007. But it seems to
11 me that prevention must be part of whatever you come up
12 with. It is an essential element. Because if it's
13 not, why spend \$25 million dollars just delaying the
14 inevitable. Leave the finite risks behind, it's only a
15 matter of time. It's only a matter of time until
16 someone gets killed by a silver carp jumping in the
17 lower Illinois, Mississippi Rivers. We've had some
18 close calls already and we certainly don't want that
19 happening over five Great Lakes. So hydrologic
20 separation is the 1 out of those 10 categories that is
21 obvious. It's 100 percent effective in closing off the
22 aquatic pathways which is your mandate. If you close
23 the aquatic pathway, you have prevented the passage
24 through the aquatic pathway. They may go over, under

1 and around, if it can fly or something like that, but
2 this is what Congress had in mind. Now, of the other
3 nine categories, you may find if you take part of your
4 25 million and study enough years, you may find in one
5 of those other nine categories something else that will
6 actually prevent. But that shouldn't be done at the
7 expense of progress on hydrologic separation. That
8 should be front and center, full speed ahead and you
9 recognize you are not going to get your 15 million on
10 schedule. So I would expect the plan to reflect that.
11 Similarly, risk reduction strategies, sure they have
12 merit and they can be done in parallel and there is
13 already a lot of them underway, but let's not let that
14 get in the way of progress on hydrologic separation.
15 One other final comment, within the hydro sep category,
16 your mission should be to find the best place among all
17 the places to separate the basins. There are plenty of
18 benefit cost analyses that need to be done because of
19 the way it's intertwined with not only freight
20 transportation but storm and wastewater. And one
21 option in that category you can eliminate right away is
22 separating the basins at the Lake Michigan shoreline is
23 the dumbest place to put it.

24 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Okay, thank you. Next go

1 ahead, sir.

2 MR. JOEL BRAMMEIER: Thanks for the opportunity
3 to come back and -- Joel Brammeier with the Alliance for
4 the Great Lakes. This is the kind of interaction that
5 I think is really important everywhere and you'll get a
6 lot of it, so having the opportunity to do Q and A, not
7 just comment, is very important. So a couple of the
8 comments raised something in my mind that I've been
9 thinking about, and that's how the Corps is going to
10 leverage some of the other work that is going on, some
11 of the specific mechanics behind that. As somebody
12 mentioned, the Great Lakes Commission, the Great Lakes
13 Cities Initiative work that is -- if it hasn't already
14 been will any day now be commissioned. And the
15 expectation is that that there will be some very high
16 quality transportation and economic analyses coming out
17 of that study. Rather than the Commission and the
18 City's Initiative outputting a report that gives the
19 Corps some of what it wants, has there been any effort
20 to identify specific project staff who will be
21 responsible for compiling and authoring those sections
22 of GLMRIS and getting them involved in that project
23 directly, so they are actually sitting at the table
24 while those analyses are being conducted as a way to

1 help get that data integrated as quickly as a possible?

2 GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: Thanks Joel, that's a
3 great question. One of the challenges that we have is
4 the GLMRIS authority is not the only law that we have
5 to comply with. There is a whole host of other laws
6 that also must be complied with. And we can discuss
7 some of the nuances and impacts it has related to some
8 issues, but getting to your question, one of those laws
9 is FACA. And because of that, because we have to have
10 a separation, if you will, between the government and
11 nongovernmental entities, and that would include
12 private industry in that, we have to be careful how we
13 work with other entities so that we don't violate that
14 provision of law. Now I'm going to turn to Dave
15 Wethington to answer the specifics about how you -- or
16 Vince. Go ahead.

17 COLONEL VINCENT QUARLES: Joel, as you know,
18 we, within the Corps, appreciate anything that can help
19 us get this work done faster. And we have had
20 conversations with the Great Lakes Commission, Mr.
21 White and myself was able to attend the public release
22 of the efforts. We know of a study. I alerted my
23 planning team so that we understand the scope of the
24 work being done. And just like all studies, and

1 information that is there, we want that information, we
2 want to be able to look at it and see how it can inform
3 GLMRIS. And based on what that work says, we have to
4 do, of course, an independent look of that data and see
5 how it informs GLMRIS. And so I don't think reports
6 like this is for not. We can look at it, we can learn
7 from that type of work and see how we can best inform
8 our feasibility studies. Dave, anything else to add?

9 MR. DAVE WETHINGTON: No, sir, you've covered
10 it. And basically our intent is to be able to use the
11 data and the results generated by that Great Lakes
12 Commission study, that will be incorporated into GLMRIS
13 as a whole. But, again, as has been stressed by
14 previous presentations, we can't predetermine an end.
15 If, you know, if we are looking at hydrologic
16 separation and that is the alternative that is being
17 addressed by the Great Lakes Commission, yes, we can
18 use that for that specific alternative. However, we
19 can't use that information as the end all be all.

20 MR. JOEL BRAMMEIER: One more comment since
21 there is nobody behind me.

22 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Go ahead.

23 MR. JOEL BRAMMEIER: I appreciate the response
24 and I appreciate also the FACA constraints. In this

1 case you are dealing with other units of government,
2 who are working on this study and I hope that that
3 alleviates some of that concern. And I would just
4 encourage you to recognize that there are, this study
5 and the financial risk assessment the DFO is
6 undertaking right now, will provide access to some
7 internationally renowned experts in their fields. And
8 it would be unfortunate if the only thing that happened
9 was the exchange of paper at the end of the study.

10 GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: We agree with you. We
11 fully intend to leverage all information that is
12 relative to the study and that informs the mandate that
13 we have. And we appreciate your concern, because we
14 share it.

15 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: All right, thank you. Next
16 if we could get your name to start with.

17 MR. TOM CMAR: Hi, Tom Cmar, National
18 Resources Defense Council. I believe I forgot to give
19 my Zip code before, it's 60606. I have a question for
20 John Goss, I think initially, but perhaps others on the
21 panel would want to address it as well. John, you
22 mentioned that the other Great Lake states have now
23 been incorporated into the Regional Coordinating
24 Committee. What role do they play, specifically, in

1 the decision making of the Regional Coordinating
2 Committee? And then secondly, and this may be a
3 question for the other panelists, what role will be the
4 other Great Lakes states have in the GLMRIS process?

5 MR. JOHN GOSS: Thanks, Tom. The governors
6 requested and we did accept appointment in November and
7 so we've had, I guess just 4 or 5 weeks of their
8 participation. We do conference call meetings on a
9 regular basis. Also they got the first look at the
10 drafts of all the projects for next year and did submit
11 a lot of comments on the priorities for federal funding
12 for next year. So the states have started to become
13 involved. Also I think on the fisheries level and the
14 aquatic nuisance species level, like Mike Saffran spoke
15 earlier, we are getting a lot of great input from the
16 professional DNR people at that level and we are going
17 to be using that a lot more.

18 GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: Tom, to your question
19 on how the states will be involved in GLMRIS, first of
20 all, we will -- we are going to form teams for each
21 specific state focused on all the aquatic pathways
22 identified with that state. And intend to engage in
23 whatever manner works for that state, but probably
24 primarily through the DNR's, to develop the information

1 and to coordinate with them on developing the data
2 specific aquatic pathways. In addition, to the vehicle
3 of the executive steering committee, which wasn't shown
4 on one of our briefing slides, but that will allow a
5 forum for states to participate and discuss and give
6 feedback on the GLMRIS project as it proceeds. And
7 again, we again would assume that somebody from the
8 state DNR would be designated to participate in that.
9 That coordination with the states to figure out, you
10 know, what works for them and who the right person is
11 for them to work with us on a continuous basis, has not
12 been conducted but we'll start that formally next
13 month.

14 MR. JOHN GOSS: One more point to add. Fish
15 and Wildlife Service this past year funded state plans
16 for aquatic nuisance species. So there are staff
17 people in each state who have created those action
18 plans and they are using all the information that they
19 have at their disposal. So I think in pulling all that
20 together, we are going to have a significant amount of
21 state input to that side of the GLMRIS report, as far
22 as the full picture of aquatic nuisance species across
23 the basin.

24 MR. TOM CMAR: Could I ask a quick follow-up?

1 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Go ahead.

2 MR. TOM CMAR: I'm glad to hear that. It
3 sounds like you have done a lot to reach out to the
4 states and consult with them. Will the states have any
5 direct role in the final decision making capacity in
6 the GLMRIS process or is that something that the Corps
7 will be handling on its own?

8 GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: Well, the states have
9 authorities we don't have. So, for example, if any one
10 of the states were to decide that they want to take
11 action associated with one of the aquatic pathways,
12 that they could gain or have control over the real
13 estate associated with that and other relevant
14 authorities, then they could take action in the absence
15 of the Federal government. It doesn't require that the
16 Federal government have all the solutions for all these
17 issues. Now, will they have a veto authority over what
18 we do at GLMRIS, no. We will take their input very
19 seriously, especially as it relates to the aquatic
20 pathways within their geographic boundaries. And we
21 will work in total collaboration, cooperation with them
22 to develop the range of options and technologies that
23 would deal with the specific issues, specific to their
24 states. But we also will listen to their concerns

1 related to the overall GLMRIS project, especially as it
2 relates to the cost, since that has an indirect impact
3 on every single one of the states, in both directions,
4 by the way, as was pointed out. Both the Great Lake
5 states and the Mississippi River states.

6 MR. TOM CMAR: Thank you.

7 GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: Thank you, Tom.

8 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Okay, anybody else? Not
9 seeing too much movement at this point. Time now is
10 1:41. I would like to ask one last time for anyone
11 wishing to make a final or concluding statement before
12 we adjourn this first session of today's meeting.
13 Seeing none --

14 GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: I was begging for
15 questions on some of these issues that were brought up.
16 I would like to address a couple of issues that were
17 brought up, because I think they are very important and
18 I want to make sure that you understand we share your
19 concerns. First of all, we heard several people talk
20 about the prevention versus risk reduction issue. And I
21 would encourage all of you to read that document that
22 was provided in your packet carefully and then reengage
23 with us. But first of all, I want to assure everybody
24 that we have not preordained that we can't prevent.

1 However, it is our general experience that there is
2 almost nothing that man can build that nature cannot in
3 some way or fashion overcome. That was informed in
4 dramatic fashion 5 years ago when Hurricane Katrina hit
5 our coastline and overwhelmed the levy system that had
6 been constructed in collaboration with local
7 stakeholders in the New Orleans area. And we've had
8 multiple events, if you go back in our history that
9 emphasizes that point. Having said that, we do intend
10 to get as far along toward prevent as we possibly can.
11 Again, within the range of available technologies and
12 options that we can find, that are relevant today. Now,
13 one of the issues is progressive elaboration. So this
14 process of scientific progressive elaboration is a
15 process of continual improvement and knowledge that
16 we're all very well aware of in this highly
17 technologically advanced age. And who could have
18 imagined getting what you can today with your i-phone
19 just 5 years ago, much less than 20 years ago when a
20 lot of people didn't even have personal computers or
21 laptops. However, we approach this massive study with a
22 little bit of hubris, knowing that it may not be
23 possible, may not be possible get to 100 percent
24 certainty. In fact, I personally believe that it's

1 likely that we can't get to 100 percent certainty. That
2 doesn't mean we are not going to try. I also want to
3 emphasize the geological fact the 4000 years ago there
4 was a hydrologic connection, a natural hydrologic
5 connection between what was then, I forget what they
6 call it, but it was today's Lake Michigan and the
7 Illinois River. And before the white man settled this
8 area, in fact, there railroad episodic periods where you
9 would achieve intermittent hydrologic connections
10 between Lake Michigan and the Illinois River, because
11 of the swampy nature and the very flat topography of
12 terrain. So this historical fact is something we've got
13 to understand and take into consideration.

14 The other point I would like to make is in
15 addition to this law, and I already mentioned this, but
16 it bears repeating, one of the principal laws that we
17 have to abide by is the National Environmental Policy
18 Act, and that act dictates a whole host of
19 considerations that we have to take under advisement
20 and develop in terms of the various alternatives that
21 are being considered. Because we've got to understand
22 what the impacts or the likely impacts are of those
23 alternatives. And then the decision makers in the
24 administration and Congress will take all those factors

1 under advisement and then come to some judgment about
2 what specific recommendations or alternatives that they
3 want to pursue. That's not a decision that we make, we
4 only make a recommendation. So with that, I think those
5 are two of the main comments that I wanted to make in
6 response to your comments and questions. I will -- I
7 took extensive notes, I've got three and a half pages
8 of notes here from your comments. I thought all of
9 your comments were relevant and very important and
10 several of the comments are things that I personally
11 had not yet thought of and have caused me to want to
12 continue to pursue further as we develop the study and
13 this is exactly what we need from these events. And I
14 also take very seriously that we didn't include
15 Milwaukee and Northwest Indiana and we'll take a look
16 at whether we can add at least two more locations to
17 our public scoping meetings.

18 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Very good.

19 GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: We'll stay here until
20 the cows come home in terms of talking to you and
21 taking my additional questions, also.

22 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Thank you, sir. I thank
23 everybody for your statements, comments and questions.
24 Let me remind you that if you have any prepared

1 statements or documents with you, be sure to turn those
2 in at the registration table. Also, this comment sheet
3 here, the half size sheet of paper you received today
4 is one of the most important things that you can take
5 with you as you think about your comments. Anything
6 you have jotted down on this today, if it's ready to
7 turn in, we've got a box right at the turn of the room
8 here, as well as by the elevators that is marked
9 comment sheets. If you want to throw those in there,
10 that's great. If you need more time, remember, you've
11 got until March 31st. The information is on the front
12 of those as well to show how to mail those in. And
13 also the computers will stay running here until 3:30
14 before we adjourn for our short break. Feel free to
15 sit down at one of those terminals as well and enter
16 anything you would like on the website. Besides the
17 panelists, anyone wearing a red lanyard is also a
18 resource person you can talk to to help seek out any
19 other questions you might have. And then lastly, just
20 want to make sure that if you have any of the materials
21 that we handed you that you do not need and would be
22 discarding, we ask that you recycle them with us, hand
23 them to any of the members of the Corps here or set
24 them on the registration table on your way out. And

1 with that, the time now is 1:47. We'll adjourn this
2 afternoon's meeting, we will reconvene again at 4:00
3 p.m. Thank you.

4 (Whereupon, at 1:48 p.m., a break was
5 taken.)

6 * * * * *

7 E V E N I N G S E S S I O N

8 (4:01)

9 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: My watch says 4:00, so I
10 think it's about time for us to start. Can I get a
11 show of hands who wasn't here at this afternoon's
12 session? Do we have anybody new? Okay, we do. Good,
13 good. I was worried that everybody was here already
14 once before and they were just going to try to see how
15 many different words I used. But that's helpful that
16 we've got a few people. Now, we are not expecting a
17 full crowd so if you want a better seat I can sell you
18 any of these front row ones at a real good price. So
19 feel free to come on up if you like. It makes it a
20 little bit easier for us to see who you are, but if you
21 want to stay back there that's fine, too, I won't take
22 it personally. Now, anybody that wasn't here earlier,
23 you should have a packet of materials that we gave you
24 earlier or just now. This packet is really an

1 important piece to have with you. So if you haven't
2 got one, you can raise your hand and we can have
3 somebody get it for you. And otherwise I'm going to
4 get things started here, if I can find Page 1. Okay.

5 My name is Kevin Bluhm, I'm the moderator for
6 tonight's session. And I want to more importantly
7 introduce you to the panel of experts here on the
8 stage. At the table starting on the left-hand side
9 here, Mr. John Goss, he is the Asian Carp Director
10 Council on Environmental Quality at the White House,
11 sitting right here. Next to him is Major General John
12 Peabody, Commander of the Great Lakes and Ohio River
13 Division. And in the center of the table, Colonel
14 Vincent Quarels, he's the commanding officer here at
15 the Chicago District. And next, I think Dave changed
16 and I really don't have your name here either.

17 MS. SUE DAVIS: It's Sue Davis. I'm the
18 planning chief at the Chicago District. I'm sitting in
19 for Dave in the evening session.

20 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: And then at the far end of
21 the table, Mike Saffran and he's the project manager
22 for the other pathways. And you'll hear more about
23 basically the GLMRIS study and the other pathways in
24 the presentation, as we begin. First of all, I would

1 like to say if you have an electronic media device here
2 with you that makes noise and sings and whistles and
3 whatever, to silence that or turn that off, that would
4 help. And then also knowing that this is a hearing, we
5 want to make sure that everybody understands that
6 people have differing opinions and we want to respect
7 the opinions of anybody tonight. It's a good, honest
8 and open way to start our communication. So with that
9 said, this meeting tonight is the Great Lakes and
10 Mississippi River Interbasin Study, known as the GLMRIS
11 NEPA Public Scoping Meeting. This is our second
12 session. We had one that started at noon today. I
13 want to go over a couple logistical things here first.
14 If you need to use the restroom facility during our
15 meeting you can excuse yourself. If you walk back
16 around past the registration table and past the
17 elevators, there are restrooms there. In the event that
18 the emergency exit is needed, we've got emergency exits
19 in the front of the room here and then also a stairwell
20 back by the elevators as well. So back to the center of
21 the building is our main pathway out of here. And then
22 when you arrived this packet of materials I mentioned
23 is kind of your quick study guide on all the
24 information that we put together so far. And I'll kind

1 of just go through a few of these different pieces
2 here. The green half sheet of paper, that's our
3 agenda. This is what we are going to try to stick to
4 here tonight, so that will be important for keeping us
5 organize. We've got a blue study overview booklet, as
6 well as a small tri-fold. These are pieces that will
7 help you get up to speed on all the information that we
8 currently have assembled for the GLMRIS work. We've
9 also got a small business card that has information on
10 it as well, to keep you informed. And then the white
11 half sheet of paper here with a lot of blank lines on
12 it, that's going to be the key piece that we want to
13 make sure you focus on as you put together our
14 thoughts, comments and concerns for us either today or
15 during our public comment period and there is more
16 information on that that we'll talk about later. And
17 then also a couple other full size sheets of paper here
18 in multiple different colors. If you've chosen to make
19 any statements here tonight the yellow form needs to be
20 filled out and we would ask that you take that to the
21 registration table or hand it to any of the Corps
22 members with the red lanyards on. And then FAQ, that's
23 the next one here. Any frequently asked question that
24 you might want to have an answer to, look this over

1 first, this probably has the basic ones or the ones
2 that we hear the most or we've anticipated for. We've
3 also got a salmon colored sheet of paper here that has
4 information on some of the other efforts that are going
5 on. So this has a little bit more detail that's
6 connected to what we are working on. And then lastly,
7 I'll show the blue sheet of paper. If you have
8 documents that you would like to submit as part of the
9 record here, we ask that you fill this blue sheet out
10 if you haven't already filled out the yellow one to
11 submit any formal documents with us.

12 Given that we have a slightly smaller crowd
13 than we have chairs for, what we've decided is we're
14 going to try to be a little bit more informal with the
15 second part of our meeting here and give everybody a
16 little bit more of a chance to have open dialogue and
17 mostly have a chance for everybody in the room to
18 learn. So if you are with us this afternoon, we've got
19 a lot of things that we talked about as far as trying
20 to make it fair for everybody to talk and listen. But
21 quite honestly, in this type of a setting, with the
22 number of people we have here, it's not going to be as
23 necessary to strictly abide to those rules. So we are
24 going to try to take it and make it a little bit easier

1 for anybody who would like to make a comment or have
2 clarification on some of the issues you see. So I will
3 abbreviate some of the things that we'll talk about for
4 our part two of the evening. But looking at the process
5 that we're going to have here tonight, here's what
6 we've set up. The GLMRIS team has organized the public
7 meeting to accomplish two goals. Our first is to
8 represent and present any information about the study
9 itself. And then second, to solicit any comments on the
10 significant issues that could be included or should be
11 included in the GLMRIS study and on the significant
12 issues that can be eliminated from further studies.

13 The Corps of Engineers is hosting 10 public
14 meetings like this throughout the area in an effort to
15 provide opportunities to those interested in the study
16 and to learn more about the study and provide any oral
17 comments you have. Please note that the NEPA public
18 scoping period closes on March the 31st, 2011. As
19 indicated on the agenda, this public meeting is
20 organized in two sessions. The identical presentation
21 was given at the very beginning at noon today and then
22 we had our comment period. And then we will start
23 again here 4:00 o'clock start and go until we are
24 basically completed with any questions or comments that

1 people have. After that period we will have our Corps
2 of Engineers panel as well as me and the other staff
3 members here to answer questions on a more formal one-
4 on-one basis. If needed, the meeting will go until
5 7:00 o'clock and we will entertain any type of
6 questions, comments that you have during that time. If
7 you have any concerns or questions, any of the staff
8 that we have seated here now, with the red lanyards,
9 will be available either in the back of the room or out
10 in the lobby at any time during the meeting. You can
11 get up and ask any questions of them, if you would like
12 or can you can wait until we've adjourned the actual
13 comment period.

14 Also, just to note or keep in mind, any
15 conversations that you have with the panelists or staff
16 members during the meeting, that are not part of the
17 actual comment period are allowed, but they will not be
18 part of the actual record, seeing as though they are
19 not captured that way. So we do want to make sure that
20 if you have any comments that want entered into the
21 NEPA documentation, that you use the time allotted at
22 the microphone or submit information either using the
23 computers in the back of the room, which go through our
24 website or have anything written on our comment forms.

1 Any one-to-one discussions, though, would not easily be
2 recorded or entered into the NEPA documents. At this
3 point we are going to start with some of our panel
4 members and I'm going to ask Mr. John Goss, the Asian
5 carp director to just talk a little bit about the
6 program he's working on. He had a full presentation
7 that he gave this afternoon and we are going to kind of
8 abbreviate that and just give a little update right
9 now, if that's okay.

10 MR. JOHN GOSS: I really appreciate the fact
11 that you folks are here to help us with this process.
12 Contributing your ideas and your comments is very
13 important. In the project that I have been asked to
14 coordinate, which is to bring together all the Federal
15 agencies, the state agencies and stakeholder groups, to
16 work on a solution, originally, my assignment was Asian
17 carp, but as the GLMRIS project takes off, it is
18 becoming much bigger. Asian carp is the poster child
19 and is the initial reason why we have the funding. But
20 with the foresight of Congress and with the acceptance
21 of the responsibility by the Corps of Engineers, we are
22 now looking at a more permanent solution for preventing
23 the transfer of aquatic nuisance species from the Great
24 Lakes to the rivers and from the rivers to the Great

1 Lakes. So this project that has been really getting off
2 the ground this month, is the most important part of
3 the strategy to stop Asian carp and to put together a
4 full plan for the future, for all aquatic nuisance
5 species in the Great Lakes. The rest of the program
6 that I'm coordinating has over 40 funded projects.
7 Tomorrow we will be releasing a new plan for 2011. And
8 many of those projects are ongoing, but there is going
9 to be some new projects also. And that involves a lot
10 of agencies. It does involve the U.S. Fish and
11 Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, EPA, the DNR
12 departments in each state and this is a big team. It's
13 a team that is working together, that are building the
14 knowledge on how to deal with all of these possible
15 transfer points for aquatic nuisance species. And
16 we're going to have some, I think, pretty monumental
17 results. What the GLMRIS study is going to do is be
18 very methodical and proceed, as they are going to
19 describe to you this evening, in a very careful way so
20 that we come to a solution that we think will be
21 permanent and will take care of these problems. The
22 Obama administration is very committed to this. I think
23 you've seen the amount of money that has been committed
24 from the Great Lakes Restoration funds. And that's

1 tens of millions of dollars for the past two years and
2 it's going to be that much for the next year. And this
3 is a priority for the Council on Environmental Quality,
4 which is the White House office that coordinates all
5 these federal efforts. It will continue to be a top
6 priority and I just want to -- just want to say one
7 more thing. I think the Corps of Engineers this past
8 year has accomplished several things that are
9 significant, that are not part of the GLMRIS study, I
10 just want to mention a couple. There has been a lot of
11 attention on the electric barriers, we have a third
12 electric barrier constructed, will be fully operational
13 soon after the first of the year. Also, in this past
14 year, it was identified that there were some weak
15 points for flooding where Asian carp could be moving
16 from rivers into the Great Lakes and two actions have
17 been completed that are very significant, one on the
18 Des Plaines River, which is the fence, 13 miles long, a
19 fish barrier during flood stage to keep carp that we
20 know are moving up the Des Plaines from getting over
21 into the ship canal. And then also in Ft. Wayne,
22 Indiana where Mike Saffran will talk about the other
23 pathway study. It was such a high priority that the
24 Corps approved immediate action and we have a fish

1 barrier up there to separate the Wabash and Maumee
2 waters.

3 So many times the Corps is criticized for
4 moving slowly. Just since I've been here, I've seen
5 that they can move quickly when they see a problem that
6 needs to be addressed. So I want to thank them for
7 that action this year. And I want to say that this
8 GLMRIS project is the most important, the most
9 resources will be devoted to this project in the coming
10 year and certainly it's going to take a while to get it
11 done, but we're going to move it as fast as we can.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Thank you, Mr. Goss. Next
14 we'll have the presentation from Major General John
15 Peabody. He's the commander from the Corps of
16 Engineers, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. I'll
17 turn the microphone over to you, sir.

18 GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: Thanks Kevin. Well, I
19 think it's still afternoon, so good afternoon,
20 everybody, I appreciate you coming here. And we
21 appreciate your interest in this very important study
22 for the region and our nation. If you look on the
23 slide you'll see that there is no one person's name on
24 the slide, it says the Great Lakes Mississippi River

1 Interbasin Study team. And this truly has been a team
2 effort by not just the people you see on the panel, but
3 by dozens and actually hundreds of people not just in
4 the Chicago district, in the Great Lakes and Ohio River
5 Division, but through the Corps verdict, in our
6 research and development center, in particular, and
7 some of those folks are here. I do want to emphasize
8 the Interbasin Study that focuses on the transfer of
9 aquatic nuisance species of any variety. We kind of
10 think of the zebra mussel and the Asian carp as the
11 most visible aquatic nuisance species, but there are
12 dozens of others that we will be concerned with. And
13 in fact, for the purposes of this study, Asian carp is
14 a subset. So as when you think of the fish barrier and
15 the efficacy study, it's all been about Asian carp.
16 When you think about the GLMRIS, it's all about all
17 aquatic nuisance species that might move between the
18 two basins. Okay. So let's -- what are we told to do?
19 The Corps of Engineers has to have two things to do
20 anything in this nation, as a bare minimum. Number
21 one, we have to have an authority. And number two, we
22 have to have funding to meet that authority. We got the
23 authority in the Water Resource Development Act of 2007
24 which was passed, as I recall, very late in 2007. And

1 you can see the words from that authority written on
2 the screen there. Some of the words that are
3 highlighted are that we are supposed to study a range
4 of options and technologies available to prevent the
5 spread of aquatic nuisance species. And it mentions
6 the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, but it then goes
7 on to say other aquatic pathways. And so far we have
8 identified, outside the Chicago Area Waterway System,
9 36 possible aquatic pathways, of which 18 have been
10 categorized of enough significance that we need to do
11 additional study associated with them.

12 Now there is also on this slide three special
13 considerations that we've put on here that have have
14 come to our attention in one way or another that are of
15 interest to stakeholders. The first is the issue of
16 ecological separation or what we are calling
17 hydrological separation, because ecological separation
18 implies some kind of wall between both water, air and
19 land to prevent species from migrating through a
20 particular location or region. In this case, this study
21 is focused on aquatic pathways, that is very specific,
22 so the only thing we're going to be concerned about is
23 waterborne traffic or movement. Second, the term
24 prevent is one that has caused some concern because in

1 explaining what we intend to do, we've used the term
2 risk reduction. And there is a paper in your packet
3 which outlines specifically why the Corps is using the
4 term risk reduction. First of all, I want to assure
5 everybody that the Corps intends to do everything in
6 its power to meet the intent of the legislative
7 language that we were given. However, the Corps
8 experience and one that is based in some amount of
9 humility is that there is literally no manmade project
10 that cannot be overcome by some act of nature. So when
11 you think of the Dutch, for example, who have these
12 enormous monstrous dikes, for anybody who has visited
13 Holland, that are designed to prevent the North Sea
14 from encroaching into their land, those are built to a
15 10,000 year rain or weather event or flood even. The
16 United States, in general, does not tend to build its
17 flood risk reduction projects to that level of risk.
18 The whole point here is that no matter what you build,
19 there is always going to be some residual level of risk
20 remaining. The question is, how much risk are you
21 willing to take. We will deliver, ultimately, a range
22 of options and technologies. We will estimate a range
23 of risk reduction that these options and technologies
24 can achieve and then it will be incumbent upon the

1 decision makers in this country, which is whatever
2 administration is in power at the time and the
3 Congress, to decide what they want to do with that
4 information. Finally, again, the study's 100 percent
5 funded. That means all the funds to make this happen
6 will come from the Federal government. That does not
7 mean that the Federal government will fund everything
8 that we need in order to execute this study in a fully
9 efficient manner. So we can only go as fast as our
10 resources allow us to go among other constraints.

11 The study area, and Vince would you highlight
12 some of the points here. Now, the entire area covers
13 an enormous portion of the United States, a better
14 portion of 30 plus states, that's the formal study
15 area. But we are going to delineate our detailed focus
16 on two sub-basins, if you will. The Great Lakes basin
17 on the U.S. side of the border, because we are not
18 going to go into Canada, and that's in the brown and
19 the upper -- kind of the Northeast portion of the
20 Mississippi River basin, which includes the Ohio River
21 basin and the upper Mississippi River basin. And much
22 of the detailed focus area, of course, will be along
23 that dashed line, nearly 1500 miles of expanse that
24 separates the two basins, the Great Lakes and the

1 Mississippi River basin. The primary area of focus will
2 be one aquatic pathway which we know for sure is
3 continuously connected between two those two basins,
4 and that's the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal or more
5 expansively called the Chicago Area Waterway System.
6 That is where most of the resources are going to go,
7 that's where most of the study area is going to go, but
8 we cannot neglect the other pathways that exist along
9 these basins. Because, in fact, some of the nuisance
10 species might out flank us effectively while we focus
11 on the Chicago Area Waterway System with the fish barrier.
12 If we fail to pay attention to those, it is possible we
13 could be out flanked. So I've hit some of these points
14 already, but this delineates in simple terms what is in
15 and what is out of the study. So if you look at the
16 pathways, I already talked about the aquatic piece, we
17 are not going to do terrestrial, we're not going to do
18 airborne. It also includes anything that moves by
19 waterways, as listed on this slide on the left-hand
20 side. It's not going to include other vectors, such as
21 human release. We are not going to get into that. The
22 locations are very specifically delineated by Congress,
23 that is the interface between the two basins listed.
24 Will not include anything that will come up through the

1 Atlantic slope and it will not include anything coming
2 up the St. Lawrence Seaway. Now, that is a matter of
3 consternation for some people because we all recognize
4 that history shows us that a large number of the
5 nuisance species that are in the Great Lakes came to us
6 through the St. Lawrence Seaway, but that's not what
7 Congress told us to study. What we are to study here
8 is those two basins and how to keep the aquatic
9 nuisance species on both sides of the basin. Now,
10 options and technologies to prevent or reduce the risk
11 of interbasin transfer. I look forward to your
12 comments and your questions about that. We had a very
13 positive dialogue in the last session and it's clear to
14 me that some of the language that we've used to explain
15 this difference needs to be tightened up so that the
16 public has a clear understanding of what we intend to
17 achieve and we will ultimately change our Project
18 Management Plan and change some of our focus areas as a
19 result of these engagements. The last point I would
20 make is on the bottom of the slide, the Environmental
21 Impact Statement, this is very important. The
22 legislation and the authority is not the only
23 legislation we must abide by. We have a host of laws,
24 a host of policies, guidelines, that derive from these

1 laws that we must comply with. One of the more obvious
2 ones and very important ones is the National
3 Environmental Policy Act, which tells us that we have
4 to understand the environmental and other impacts to
5 proposed and recommended actions and alternatives as
6 part of the process. And actually this is part of what
7 the NEPA process does, is we have these scoping
8 meetings like this here today.

9 Okay. So how are we going to do this, what
10 is our strategy? Well, it's kind of listed in these
11 five major bullets on slide. First we are going to
12 separate two generally geographically focused areas,
13 the Chicago Area Waterway System is the primary one,
14 that's the hardest one because it's a continuously open
15 pathway. And then we are going to look at all the
16 other pathways, which we've done a preliminary study on
17 and Mr. Saffran will talk about that. Second, we want
18 to organize for success. So we need to leverage all
19 the capabilities inside the Army Corps of Engineers,
20 all the geographic districts that are directly involved
21 in the detailed study area, of which there are nine,
22 seven in the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division and
23 two in the Mississippi Valley Division. As well as the
24 engineer research and development center, which is our

1 science center in the Corps of Engineers. And they
2 have been helping us to a great degree with the
3 environmental DNA issue, among other things. Now, we
4 are also going to have what we call an executive
5 steering committee. That executive steering committee
6 will reach out to other stakeholders, will reach out to
7 other states and will continue to dialogue with
8 stakeholders and states to inform this. And then, of
9 course, finally, and this is very important, is all the
10 stakeholders. I cannot emphasize enough that for all
11 of you who want us to accelerate the study, for all of
12 you who have a specific thing that you want to focus
13 on, whether it's hydrologic separation, whether it's a
14 concern of risk reduction, whatever the issue may be,
15 whether you want to preserve navigation or whether you
16 are concerned about a specific species, we need your
17 engagement and even more importantly, we need relevant
18 scientifically based information that can inform the
19 data gathering process, this is critical. If you can
20 provide scientifically based sound data that helps
21 short circuit our study efforts, that allows us to move
22 forward potentially more quickly in the study efforts
23 and that is critical, because this is -- it may not be
24 the largest study the Corps has ever done, but it 's

1 the largest one that I've been able to identify in
2 terms of its scope and its span.

3 Now, the next point is we are going to cycle
4 out products as we go along. So some of those products
5 would include just reports on data, on information. So,
6 for example, what is the list of aquatic nuisance
7 species that we are going to focus on and, in
8 coordination with USGS and Fish and Wildlife and the
9 state DNR's and others, what is the relative rank order
10 of priority of concern of that list of aquatic nuisance
11 species. We will do that kind of thing. In addition,
12 as it becomes apparent that certain options or
13 technology may be able to be executed before the full
14 study is completed, then we might, just as we did with
15 the efficacy study associated with the electric fish
16 barrier, we might cycle out recommended alternatives or
17 options for interim application or interim execution
18 pending the full study resolution. Again, that really
19 depends on how that information is developed. And I've
20 already talked about the last two issues. So the
21 purpose. Three things, identify aquatic pathways,
22 identify the nuisance species and develop a range of
23 technologies to do something about it. And the
24 something is a best case scenario we want to prevent.

1 Recognizing that technologies may not be available to
2 get us all the way to a full 100 percent prevent. We've
3 already got a very good fix on the aquatic pathways.
4 The inventory and the future potential aquatic nuisance
5 species we have a pretty good fix on, we are working on
6 that database and we are again socializing that with
7 Fish and Wildlife and USGS and others. We really
8 haven't gotten to, other than the notion of hydrologic
9 separation, we really haven't gotten to a full
10 development of the range of technologies and options
11 that are available. That will start to be developed
12 sometime during the data gathering phase and as the
13 data gathering phase comes in on closure and
14 conclusion, then we will develop that in more detail.
15 But, the evaluation of these ranges of options and
16 technologies will include hydrologic separations of the
17 basins. Okay. At this time, I would like Sue Davis,
18 our planning chief from the Chicago District to comment
19 on how we are going to execute the Chicago area
20 waterway system component.

21 MS. SUE DAVIS: The image on the slide shows
22 a map of the Chicago area waterways. And it does show
23 the five connection points in the area, between the
24 Mississippi River and the Great Lakes. And those are

1 enumerated in the dark brown and are circled and you
2 can see the other points on the map that show the
3 connections and the waterway between, not just the
4 sanitary and ship, but a number of other tributaries in
5 the area. For Focus Area 1, we've already initiated the
6 planning process and these are the six steps in the
7 planning process. We've considered both problems and
8 opportunities as we developed our project management
9 plan and have moved into the inventory and forecast
10 stage as the General indicated. Our work right now is
11 focusing on developing baseline data in a number of
12 areas, including economic data, hydrologic modeling,
13 hydraulic modeling and environmental analysis. Those
14 are the things we're moving forward on, we will utilize
15 then to develop our base conditions. Once we've
16 completed that work and we cycled out interim products,
17 as the General indicated, we will move on to formulate
18 plans. And then we will evaluate those plans including
19 any mitigation to current usage of the waterways, those
20 things we need to consider as we do our evaluation and
21 comparison of plans and then we will select a
22 recommended plan that will go forward through the Corps
23 process as part of the feasibility report as well as
24 the environmental documentation. We are working

1 collaboratively, as the General indicated, with Federal
2 and state and regional agencies, local governments,
3 tribal governments, nongovernmental organizations and
4 private industry as we move forward. That's all I
5 have, sir.

6 GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: Thank you, Sue. Now,
7 Mr. Mike Saffran is going to talk about what we've done
8 in this preliminary risk characterization of the other
9 pathways, which he completed in the early fall
10 timeframe of this year, I forget the exact date, I
11 think it was early October. And we had great
12 cooperation from the state DNR's at all these locations
13 and could not have done what we achieved without the
14 full collaboration of all those agencies. So, Mike.

15 MR. MIKE SAFFRAN: General Peabody mentioned
16 the last three words in the authority paragraph of the
17 other aquatic pathways. Well, that line that was on
18 that and the dots you see there represent about a 1400-
19 mile long trek there that we had to look at for other
20 aquatic pathways.

21 With the help of the state DNR's and others,
22 we were able to identify the most likely locations. We
23 came up with a total of 36 potential aquatic pathways,
24 where surface water flow can go across the basin

1 divide. Of those 36 locations, we determined that 18
2 of them posed significant risk or risk that appeared to
3 be unacceptable. A number of those 18 locations,
4 although there was a lot of uncertainty as well as --
5 there was uncertainty relative to the likelihood of the
6 pathway and uncertainty as to the magnitude of the
7 impacts that could happen from a species transfer to
8 those locations. So those 18 locations, we know that
9 we need to go back into and do a more complete
10 assessment of the risk for those locations. But the
11 purposes of doing this was to get a handle of that
12 1400-mile long divide, basin divide line and to work --
13 to better refine the scope of the GLMRIS project. What
14 we came up with was those 18 locations. But we had one
15 location that jumped out of those 18 as posed a
16 potentially imminent risk. And that location was Eagle
17 Marsh, which is a wetland area, it's across the basin
18 divide, just on the west side of Ft. Wayne. That
19 location, annual rain fall event, the maximum storm
20 event you would expect to occur any given year
21 generates water flow across the basin divide. When you
22 have up to a 10-year level event, which is less
23 frequent, but a more significant storm event, you can
24 have up to four and a half foot depth of water that

1 crosses the basin divide. So that, in combination with
2 the fact that we've also monitored and have
3 observations of Asian carp within about 20 miles of
4 that location, told us we had a very imminent risk. We
5 got together with the state of Indiana, the National
6 Resources Conservation Service and other local
7 stakeholders there and through the process of meeting
8 came up with an interim measure, which is the fence
9 that the state of Indiana has already put in place and
10 then we are also going through, right now, and
11 completing a detailed project report which is an
12 analysis of options, of technologies that can be used
13 to mitigate the risk of species transfer at that
14 location. And hopefully we'll have a recommended plan
15 for a permanent fix at that location by the end of this
16 year or 2011 rather, next year.

17 GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: Okay, thanks Mike.
18 One other thing that I would like to emphasize on this
19 slide and this map is that if you were to walk along
20 that basin divide, what you would find in many and
21 actually most of the divide, it's a pretty easy,
22 comfortable hike. It's fairly flat terrain. And that
23 means from an engineering standpoint it's a
24 hydrologically complex and small nuances in the

1 topography can make a big difference in terms of how
2 the water flows. As a result, we really have to study,
3 very closely, the detail of the topography along the
4 entire basin divide. We have, again, this preliminary
5 risk characterization, we think we've identified all
6 the possible pathways, but we are going to have to do
7 some more study to confirm that and we are going to
8 have to do a lot more study to understand the risks
9 associated with those pathways. And such things as
10 whether dams along some of the tributaries leading up
11 to those crossover points would prevent aquatic species
12 from migrating up from one direction or another. In
13 general, those dams tend to be on the Mississippi River
14 Basin side of the divide. So what have we done so far,
15 up to now? Besides produce this Program Management
16 Plan. It says project management plan, but when you
17 think about it it's so vast in scope it's really a
18 program. And we are very uncharacteristically managing
19 this at the regional level. Almost all of our
20 projects, in fact I don't know of any project that's
21 not managed at the district level, almost exclusively
22 in the Corps. This one is different because it cuts
23 across so many Corps of Engineer boundaries and it's so
24 vast in scope. But we had not received funds to do

1 anything about this from June of 2009, so one of the
2 criticisms that we've received is that, hey, you got
3 this authority passed in 2007, why didn't you start
4 then? Well, the short answer is we didn't have funding
5 available until 2009 and the funding we received was
6 relatively modest amount, around
7 \$200,000.

8 In any case since that time we've
9 aggressively moved forward to develop a detailed
10 project management plan. That plan was published last
11 month and it's a living document. We will change that
12 plan, based on the input that we received from you and
13 others and we will continue to evolve the plan as other
14 information that comes to our attention dictates. Now,
15 simultaneously, as Mr. Goss alluded to, we've also done
16 a number of other things related in large measure to
17 the fish barrier and the efficacy study, but that help
18 inform this effort as well. So, for example, we have a
19 fairly robust literature review of Asian carp that
20 we've already established. We have a draft. And this
21 is just examples, there are several other issues that
22 we found. We have a draft, the aquatic nuisance species
23 white paper that we've developed, that we are beginning
24 to coordinate with the Fish and Wildlife Service and

1 the USGS to get their information, to make sure we
2 understand what the species are of concern. The risk
3 characterization pathway we just talked about and then
4 of course we've actually executed some action on Eagle
5 Marsh. This is a visual of a rational schedule, it's
6 actually kind of a best case schedule of what we think
7 is in the realm of the possible in terms of producing a
8 complete feasibility report for consideration by
9 decision makers. I do want to emphasize that this is
10 the best case scenario. It assumes a couple of things.
11 Number one, it assumes we are funded at or very close
12 to the capability that we have to execute this project
13 and our current estimate is that it will cost about \$25
14 million. That is a very rough estimate, because as we
15 go through with the study process, we may find that we
16 have to go down one avenue of inquiry or another avenue
17 of inquiry and those additional avenues of inquiry, as
18 they are discovered and we figure out we need to do
19 these, they cost more money. They also cost more time.
20 In addition to that, the kind of semicircular arrows
21 indicate the notion that we are going to take similar
22 to what we did with the efficacy study and that is
23 rather than produce a, beautiful wonderful, near
24 perfect report and not do anything until that happens,

1 to actually cycle out products and potentially cycle
2 out Interim recommendations to take actions on issues
3 that are of fairly high concern before we wait for a
4 final report. Now, we can't guarantee that we're going
5 to do this, because we just don't know what has yet to
6 be uncovered. The study process leads us through that
7 progressive elaboration of information, of scientific
8 learning and discovery and knowledge uncovering, but that
9 is the approach that we intend to take. If you look at
10 the bottom left-hand portion of the Chicago Area
11 Waterway System, the report for public review, the best
12 case scenario is that in the fall of '14 or the winter
13 of '15, we will get to that point. But what I actually
14 envision is really going to happen is we will have more
15 than one report that will come out on an interim basis,
16 and over time, sequentially, rather than one final
17 report all at once that rolls up all these details for
18 all these different pathways. So what are some of the
19 products? We've talked about most of these, but they
20 include in addition to aquatic nuisance species
21 information, navigation surveys, fishery surveys,
22 surveys about the impact of the Asian carp in Lake
23 Michigan, for example, the USGS is taking that on on
24 our behalf. And any other data or information that

1 other stakeholders are developing. So, for example, the
2 Great Lakes Commission is one of the agencies, and one
3 of the stakeholders, that is doing some study in this
4 regard. Whatever information that they can provide to
5 us, that meets the quality standards that we're
6 required under law to use it, then we will be able to
7 use that and that potentially could accelerate our
8 study and short circuit some of our data inquiry
9 gathering that we must do. And again, I really
10 encourage you, the public, to help give us that kind of
11 information that allows us to move forward. That's
12 really what we need more than anything. So how can you
13 help? Well, just what I just said. These are just
14 some examples, some of the larger examples of the kinds
15 of inputs, the kinds of data that various stakeholders
16 could give us to help accelerate the information
17 gathering phase and provide us the level of detail that
18 we need. Now, what is likely to happen is in almost
19 every instance, we'll get some amount of data that will
20 generate further questions or further study information
21 that we require and then we would coordinate and
22 collaborate with the appropriate experts, whether it's
23 located in the state or whether it's a functional
24 information capability that a particular agency has, to

1 further elaborate that information and get it to the
2 level of quality that we need in order to make informed
3 judgments. So let me wrap it up here. We need you to
4 stay in touch and to stay involved. These are the
5 scoping meetings that we currently have planned. Based
6 on input from the public, we may add a couple of
7 additional scoping meetings. But this is the first one.
8 And we look forward to engaging you and other members
9 of the public throughout the United States or the north
10 central United States primarily as we go along.

11 And if you are into modern technology, like
12 almost everybody is today, we are on the web, we have
13 social media, both Facebook and Twitter that will allow
14 you to stay involved and you can visit those sites and
15 get updated information and it also provides an
16 opportunity for you to make recommendations and even
17 more important, provide us the information that can
18 accelerate the study process. Really appreciate your
19 time and your willingness to come here today. And we
20 look forward to your comments and even more importantly
21 we look forward to your questions. So thanks, Kevin.

22 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Thank you, sir. That
23 concludes the first portion of this evening's meeting.
24 Before beginning part two, I want to note that the

1 study website, as you see here, is a very good source
2 of study information. Interested persons can subscribe
3 to the study's e-mail list through that project
4 website. The Corps will use the GLMRIS e-mail list to
5 distribute updates on such things as documents that
6 have been added to the website, any opportunities that
7 you have for public involvement, any other news or
8 events that are happening related. The GLMRIS project
9 website can be found on that brochure, also on the
10 small study card that was handed out at the table I've
11 got one here. This little card has a little bit of
12 that information on it. Also has the social media
13 contacts on it as well, so the Facebook and Twitter
14 information is on this business card as well.

15 Now we are going to start moving into the
16 oral comment period of the meeting. Those who
17 indicated on their form, the yellow form, the one name
18 that I've got here now, have already preregistered to
19 give us their comments and I thank you for that. We
20 would like to do is ask anyone who like to make a
21 comment to make a brief formal statement or ask
22 questions and give everybody here an opportunity to do
23 so. If you want to ask a question, feel free. Along
24 with your comments we just ask that you manage time in

1 the best interests of everybody here so that we can
2 hear your comment, ask your question and allow for a
3 response for that. We will attempt to answer any
4 questions that are answerable. Any statements that you
5 make will just be noted and part of the formal comment
6 period documentation. And I also want to note that all
7 forms of comments received, whether you make it in
8 front of the audience here or put it on the website or
9 print it out and have it on our comment form, are
10 weighted equally during the scoping period. Anybody who
11 was here earlier saw that we had a little formal gizmo
12 that I put up on the screen that goes from green, to
13 yellow , to red. And that can be a very useful tool if
14 we've got a very full house and are worried about time
15 constraints and treating everybody equally and fair. It
16 wasn't really the most helpful this afternoon. I
17 forgot to turn it on once, and also we don't have that
18 many people here lining up to talk. With the fact that
19 I've only got one name here, we're not going to use
20 that if that's okay. If anybody has a problem with it,
21 can I have a show of hands that we don't use that. I
22 don't want anybody to feel cheated if I forced you to
23 use it this afternoon and now you feel I've stifled
24 you. But I would elect that we can stay a little more

1 informal. Allow you to make the comments that you've
2 had and then also after each comment, I'm going to look
3 towards the panel here and see if they have any
4 information that they would like to interject to keep
5 the conversation and the dialogue as informational and
6 educational for all. So if that's okay, I would like
7 to propose those changes and then move into the second
8 part. I would like to mention first that we have a
9 stenographer here. She will be recording any of the
10 comments or questions that you make to the audience at
11 large. We do ask that you take a microphone, we've got
12 these set up as a green and a red microphone. Again,
13 given the fact that the crowd is so small I'm not going
14 to worry about which microphone you go to. Go to the
15 one that is either your favorite color or the closest
16 to you would be just fine, I think. When you do come up
17 to the microphone, I would ask that you make sure it's
18 adjusted roughly approximately to the right height. We
19 can help with that as well. Speak clearly and
20 slowly into it. And then when you are coming up we ask
21 that you give your name, any organization or
22 affiliation that you represent and then if possible or
23 if you remember, if you would give us your Zip code
24 that would help us for our statistical tracking, that

1 would be great. So that's kind of my rules and
2 procedures for how we are going to start this. Anybody
3 that's preregistered and wants to come up to the
4 microphone can do so. And then also I've got another
5 person that has indicated here, Mr. Mueller, if you are
6 interested in coming to the microphone at any time
7 during this period is just fine. So anybody who would
8 like to get up, either microphone is wide open, now is
9 the time. I thank you for being the first person. If
10 you wouldn't mind just stating your name and if you
11 didn't register, just make sure, if it's a tricky name,
12 maybe spell it for us too.

13 MS. LYNN MUENCH: Well, I'm just wondering if
14 you have my name wrong, it's Muench, Muench, first name
15 is Lynn, the American Waterways Operators.

16 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: That's not the name we have
17 here, but maybe it's from earlier. I've got it here,
18 thank you.

19 MS. LYNN MUENCH: Good afternoon, gentleman
20 thank you very much. This is a very informative
21 presentation. I think it will help us really format
22 our comments. So I'm just going to do a couple big
23 bullet points that I think need to be addressed. One,
24 with the public hearings, I note that there is nothing

1 in New Orleans and Houston, which is a big deal for my
2 membership, that move a lot of products from Houston
3 and New Orleans up here. Vicksburg, I love Vicksburg as
4 much as the rest of the world, but it's very difficult
5 to get to, even from New Orleans. Unless you have a
6 private plane it's at least a 2-hour drive after you
7 land. So if you can move it to New Orleans or Houston,
8 that would be helpful. I would suggest that we really
9 need a comprehensive economic study on what would
10 happen if you did curtail navigation on the Chicago
11 area waterways. And I think this needs to definitely
12 include impacts of air emission increases and what kind
13 of costs that would bring too, but also the cost of
14 increased fatalities if you moved things to road or
15 railroad and including, if you have increased traffic,
16 how many more cars are sitting there emitting
17 emissions, not just the bulk commodities are moving.
18 One of the things I find interesting is that the
19 Chicago area waterways is a separate focus area, which
20 I understand to some extent, but I believe it was
21 actually one of you gentlemen at the front of the room
22 who noted that at this point, the Chicago Area Waterway
23 System is really the Fort Knox of any of the places
24 where invasive species may move from one basin to the

1 other. And so I think at this point we really need to
2 look at what you guys have done right to alleviate that
3 issue, and focus in on some of the other pathways that
4 are out there. I think the study, and I think I heard
5 this pretty loud and clear, General, both times I
6 listened to your presentation, but I would stress that
7 based on what Congress directed you to do, that this
8 really needs to be focused on all pathways and all
9 invasive species, including plants, animals, bacteria,
10 viruses, et cetera. And I don't think, we keep going
11 back to the Asian carp, I know that seems to be a very
12 sexy issue right now, but it's definitely not the only
13 issue and anybody that has been working in the
14 waterways for a long time knows that. I know that
15 you've talked about feedback from stakeholders,
16 appreciate that. I'm just hoping that there is really
17 a regular routine way for us to focus in on where you
18 are with the study, what's going on, make sure that the
19 study hasn't focused too narrowly or too widely or just
20 plain gone off the tracks. And I also think that there
21 is an opportunity here, really to start looking at some
22 of the science, and maybe we can't do this with all the
23 species, but with certain types of species, whether
24 there is really a threat of them moving from one

1 ecosystem to another and thriving, surviving in those
2 locations. I think if you have one Asian carp in the
3 Great Lakes that never reproduces, that is not a
4 problem. If you have two and they start reproducing,
5 that's a problem. So what is that number, can they
6 reproduce, can things keep going on. But thank you very
7 much, gentlemen. I really appreciate the information
8 you gave us and I'm actually looking forward to writing
9 these comments.

10 GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: Lynn, thanks. I really
11 appreciate you coming here. I take your point about a
12 public hearing in the southern reaches of the waterway
13 system and we'll take a look at that. On the economic
14 study analysis, yes, NEPA will drive us to address
15 those kinds of issues, because we are required, under
16 NEPA, to have clear understanding of impacts. Your
17 point on the CAWS that's the first time I've heard that
18 made. While I understand the point, my reaction is
19 that because it's the only continuously open waterway
20 that that still needs to be the primary focus. However,
21 as we gain clarity on the effectiveness of the
22 barriers, against all species of aquatic nuisance
23 species, then that could change some of the way we
24 address the study process. My fundamental bottom line,

1 though, is that's the main avenue of attack for enemy
2 forces, if I could use a military analogy. And that
3 while that's the main avenue of attack, we still have
4 to mind our flanks, so we are not out flanked by the
5 enemy along the other pathways. Vince, do you have any
6 comments?

7 COLONEL VINCE QUARELS: Just one other thing
8 you mentioned and that is we do want to have true
9 outreach. We've got a lot of media tools, but as
10 you've stated, it's good to meet every so often. So
11 we're looking at, what General Peabody mentioned, the
12 executive steering committees. How frequently do they
13 meet, quarterly. We want to pick an opportunity to
14 make sure we're getting the updates out to you and
15 continue to get feedback. So we we will have a
16 mechanism and we will make sure that mechanism is
17 announced.

18 MS. LYNN MUENCH: Thank you very much.

19 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Excellent. Thank you so
20 much. Okay, next? Anybody else like to take an
21 opportunity to speak to the panel or the group at
22 large? I've got a hand in the back and then we'll take
23 you next. Go ahead. Is it Mr. Muller?

24 MR. MAX MULLER: That's right, yes. Hello, my

1 name is Max Muller, I'm the director of Environment
2 Illinois, we are a statewide environmental advocacy
3 group. We are also part of a federation state based
4 environmental advocacy group it's called Environment
5 America. Affiliates in this federation are present in
6 a number of Great Lakes states, I think 7 of them at
7 last count, all but Indiana. I want to thank you for
8 the robust public process that's on display here. I
9 think it is a real model for providing information and
10 providing public participation and I think that's
11 great. Environment Illinois has, for a long time, on
12 behalf of our membership, been following the issue of
13 Asian carp and other invasive species in the Great
14 Lakes. And our primary concern, that I would like to
15 provide some feedback on, related to the GLMRIS study,
16 is the sheer amount of time it's going to take before
17 actionable recommendations are made in the Chicago
18 area. I'm primarily concerned with the urgency of the
19 Chicago area. And if recommendations don't become
20 available for half a decade, we view that as half a
21 decade at which the health of the Great Lakes are at
22 risk when they don't need to be. And so most of my
23 comments stem from that concern, that 2015 is just too
24 long to wait for actionable recommendations. One of our

1 concerns has been raised here today, which is the issue
2 of preventing invasive species versus reducing risk. My
3 concern with reducing risk and interpreting the
4 Congressional directive to the Army Corps to prevent
5 invasive species transfer as reduce the risk of
6 invasive species transfer is it seems to lead us down a
7 path of spending lots of time and resources studying
8 risk reduction measures that can never add up to
9 complete prevention. Items such as, I don't remember
10 how they were described in the project management -- or
11 the project management document that was published in
12 November, but things like international treaties or
13 taxing or incentives to over harvest Asian carp. Those
14 may indeed reduce the risk, but it is difficult to
15 imagine how they can amount to complete prevention. And
16 I believe that the effort to study these, do
17 Environmental Impact Assessments, study the
18 alternatives, it's just going to take too long. And I
19 would encourage this project to focus on -- to put a
20 priority on focusing on steps that do amount to
21 complete prevention, which I would interpret as being
22 separation. And I would encourage this project to
23 attempt, if at all possible, to release an interim
24 recommendation for the Chicago area regarding

1 separation within the next 18 months. And my last
2 comment is just two other things, another suggestion on
3 how time could be saved, right now the Great Lakes
4 Commission and the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaways
5 Initiative are doing a fairly robust economic analysis
6 of options for how to separate the Mississippi River
7 from the Great Lakes. They are looking at how
8 different options for achieving separation would affect
9 transportation and wastewater management. My
10 understanding is that that project is being designed
11 according to protocol that will allow it to plug
12 directly into the GLMRIS study. And I hope that's
13 true, and I hope you avail yourselves of them. And I
14 would encourage you to use as much of that existing
15 data or results from studies that have already been
16 completed or are in process now to reduce the burden on
17 the Army Corps under the GLMRIS process in order to
18 speed up a recommendation for the Chicago Area
19 Waterway System. And then lastly, I would just like to echo
20 the previous speaker regarding public process. It's
21 very important, in particular, I just want to suggest
22 that you make the technical staff, the technical
23 personnel working on this project available to the
24 public periodically, maybe once or twice a year for

1 direct question and answer with advocates and concerned
2 members of the public. And that's it, I really
3 appreciate this process. Thank you very much.

4 GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: Mr. Muller, thank you.
5 Those are all very good comments. In fact all the
6 comments we've had today are very good in my judgment.
7 Let me comment on a couple and then I think I'll ask
8 either Sue Davis or John Zimmerman to comment,
9 perhaps. First of all, thanks for the comment on the
10 model public process, I appreciate that. And we'll try
11 to keep it that way. And we acknowledge the need to --
12 that this can't be one point in time and then you're
13 done it's got to be continued engagement. On the timing
14 of the study, the reality is that we are bound by
15 several constraints, but they are also enablers. And
16 those are effectively the laws and the policies that
17 derive from our laws that guide our study process. In
18 addition to the funding, which I've already mentioned,
19 the Corps, over the last 4 decades, has progressively
20 developed an increasingly -- increasing number of
21 requirements to execute studies. And all of these
22 requirements, individually, derive from one experience
23 or another that resulted in some kind of an outcome
24 that is unsatisfactory to the public, to the nation. We

1 are at a point now where we have encumbered ourselves
2 with the study process that is recognized by all to be
3 very bureaucratic, to be very cumbersome and to be very
4 sequential in its nature. The senior leadership in our
5 civil works at the headquarters of the Corps, has
6 embarked, as a result of this, under the direction of
7 General Van Atwerp, our chief of engineers, on a
8 process to try to get our study process down to an 18-
9 month from what is currently, we go through the
10 reconnaissance and the feasibility study phase. The
11 best case scenario is a 4 to 5-year process. So what
12 we have portrayed here today is kind of a best case
13 scenario. Now, how that effort to reduce our study
14 timeline will inform this particular study remains to
15 be seen. And until we come up with recommendations and
16 those are either changed in law and/or policy, I can't
17 foresee a change in the overall guiding principles that
18 inform us. Having said that, there are two things we
19 are trying to do to accelerate toward recommended
20 solutions. One of them is encourage active stakeholder
21 input, so -- and it's not just recommendations that we
22 need from stakeholders, we need real data, such as the
23 kind of GLC study that you mentioned that's going on.
24 And I don't have familiarity with the details of that

1 study, but the more that the stakeholders understand
2 what our quality requirements are for our information
3 and data, the more likely we can use that information
4 and accelerate the study process.

5 I must comment that it's very possible that
6 some of this data will generate additional study
7 requirements, because it will go down paths of more
8 knowledge development that we need to do. Having said
9 that, my last comment related to the time is that the
10 second thing we're trying to do, other than get data
11 from stakeholders, is cycle out products periodically
12 as information is matured and as options and
13 technologies become apparent that might be useful at
14 one point or another along the basin divide. Again, we
15 can't know for certain when any of these things will be
16 mature enough to execute, but those two strategies we
17 think -- we're not going to get to a final study
18 completion any faster, but we might get to interim
19 solutions that could help reduce the risk. And I also
20 take your point about prevention versus risks, let me
21 talk about that briefly. I think one of the things that
22 is explained to the public and one of the messages in
23 the last session certainly was that there is a sense
24 that we are substituting risk reduction for prevention

1 and that is not the case, that is not the case at all.
2 It is our intent to meet, to the degree possible, the
3 language that the Congress put into the bill, which is
4 prevent. And that language is synonomus with to stop,
5 to hinder, impede, those are three of the most common
6 synonyms that I've read. Now, stop means prevent it
7 from happening period. Hinder, impede are a little
8 less emphatic in their sense of meaning. However the
9 range of options and technologies, which are also words
10 that are in the specific authority, implies that there
11 is a range of expected options that the Congress wants
12 us to give to them so that they can consider and in our
13 -- in other authorities on our studies, we are directed
14 to apply a risk reduction. And all of the recent
15 experiences that we've had with such things as Katrina,
16 tells us that trying to achieve this perfect standard
17 of total prevention is something that we need to have a
18 little bit of humility about because as human beings,
19 there are natural events and they are very extreme,
20 granted, but there are natural events that could occur
21 that could overwhelm pretty much anything we could
22 produce. And I babbled on a little longer than I
23 thought I might, but John Zimmerman is there anything
24 you would like to add?

1 MR. JOHN ZIMMERMAN: No, sir, I think you
2 covered it well.

3 GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: I hope that helps, Max.
4 I appreciate the comments.

5 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Very good, thank you. Next?
6 Anybody else would like to make a statement for the
7 panel or the group at large? Yes, go ahead.

8 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Can I have you give us your
9 name.

10 MS. JAN BOUDART: Yes, my name is Jan Boudart.
11 It's B-o-u-d-a-r-t and I live in Rogers Park. I live
12 on the lake front and I've been interested in the Great
13 Lakes for probably about 40 years now, because I worked
14 for 8 years going out on the lake every month on a boat
15 and analyzing zooplankton. It was my job for quite a
16 long time and during that time I participated in an
17 organization called IAGLR and I don't know what
18 happened to IAGLR. It stand for the International
19 Great Lakes Research -- International Great Lakes
20 Research and so it was a research group that involved
21 both Canada and the United States. And we did
22 presentations at the university of -- at the State
23 University of New York and various things on Roquefort.
24 That happened to be the paper that I presented there.

1 So I guess what I'm -- the main thing that I
2 really want to say is that the original sin, which we
3 sort of laughingly call the original sin, was the
4 creation of wastewater and ship canal out of Chicago
5 that now is very important in shipping and also seems
6 to be where we are focusing on preventing invasive
7 species from coming in. And I think that the zebra and
8 coaga mussel and the lamprey, they all came from the
9 St. Lawrence Seaway, from my understanding, they didn't
10 come through the Mississippi channel. And they were --
11 they came through ballast water that was ejected from
12 ships that were in the shipping channel -- that were in
13 the Great Lakes and not the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.
14 And so it looks to me like if we are going to prevent
15 invasive species, that we need to have a very vigorous
16 effort, international effort between United States and
17 Canada. And I'm wondering what is the Canadian
18 equivalent to the Army Corps of Engineers and how is
19 Canada -- how are Canada and the United States
20 cooperating to prevent invasive species, but I know
21 this does not necessarily and probably does not at all
22 involve the Mississippi River Basin. I wanted to say
23 that focusing on the Asian carp seems to me to be a
24 good idea, because if we can prevent invasion of the

1 Asian carp into the Great Lakes Basin from the
2 Mississippi Basin, this will be an extremely good
3 lesson and it will also prevent future invasions. It's
4 a focus point to prevent species invasions. And it
5 won't be just preventing the Asian carp. It will work
6 for other species at other times. And so if it's a
7 sexy subject and people are interested in it and they
8 get to see all of these great videos with these fish
9 jumping all over the place and it's really exciting and
10 this is a publicity way of getting this problem before
11 the public, then I approve of it. And I wanted to make
12 a little comment about the difference between reducing
13 risk and prevention. We are already doing prevention,
14 with the electronic things and the fences that are
15 being put in. I think prevention is going on
16 immediately in various places and we are doing our best
17 to do prevention, but you cannot reduce risk to zero. I
18 made a comment on that this morning and it's not really
19 possible to reduce risk to absolutely zero. And I also
20 wanted to know how other agencies are going to help
21 with the shipping that is supposed to come through on
22 what I call the original sin, the wastewater and
23 shipping canal in Chicago. There has to be other
24 agencies that will deal with the economic fallout from

1 that. And I wondered how much the Army Corps of
2 Engineers is cooperating with other agencies and
3 working out what is going to happen economically to the
4 people whose livelihood is dependent on that shipping
5 canal. Because I think that there is very little
6 little doubt that that shipping canal has to be closed.
7 I participated in some webinars with the Great Lakes
8 United people. They are not here today, I think they
9 are mostly Canadians. I didn't know who they were when
10 I started doing this, but they were talking about
11 various uses for the St. Lawrence Seaway that they
12 didn't approve of and I also wanted to know how the
13 Army Corps of Engineers is participating in problems
14 that are involved in the St. Lawrence Seaway. The
15 particular problem that I got really interested in was
16 the movement of old nuclear plants through the St.
17 Lawrence Seaway so they can be shipped to Denmark and
18 melted down and then this metal used and not being
19 tracked, that the metal is radioactive and being mixed
20 with other metals and turned into consumer products and
21 this, to me, is a huge problem.

22 GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: There is a number of
23 issues, I'm only going to address 3 or 4 of them. In
24 terms of the effort with Canada, as we indicated in the

1 presentation, this study will focus on just this side
2 of the border. So if there is anything Canada wants to
3 do in the Great Lakes from their side of the border,
4 that's up to them. I don't know how big a problem that
5 is or whether it's a problem. The issue with the St.
6 Lawrence Seaway, we understand that issue, we're not
7 going to address that as part of the study, because
8 it's not what Congress told us to do. I'm aware of
9 efforts that the Coast Guard, specifically, is working
10 to review its regulations having to do with bilge water
11 and ballast water, decontamination before the water is
12 exchanged in the Great Lakes. But I'm not competent to
13 talk about the specifics of where that is. John, do
14 you have anything you want to add about Canada?

15 MR. JOHN ZIMMERMAN: Other than the fact that
16 we participate --

17 GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: This is Mr. John
18 Zimmerman, our chief of planning from Great Lakes Ohio
19 River Division. John.

20 MR. JOHN ZIMMERMAN: All I wanted to add is
21 that we do have an active cooperation with the country
22 of Canada through the IJC, I believe, and through a
23 number of other vehicles. So we have constant ongoing
24 coordination with them. You are correct that this

1 particular study excludes them. However, that does not
2 prevent us from sharing information and providing
3 report results and the like with them.

4 GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: In fact, the Consult
5 General in Chicago from Canada often attends these
6 types of meetings that we have. So you know, the Corps
7 of Engineers does engage Canada, formally, through the
8 International Joint Commission because the Corps of
9 Engineers on the Great Lakes, I'm the nominal co-chair
10 for all three boards of control on the Great Lakes. And
11 because of my schedule, I usually can only make one or
12 two a year, so Colonel Quarels or other Corps of
13 Engineer representatives often sit on boards with me.
14 And when we go to the meetings we have been intensively
15 queried about the Asian carp issue and the GLMRIS
16 issue. So they tend to gain information on that. They
17 have sent various communications and correspondence to
18 senior members on the administration on this issue over
19 time. When it comes to the progression of migratory
20 species via the fish barrier, I'm gratified to hear
21 that you have relative confidence that that's working,
22 at least in regard to Asian carp. As an engineer, I
23 would agree with your comment that it's difficult to
24 reduce risk to zero. I think the issue for decision

1 makers is how close to zero do you want to get. And in
2 general our experience tells us that the closer you get
3 to zero risk reduction, the more expensive the solution
4 set and the more complicated and complex and
5 challenging in terms of implementation of solutions
6 that tends to be. I think those are the main response
7 points that I would like to make to your comments,
8 ma'am. And we appreciate what you have to say. Vince,
9 do you have anything you want to add?

10 COLONEL VINCE QUARELS: You did mention,
11 though, as we do our studies of alternatives, I just
12 want to emphasize again, because this makes GLMRIS a
13 little bit different from other studies that are
14 ongoing. We must consider, fully consider impacts, so
15 we would, then, look at impacts of closing the canal if
16 that was an alternative and so, Sue --

17 MS. SUE DAVIS: That's part of the data
18 analysis and process we are undergoing now is we are
19 looking at all of the resources and all of the uses of
20 the waterway. So we are considering all of the
21 navigation, passenger vessel, recreation, commercial,
22 cargo navigation, water users that utilize the canal
23 for discharge or for cooling water, other purposes. And
24 all of the other uses that have the canal, those will

1 be assessed as we look at alternatives. So we will be
2 able to fully identify the benefits associated with an
3 alternative as well as the impact that implementing
4 that alternative would have. As you indicated, if we
5 closed the canal there will be impacts to the
6 navigation industry. So that's part of our study
7 process to fully assess those impacts.

8 COLONEL VINCE QUARELS: And that's why the
9 time is as it is. If you look at, as General Peabody
10 says, it's X-amount of time to do the engineering and
11 there is additional time needed to do the technical and
12 policy compliance that we must do.

13 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Very good, thank you.
14 Anybody else wishing to make a statement to the panel
15 or the group tonight? Time now is about 5:18. And if
16 anybody is interested in making a presentation. I
17 would ask this is your second chance, last chance and
18 then I will close the open comment period. Anything
19 from the panel here? Would you like to make any
20 additional comments or statements?

21 GENERAL JOHN PEABODY: I would just like to
22 conclude by saying we really appreciate you being here.
23 It's very important that those members of the public
24 that are interested understand this issue, understand

1 that the Corps is not acting independently, that we act
2 under the law, within our authorities and that you can
3 help accelerate this study in the manners that we've
4 addressed. As you raise concerns about how we're
5 carrying out the study, we take those concerns very
6 seriously, we will evaluate those concerns and we will
7 get back to you, at least informally, through changes
8 in the Project Management Plan and then in a more
9 formal communication at the various engagements that we
10 plan to have in the future as we go forward. But
11 thanks everybody for attending this evening and we'll
12 hang around as long as those of you are here that want
13 to talk to us informally to talk to you. So appreciate
14 it. Thanks, Kevin.

15 MR. KEVIN BLUHM: Very good. Thank you, sir.
16 And again, from my side of the table here, thank you
17 for all your statements, you've been a very polite and
18 courteous crowd. Let me remind you, that if you have
19 any prepared statements that you brought with you
20 tonight, any of those documents that you would like to
21 turn in, you can do so by handing them to any of us in
22 the front here or any of the Corps of Engineer staff
23 that has a red lanyard on. And you can also leave them
24 at the front table, the registration table on your way

1 out. Keep in mind, because this is a formal comment
2 period, anything that you would like to submit needs to
3 be either handed in or postmarked by the closing date,
4 which is March the 31st, 2011, so keep that in mind. We
5 do have quite a bit of time because this is the first
6 set of meetings, but that time will creep up on us.
7 And the address for that is found on the white comment
8 sheet. Also lastly, saying that this comment sheet
9 here does have the information, as well as our website,
10 that will help you make additional comments if you
11 like. The computers in the back of the room are set up
12 and connected to the website right now. If you want to
13 take some time and peruse that, you can. If you want to
14 use that to add comments tonight you can as well. You
15 can leave any comments on this piece of paper and then
16 leave it. There is a comment box just around the
17 corner as you exit here and then also by the set of
18 elevators you can leave them with us. It does not have
19 to be filled out tonight you can take it with you. And
20 again, as long as it is postmarked by the 31st of March
21 it will be included as part of our comments.

22 Lastly, I would like to mention there is a
23 fairly thick stack of packet that we gave you with a
24 lot of different colored information. If any of that

1 information is done using -- done serving its purpose
2 for you and you would like to recycle it, please leave
3 that either on the chairs here or at the front table on
4 the way out and we would be glad to recycle that for
5 our upcoming meetings. With that being said, the time
6 now is 5:21. I would like to thank you all for your
7 patience and your time tonight and we will stick around
8 as long as it takes to answer any and all questions
9 that you have for us. Thank you much. That concludes
10 the meeting.

11 (Whereupon, at 5:22 p.m., the public
12 meeting was concluded.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC

2 I, BARBARA A. PERKOVICH, the officer before whom
3 the foregoing meeting was taken, do hereby certify that
4 the meeting of was taken by me in stenotype and
5 thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction;
6 that said transcript is a true record of the
7 proceedings had at said meeting; that I am neither
8 counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the
9 parties to the action in which this meeting was taken;
10 and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of
11 any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto,
12 nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome
13 of this action.

14

15

16

BARBARA A. PERKOVICH, CSR
Notary Public in and for
Cook County, Illinois

17

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20 My commission expires: November 23, 2014

21 CSR No.: 084-004070

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