## NEPA Public Scoping Meeting

Please note this document is a compilation of two transcripts, the afternoon session followed by the evening session of the NEPA Public Scoping meeting. Please use the Acrobat "Find" tool to perform key word searches within this document.

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Great Lakes and Mississippi :							
River Interbasin Study :							
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Ypsilanti, Michigan							
Tuesday, March 8, 2011							
Proceedings had in the above-entitled							
matter before U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Panel							
Members, at the Ann Arbor Marriott Ypsilanti at Eagle							
Crest, 1275 South Huron Street, Ypsilanti, Michigan,							
at 2:00 p.m.							

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   PANEL MEMBERS:
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   John Goss -
                    Asian Carp Director, White House
 5
                      Council on Environmental Quality
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   Major General John Peabody - Commander Great Lakes
                      and Ohio River Division, U.S. Army
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 9
                      Corps of Engineers
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11
   Dave Wethington - CAWS Project Manager
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   Michael Saffran - Other Pathways Project Manager
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   Kevin Bluhm - Moderator
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4 1 PROCEEDINGS Good afternoon, folks. 2 MR. BLUHM: My name is Kevin Bluhm. I'm the moderator for today's meeting. 3 4 I come from the St. Paul district Corps of Engineers' office. And I'm very glad that you all made it with us 5 today. 7 As you all know, this is a reschedule from a little while ago when we had a much, much snowier 8 forecast, and today's weather is definitely much 10 better. So appreciate you bearing with us for the 11 reschedule and working with us so that we could fit it 12 back into our timeline. 13 This now is our last meeting for the scoping This will be the last meeting for the Great 14 15 Lakes and Upper Mississippi Interbasin Study, GLMRIS, 16 NEPA Public Scoping meeting.

- 17 And before we begin, I just want to let you
- 18 know if you're not familiar with the facilities here,
- 19 just down the hallway basically to the very end are the
- 20 restrooms. If you need to take a call or use the
- 21 restrooms during our meeting, feel free to excuse
- 22 yourself at any time.
- 23 Also, in the lobby here, we have registration
- 24 tables. If you haven't had a chance to register yet, I
- would ask that you do that as it will give you a nice 25

- 1 packet of material that we'll be referencing during the
- 2 meeting, and then also give you some materials you can
- 3 take with you. If you don't have the packet on you
- 4 right now but would like to get one, if you just want
- 5 to raise your hand, we'll make sure that one of our
- 6 staff grabs a packet and brings it in. So if you don't
- 7 have one, just raise your hand, and we can make sure
- 8 you get one.
- 9 Okay. I'll go through the packet now. In
- 10 that packet, we've got a green half-sheet paper here.
- 11 This shows the actual agenda for the meeting today and
- 12 this evening. And this will help you go through and
- 13 keep on track with what we're going to be talking
- 14 about.
- The quarter-size sheet and then the little
- 16 blue booklet in here are overview materials. They'll
- 17 tell you a little bit about the background for the
- 18 actual GLMRIS work.
- 19 The white half sheet of paper, this is the
- 20 one that's the most important for our scoping process.
- 21 This piece here is designed to give you a chance to
- 22 make any comments on the inside or on the back side of
- 23 it for us as we enter into the comment period. Keeping
- 24 in mind that any comments that you have for us you can
- 25 drop with us today or make sure that we get them by

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- 1 March 31st, as that is the closing for the NEPA public
- 2 scoping.
- 3 Also, the lavender or purple sheet is an FAQ,
- 4 frequently asked question, sheet. This will help give
- 5 some baseline information for things that we hear most
- 6 often.
- 7 The salmon-colored sheet here talks about the
- 8 other efforts that are going on. And you'll hear more
- 9 about that in the presentation.
- The yellow sheet here is a form that we ask
- 11 that you fill out if you're going to make any
- 12 statements to the panel during the open question-and-
- 13 answer session. If you haven't filled this out and
- 14 would like to make a statement, I would ask that you
- 15 fill out the yellow sheet, and then take that to the
- 16 table outside.
- 17 The blue sheet is designed to help us if you
- 18 have any pieces of information you would like to turn
- 19 into us as part of our record. This will help make
- 20 sure that we have properly identified any of the
- 21 materials that you would turn in for us.
- 22 And then, lastly, the booklet that shows all
- 23 our slides this set will be the slides that the Corps
- 24 of Engineers team will be using to talk about the
- 25 GLMRIS efforts and is yours to keep.

1 If you need any more copies of these, we have more copies available. And if you are done at the end of the meeting, you can recycle them with us. 3 would be very much appreciated. Okay. Also, if you registered to speak 5 online on our project Website and have not checked in, there's a table just outside the door here that has a label on it that says, "Register to Speak." 8 Make sure that you have checked in. That will help us get you in 10 the queue for when we start doing the actual comments 11 and so that we don't miss you. 12 All right. Our GLMRIS team has organized 13 this public meeting to accomplish two goals. Our first is to present to you information about the study 14 15 itself. And then the second is to solicit your comments 16 on significant issues that should be included in the 17 GLMRIS efforts and any insignificant issues that can be 18 eliminated from further study. 19 The Corps is hosting, too, all public 20 meetings throughout the study area in an effort to 21 provide opportunities for those interested in the study 22 to learn more about the study and then, also, the most 23 important part, to provide your oral comments to us. 24 Please note, again, the NEPA scoping public 25 period does close on March the 31st. So at the end of

- 1 the month, that will be closing.
- 2 As indicated on the agenda, this public
- 3 meeting is organized in two sessions. An identical
- 4 presentation will be given at the beginning of each
- 5 session followed by the oral comment period. The first
- 6 public comment period will end at approximately 5 p.m.,
- 7 and then the second session will begin at 5:30 sharp.
- 8 There will be a 30-minute presen -- or 30-
- 9 minute break between the two sessions. Our staff will
- 10 be available during that break if you have any
- 11 questions that you would like to talk. And the second
- 12 comment period will end approximately around 7 p.m.
- 13 If you do have any questions or concerns
- 14 during that break time, the staff will be either in the
- 15 front of the room here or out in the lobby. Just
- 16 please note that you are welcome to talk to any of the
- 17 panelists or staff members once the meeting has
- 18 adjourned, but any comments that are not presented
- 19 during the official oral comment period or submitted as
- 20 a written comment will not be part of our NEPA
- 21 documentation. So if what you have to say is important
- 22 and you want to make sure that that's part of our
- 23 documentation, I would encourage you to either use the
- 24 white form or make sure that you talk to the assembly
- 25 as a whole rather than just offline.

- Okay. With that now I'm going to introduce
- 2 the panel members that you have up in front here. Right
- 3 adjacent to me Mr. John Goss. He is the Asian Carp
- 4 Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality.
- 5 Seated next to him Major General John
- 6 Peabody, Commander for the Great Lakes and Ohio River
- 7 Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- 8 Third on the table here, Mr. Dave Wethington.
- 9 He is the Corps of Engineers GLMRIS Project Manager.
- 10 And you'll hear from all these folks in just a little
- 11 bit.
- 12 And on the farther side of the table, Mr.
- 13 Mike Saffran. And he's the Other Pathways Project
- 14 Manager.
- And then, also, I just want to let everybody
- 16 know that we are sitting in the midst of the Detroit
- 17 District, and folks like myself and others from the
- 18 table here are from other district areas. So I want to
- 19 mention that we've got District Commander here Mr. Mike
- 20 -- where is he? There he is. I see him right there --
- 21 Derosier. And he's the Commander from the Detroit
- 22 District area. So thank you for allowing us to use
- 23 this facility. It's a very nice day for us and much
- 24 better than the first time. Thank you.
- 25 MR. DEROSIER: Thanks. Thanks a lot. It's

- 1 great to host everybody today. Appreciate you being
- 2 here.
- MR. BLUHM: Okay. Very good. Thank you.
- 4 Okay. And with that, I'm going to keep
- 5 things moving along. And we'll turn the meeting over
- 6 to Mr. Goss to begin the presentation on Asian carp.
- 7 Thank you.
- 8 MR. GOSS: Thanks a lot. Welcome everyone.
- 9 Thank you for taking the time to learn a little bit
- 10 more about the whole picture of what we're dealing with
- 11 with the Asian carp challenge and helping get this
- 12 discussion launched on a process. This is going to
- 13 take some time. And we'll talk about that. It's going
- 14 to take some time to develop all the options and all
- 15 the information.
- 16 What I would like to do just for a few
- 17 minutes is update you on where we are with Asian carp
- 18 control, and hopefully this will make you feel a little
- 19 better about where things are today.
- 20 The first thing that I want to say is the
- 21 Obama administration does have a strong commitment to
- 22 protect the Great Lakes. And a very comprehensive and
- 23 proactive strategy has been developed to stop Asian
- 24 carp from getting into the Great Lakes. We have strong
- 25 carp barriers that are up and running. We are

- 1 proactively addressing all the possible identified
- 2 pathways that are at risk for the advancement of Asian
- 3 carp. And we're working together. The federal
- 4 agencies and the states are working together to develop
- 5 a strong strategy that will protect the ecosystem of
- 6 the Great Lakes in the future.
- 7 Asian carp really are just the latest. We
- 8 know that we've dealt with significant other
- 9 challenges, but this is unique in that we are ahead of
- 10 the establishment of the species. We have an
- 11 opportunity to stop them, and we are very determined to
- 12 accomplish that in the near term.
- 13 The next thing that I want to give you is
- 14 just a little background. The most significant area of
- 15 focus for stopping Asian carp is in the south side
- 16 Chicago. And the map on the left -- I hope you can see
- 17 it from your distance -- shows how the water originally
- 18 flowed. And that the Chicago River that comes out
- 19 there in the middle at Navy Pier was a much shorter
- 20 stream. And the Calumet Rivers that come from the
- 21 Indiana side and go out on the south side of Chicago
- 22 were flowing into Lake Michigan.
- 23 About a hundred years ago problems developed
- 24 in Chicago with their water supply. They were pulling
- 25 their water out of the lake. They were putting all of

- 1 their waste in the lake. And they had a serious
- 2 disease problem. So to fix that the Corps of Engineers
- 3 did a fairly miraculous replumbing of Chicago and
- 4 developed the Chicago Ship Canal and the connections
- 5 over to the Calumet areas. So those now converge. And
- 6 they all drain to the Mississippi down the -- into the
- 7 Illinois River and into the Mississippi Drainage Basin.
- 8 I just wanted to make sure you understood that that was
- 9 a created body of water. It's not a natural stream.
- 10 Just a few more orientation things. Over on
- 11 the right is Lake Michigan. And those points where
- 12 each of the connecting tributaries connect to the lake
- 13 are significant areas that we're watching to make sure
- 14 that no carp are moving out into Lake Michigan.
- The electric barriers, the star in the middle
- 16 of the map, that is an area where we have some good
- 17 news. The third electric barrier is fully operational.
- 18 The Corps has gotten it completed, safety tested. It's
- 19 going to be fully functioning just in a couple of
- 20 weeks. And so we now have three fields of electricity
- 21 that are stopping all fish from moving through that
- 22 area.
- 23 Also, I want to point out that flooding is
- 24 something that is a big concern. And up in the Chicago
- 25 Lock, which is in the center of the map, that lock has

- 1 had to be opened recently for floodwater in downtown
- 2 Chicago to get out into Lake Michigan. So it's a
- 3 continuing challenge to deal with the stormwater, the
- 4 floodwater in this area.
- 5 And I'm from Indiana. I know that the Little
- 6 Calumet has recently overflowed a number of times, and
- 7 we have several hundred million dollars of Corps of
- 8 Engineers projects involved in trying to reduce the
- 9 flooding problems on the Indiana side in the last 10
- 10 years.
- 11 What are we doing about this? We have a
- 12 strategy. It was put together about a year ago with
- 13 the federal agencies coming together and pulling their
- 14 resources. And since then, we've added a number of
- 15 projects. There's a Coordinating Committee. At the
- 16 top there lists agency people that are the primary
- 17 people who are directly in charge, and then each of the
- 18 agencies and the state Departments of Natural Resources
- 19 that we've invited to join in the Regional Coordinating
- 20 Committee to work on the policy for the future on each
- 21 of these projects.
- 22 The other thing that I want to mention that
- 23 is a recent success -- and Mike Saffran will talk in
- 24 more detail, but I just want to point it out quickly.
- 25 In Indiana last summer found a connection between the

waters of the Wabash River and the waters of the Maumee 1 that could be a pathway for carp to get to Lake Erie from the Wabash River. We have a lot of carp in 3 northern Indiana established and breeding close to Fort Wayne, Indiana already. So Mike will talk about the 5 details, but I just wanted you to have that in mind as a key accomplishment this fall. 7 8 9 10 11 And on top of that on the Des Plaines River 12 back on the previous map which runs parallel to the 13 ship canal, there's a fish barrier fence that's 13 miles long to stop the same problem. And flood waters 14 15 in the Des Plaines we were concerned that some carp 16 might get around the barrier and get out to Lake 17 Michigan. That fence was completed, again, under 18 budget and ahead of schedule by the Corps of Engineers. 19 And sometimes everybody thinks they move slowly, but 20 I'm telling you they can move fast when they need to. 21 Those are two great accomplishments. 22 Coming up for this next year we have outlined 23 a plan to continue to monitor the area between the 24 electric barrier and Lake Michigan very extensively. 25 That will include continuing electro-fishing and

- 1 netting. This past year over 40,000 fish were netted
- 2 and identified by very qualified biologists working in
- 3 that area from all the agencies involved. And we found
- 4 one live Asian carp.
- 5 So we do not have an established population
- 6 there in the area that we're concerned with. We are
- 7 continuing to get some eDNA traces, and out of 1200
- 8 water samples taken in October through December there
- 9 were 12 positives, but they were not concentrated in
- 10 any one area. There was one here, one there, and one
- 11 somewhere else. And when we went back to that area
- 12 immediately with electro-fishing and netting, could not
- 13 locate any population of carp. And did another eDNA
- 14 test in that area the following week or two, did not
- 15 find eDNA repeated in those areas.
- So it is the technique that we have to work
- 17 with at this point. EDNA is good for early detection,
- 18 but it doesn't really tell us a whole lot about how
- 19 many fish it really is. We need a lot more research on
- 20 that to continue to figure out how else we can use it.
- 21 I want to talk a little bit about the
- 22 research projects that are funded for the most part in
- 23 the strategy. Some of these are on hold until we get a
- 24 continuing resolution adopted -- or excuse me. Until we
- 25 get a budget adopted, because new projects couldn't be

- 1 started in the first six months of this federal year
- 2 with the budget situation.
- 3 But just a few highlights. Looking at toxins
- 4 hopefully something specific to Asian carp that we can
- 5 use to go after the population in the rivers that are
- 6 certainly a huge problem down state for many of our
- 7 states. Also looking at seismic technologies that
- 8 might disrupt spawning areas, might be used to herd
- 9 fish or actually eradicate Asian carp. Looking at risk
- 10 assessments on habitat and food sources, trying to
- 11 determine if they move to other areas what are the
- 12 areas where they're likely to go, and can we be ready
- 13 to identify them if they should move. And also
- 14 pheromones attractants that might draw them into an
- 15 area where they could be trapped, netted and removed.
- 16 And hopefully something that's a little
- 17 quicker. The eDNA test takes a couple of weeks to run
- 18 through the lab and get the results, and by then --
- 19 Asian carp are pretty fast swimmers. And they're
- 20 usually in some other area by the time you've had a
- 21 check on one. So looking at something that's a quicker
- 22 turnaround.
- The last thing I would like to leave with you
- 24 is that we do recognize the potential threat of Asian
- 25 carp as one of the biggest challenges to the Great

- 1 Lakes ever. The Obama administration does have a
- 2 continuing strong commitment financially and talent
- 3 wise with some of the best people in the federal
- 4 agencies to work on this problem.
- 5 The barriers are running effectively, and we
- 6 are monitoring very vigilantly that area between the
- 7 electric barriers in Lake Michigan. And we're going to
- 8 continue to work on the strategy for all the options
- 9 for long-term control of carp.
- 10 So I just wanted to give you the background
- 11 that there are lots of things going on besides just a
- 12 study of the Chicago Area Waterway and the other
- 13 pathways. This was just a little more background.
- 14 Hopefully that's been helpful.
- 15 And we look forward to your questions and
- 16 comments later today. I'll be here all day and look
- 17 forward to talking to you. So thanks a lot.
- 18 Why don't you introduce yourself.
- 19 GENERAL PEABODY: Okay. Thanks, John.
- 20 Well, good afternoon, everybody. And we
- 21 really appreciate you coming here. And, again,
- 22 apologize that we had to postpone our last scheduled
- 23 event. But contrary to what some people might say, the
- 24 Corps of Engineers cannot control the weather. And we
- 25 are subject to that as we are the many other natural

- 1 laws that are outside of our control.
- I would like to just, if I could, John,
- 3 correct one point. And that is the Chicago Area
- 4 Waterway System was developed by what's today the
- 5 Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. I would like
- 6 to take credit for that great engineering feat as a
- 7 great engineering feat, although obviously the
- 8 consequences of it are being borne out today, and those
- 9 are not all positive consequences, but we didn't
- 10 actually have an involvement in building it to my
- 11 knowledge. We did have an involvement with the locks
- 12 and dams that are existing there today.
- I do want to make one other point before I
- 14 get into -- emphasize a point that Mr. Goss made and
- 15 that is really important to understand before we get
- 16 into the discussion of the GLMRIS study, the Great
- 17 Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study. And that
- 18 point is that all of the efforts that we are taking
- 19 collectively together we have very high confidence in
- 20 that they are being effective in containing the Asian
- 21 carp below the fish barrier.
- That is a fundamental point that seems not to
- 23 be either understood or if it is understood, perhaps
- 24 not accepted. We'll be happy to take questions in that
- 25 regard and talk to you about the specific evidence of

- 1 why that is so. Much of it is publicly available on
- 2 our Websites. And, in fact, we will publish a report
- 3 this month that details all of the laboratory research
- 4 that we've done associated with the operating
- 5 parameters of the barrier and why we believe the
- 6 operating parameters that we're currently executing are
- 7 optimal.
- 8 We are open to changing those operating
- 9 parameters as scientific evidence indicates that we
- 10 should do so, but right now that evidence indicates
- 11 that the operating parameters are, as Mr. Goss said,
- 12 effective.
- Okay. So we're here today to talk about the
- 14 Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study.
- 15 I'll make a few comments, go through a few slides, and
- 16 then we'll turn it over to two of our study experts,
- 17 Mr. Dave Wethington and Mr. Mike Saffran.
- I would also like to highlight Mr. Gary
- 19 O'Keefe in the back of the room. Gary, if you could
- 20 raise your hand. Mr. O'Keefe is currently the Deputy
- 21 Program Manager for the Detroit District, but has
- 22 recently accepted a position as the Program Manager for
- 23 this study.
- Now, Mr. Wethington -- this will allow Dave
- 25 to do what he does best, and that is manage the Chicago

- 1 Area Waterway System focus. That remains the primary
- 2 focus of this study, because it is the only
- 3 continuously open aquatic pathway between the Great
- 4 Lakes and the Mississippi River watershed. And then
- 5 Mike will talk about the other pathways.
- 6 Gary will be less involved in directing the
- 7 details, although he will be involved in some of that
- 8 than he will be in outreach and in coordinating efforts
- 9 by other agencies. And this will allow, again, our
- 10 study team that is currently composed to focus on the
- 11 actual study process. And we hope this will help
- 12 improve our ability to get to solutions at the best
- 13 possible pace.
- Go ahead and go to the next slide, please. Or
- 15 do I have that? Great.
- 16 This has nothing to do with the study, but I
- 17 want to put it up here because I'm in this uniform for
- 18 a reason and it's symbolic. The reason is because
- 19 whether we agree with it or not the nation is at war in
- 20 far reaches of the world today. And the world is
- 21 changing around us as we've seen from all the recent
- 22 upheavals in Africa. The nation has our sons and our
- 23 daughters, our brothers, our sisters, our aunts and
- 24 uncles, our mothers and our fathers deployed primarily
- 25 in Afghanistan and Iraq, but in dozens of other

- 1 countries around the world going in harms way trying to
- 2 defend our freedom. And we in the Corps of Engineers
- 3 support them.
- 4 We in this division that I have
- 5 responsibility for have about 90 folks who are deployed
- 6 in primarily Afghanistan and Iraq today to support our
- 7 service members both in building infrastructure that
- 8 supports their ability to do their jobs, as well as
- 9 working with the local communities, the countries to
- 10 help build and help build their capacity in building
- 11 the engineered structures that allow a country to
- 12 operate as a country.
- 13 We believe in the Corps that it is the
- 14 construction of these efforts and the building in that
- 15 capacity that in the long run will really help achieve
- 16 the policy objectives that our nation has set forth in
- 17 both Iraq and Afghanistan.
- 18 Next slide, please. I love giving myself
- 19 orders.
- 20 Okay. This slide indicates to you what we
- 21 are told to do by act of Congress, all right? Now, we
- 22 have lots of -- there's two things the Corps has to
- 23 have before it can do anything. The first thing is an
- 24 authority. We have to be told either by the
- 25 administration as modified and executed by act of

- 1 Congress and signed by the president an authority that
- 2 says go do something.
- Now, just having the authority is a necessary
- 4 but insufficient condition. The second thing we have
- 5 to have is an appropriation. We have to have money. We
- 6 have lots of authorities that we're unable to act on
- 7 because they are -- or unable to act on to our full
- 8 capacity because they're not fully efficiently funded
- 9 or in some cases not funded at all.
- I hope it will make you feel good that this
- 11 particular study is fully funded in the FY12
- 12 president's budget and in combination with GLRI funding
- 13 is close to fully funded in our FY11 work plan
- 14 depending upon how that evolves with the continuing
- 15 resolution in Congress.
- 16 Now, a couple of other things I want to
- 17 highlight. In this language -- and we'll talk more
- 18 about them later. But if you read the language, it
- 19 tells us that we have to look at a range of options and
- 20 technologies that are available. So we're not told to
- 21 go invent new technologies, although we will look at
- 22 what might be reasonably available in the near future
- 23 as part of the study. But that's what we're told to
- 24 do.
- The purpose of it is to prevent the spread of

- 1 aquatic nuisance species between the Great Lakes Basin
- 2 and the Mississippi River Basin. So this is not just
- 3 about Asian carp, although obviously Asian carp is the
- 4 species that is of primary concern to all of us here
- 5 today.
- 6 The other thing we're going to do is look at
- 7 the entire basin. And we'll talk about the details of
- 8 that later.
- 9 Now, one of the challenges that we have is
- 10 we're told to prevent. And if you look it up in the
- 11 dictionary, that meaning has a -- or that word has a
- 12 range of meanings from 100 percent perfection to risk
- 13 reduction. And we know from our experience in a whole
- 14 host of engineered activities that we've executed
- 15 throughout the world and in this nation that a hundred
- 16 percent surety is rarely, if ever, achievable in the
- 17 real world.
- So one of things we will look at and we will
- 19 evaluate is the degree of risk reduction that the
- 20 variety of options and technologies, the range of
- 21 options and technologies, may allow us to get to, and
- 22 our confidence that certain alternatives will allow us
- 23 to approach the ideal end state of prevention.
- I want to be clear, though, that our goal is
- 25 prevention. Our goal is prevention. Knowing whether

- 1 we can get to a hundred percent prevention is another
- 2 matter that the study is designed to uncover.
- 3 Okay. So I said this is a big area. And if
- 4 you look at this map, the brown land area is the Great
- 5 Lakes watershed on the U.S. side itself. And it's just
- 6 the U.S. side we're looking at.
- 7 The dark green area is the upper Mississippi
- 8 and Ohio River watershed of the Mississippi watershed.
- 9 And that's the primary area that we're going to look
- 10 at.
- But it also includes the gray area that
- 12 encompasses the Missouri, the red, the Arkansas to the
- 13 west of the Mississippi River Basin. So this is truly
- 14 an enormous, enormous area that we're studying.
- But if you look at the line, the dashed line,
- 16 that goes from Minnesota all the way through all the
- 17 Great Lakes states and ends up in New York, that's the
- 18 Basin Divide that we're going to primarily focus our
- 19 attention on. And it's the species that are relatively
- 20 close to that Basin Divide, the aquatic nuisance
- 21 species on both sides, that we're going to look at.
- 22 One of the characteristics of this basin in
- 23 general is it's fairly flat. Most of you are from
- 24 here, you live here, you know that. The problem with
- 25 flat terrain from a hydrologic perspective is that

- 1 makes it very complex. It makes it complex because
- 2 small nuances in the typography can make a big
- 3 difference in terms of how water flows, and that can
- 4 make a big difference in terms of how various species
- 5 may migrate between the two basins.
- 6 Okay. So now let's talk about what this
- 7 means in practical terms. And I'm not going to cover
- 8 all the details here, but you can see on the left side
- 9 that's what's in the study. On the right side of this
- 10 slide that's what's outside of the study. So let me
- 11 just highlight a few points.
- 12 We're going to talk about aquatic
- 13 connections; in other words, water and where water
- 14 flows. There's only one connection that's permanent.
- 15 That's the Chicago Area Waterway System, as Mr. Goss
- 16 talked about. However, there are 36 others that so far
- 17 we have identified that could become connections
- 18 depending upon certain weather events, basically lots
- 19 of rain. And there are 18 of those, which we'll talk
- 20 about, which could have a -- are a significant concern
- 21 that we intend to study on a more accelerated basis and
- 22 focus on initially.
- Because what we don't want to have happen is
- 24 while we're focused on the main avenue of enemy attack,
- 25 which is Chicago Area Waterway System, that we get

- 1 outflanked by the enemy at some other location, to use
- 2 military jargon, if I could.
- We're going to look at basically anything
- 4 that moves in an aquatic pathway as listed there,
- 5 swimmers, floaters, hitchhikers, not just fish. We've
- 6 got a photograph or a series of photographs that will
- 7 highlight that.
- 8 And we're going to look at the U.S. side of
- 9 the border, okay? So we're not really going to look at
- 10 Canada. Now, Canada obviously is very interested in
- 11 this. They've already talked to us and told us that
- 12 they intend to do some study work and help inform our
- 13 efforts. And we appreciate that. But looking at
- 14 Canada and the Canadian side of the border is not
- 15 within our authority.
- 16 And then you can see the elements that are
- 17 listed there. Again, I'm only going to highlight
- 18 really the bottom one, because I've talked about much
- 19 of the other ones already, and that's the Environmental
- 20 Impact Statement. That is only one of the NEPA -- the
- 21 National Environmental Policy Act is only one of a
- 22 whole host of laws and related policies that we have to
- 23 comply with as part of our study process. And we do
- 24 intend to execute an Environmental Impact Statement as
- 25 part of this because of its complexity.

- 1 So how are we going to get after that? Well,
- 2 first, we're going to focus on two areas. And I've
- 3 already alluded to this. The primary one is, again,
- 4 Dave Wethington, the Chicago Area Waterway System.
- 5 That's the primary focus. That's the continuously open
- 6 pathway.
- 7 The second focus area really is a series of
- 8 areas. It's all those other pathways that we're going
- 9 to look at.
- 10 The only thing I'm going to mention when I
- 11 talk about organizing for success, because I'm sure our
- 12 organization chart is not all that interesting to you
- 13 and I won't bore you with it, but it is important to
- 14 know that the federal team is, in fact, again, as Mr.
- 15 Goss talked about, working collaboratively as a team.
- 16 Not just on the Asian carp, but we'll do so going
- 17 forward. And I think we have so far Fish & Wildlife
- 18 and EPA have agreed to be cooperating agencies.
- 19 Is that right, Ernie?
- Thanks.
- 21 We've sent invitations to other federal
- 22 agencies to be cooperating agencies as part of the
- 23 study. And even if they don't formally agree to it, I
- 24 know that informally we'll work with them.
- 25 An example of that is U.S. Geological Survey

- 1 has agreed to look at the potential impacts of Asian
- 2 carp on Lake Michigan if, in fact, they were able to
- 3 get into Lake Michigan and establish a population. So,
- 4 in other words, what would occur.
- 5 Then we will take that information and we
- 6 will use that as part of the other studies we're doing
- 7 on the impacts of closing down or shutting down the
- 8 waterways, and then coming to an understanding of how
- 9 we balance those impacts and what those impacts would
- 10 mean, because that is a requirement under the law for
- 11 us to make those -- to do that research and make those
- 12 assessments.
- Where you can help is this third sub-bullet
- 14 under that, and that's stakeholders. And this is
- 15 really important. There is no way the Army Corps of
- 16 Engineers can do this without your help and the help of
- 17 other agencies that have a whole host of capabilities
- 18 and expertise.
- 19 We're really -- we like to think of ourselves
- 20 as really good and really smart, but this is bigger
- 21 than all of us. And if you have knowledge, if you have
- 22 -- especially about a specific potential pathway we're
- 23 looking at, if you have knowledge about a study that's
- 24 underway that maybe we haven't identified, if you have
- 25 scientists or academics that you know of who you think

- 1 could look at what we're doing and make recommendations
- 2 or if you have specific data that's data that we need
- 3 to gather, that will help us tremendously to develop
- 4 the quality data that we need that is necessary to
- 5 develop before we can actually do the analytics of the
- 6 study itself.
- Now, we're not going to wait for a perfect
- 8 study before we come up with reports on it. So I can
- 9 guarantee one thing. The data reports will be
- 10 published as the data matures, okay? And we'll
- 11 probably have potentially scoping meetings to discuss
- 12 those depending upon how that data develops. And I
- 13 would foresee that maybe in, what, a year or two is
- 14 probably the timeline for that.
- The other thing we're going to do is as the
- 16 data develops and as we understand what some of the
- 17 alternatives and the technologies are that can get
- 18 after this issue, if some of those technologies or
- 19 alternatives appear to be exceptionally promising and
- 20 it looks like we could get if not a final but maybe an
- 21 incremental measure that can improve the situation and
- 22 reduce the risk of aquatic nuisance species moving back
- 23 and forth, then we will intend to cycle out reports
- 24 that make recommendations or make assessments,
- 25 judgments and then recommendations exact like that. We

- 1 have already done that with the efficacy study
- 2 associated with the fish barrier, and we're committed
- 3 to taking that approach here.
- 4 What I can't do is predetermine whether or
- 5 not we will do that, because we don't know yet what
- 6 those alternatives and technologies are. We don't know
- 7 yet how promising they may be.
- 8 Okay. So I told you I was going to show you
- 9 some photographs with some weird stuff, and this is it.
- 10 So we've got obviously on the left-hand side there the
- 11 famous silver carp jumping in the air that we all fear
- 12 so much. But it's not just about fish. There's all
- 13 kinds of other species that are both animal vertebrate,
- 14 invertebrate and plant that could have a negative
- 15 impact -- and viral for that matter. They could have a
- 16 negative impact on our ecology on both sides of the
- 17 boundary that we're concerned with. And they're listed
- 18 there. And I'm not going to read that slide to you,
- 19 but you can see that this is a lot broader than just
- 20 Asian carp.
- 21 The first thing we've got to do, though, is
- 22 figure out the aquatic pathways. Now, we are well on
- 23 the way to doing that. We had to wait to do these
- 24 scoping meetings before we continued doing the
- 25 research. So we've already identified 36 pathways. And

- 1 we've done that in coordination with all the state
- 2 Departments of Natural Resource throughout the several
- 3 Great Lakes states to determine that. And we feel like
- 4 we've got a pretty good characterization. There may be
- 5 a small number that we've missed. There may be --
- 6 there almost certainly will be improved understanding
- 7 of the ones we've identified that we'll do with further
- 8 research, but we've got a pretty good handle on where
- 9 to look.
- 10 Then we've got an inventory. The aquatic
- 11 nuisance species we've already got a good start on that
- 12 thanks to the Fish & Wildlife Service, and then figure
- 13 out all the controls, which is really where the rubber
- 14 meets the road.
- Okay. At this point I would like to ask Dave
- 16 Wethington to come up and talk about some of the things
- 17 that he's done and what he's going to do with the
- 18 Chicago Area Waterway System itself. Or are you going
- 19 to talk from there, Dave?
- MR. WETHINGTON: I can speak from here.
- 21 GENERAL PEABODY: Perfect. Great. Take it
- 22 away.
- MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you. Thank you, sir.
- Thanks again to everyone for attending today.
- 25 It's great to see so many faces here.

- 1 I want to spend just a couple of minutes talking about the slide that's behind me. As General Peabody mentioned, I am the Project Manager for the 3 Chicago Area Waterway System. I'm a Project Manager with the Chicago District Army Corps of Engineers. 5 6 On the right-hand side of the slide you see behind me is basically a detailed map of the Chicago Area Waterway System. You'll see the numbers 1 through 8 5 as you start at the north and progress down toward 10 the south of the shoreline of Lake Michigan. And 11 basically those five points are the areas in which the 12 lakes or the waters of the Great Lakes Basin and the 13 waters of the Mississippi River Basin have the 14 opportunity to interact or to mix. And so those are
- Now, what's interesting, what's unique about

really the points at which we start looking at

potential aquatic nuisance species controls.

15

16

- 18 this system, and as mentioned previously since it was
- 19 an engineered system, is that all five of these points
- 20 flow into a single channel much like you would have the
- 21 five prongs of a fork flow into the handle of the fork.
- 22 They all flow into a single channel, which is where we
- 23 have constructed and operate and maintain our electric
- 24 barrier which is preventing the spread of Asian carp
- 25 into the Great Lakes. That's point number 7 there, as

- 1 General Peabody is pointing for me.
- 2 Thank you, sir.
- 3 So that's one unique feature about this
- 4 system is that all five points kind of go into one
- 5 trove point, which gives us an opportunity when we're
- 6 looking at potential control technologies.
- 7 Additionally you'll notice that points 1
- 8 through 5 have different color codes to them. And the
- 9 reason for that is that points 1, 2 and 3 are basically
- 10 controlled waterways. And point number 3 I'll clarify
- 11 is controlled by point number 6. So I'll go by each
- 12 one for you.
- Number 1 is the Wilmette Pumping Station.
- 14 It's a physical structure. Two and 6 are locks. Now,
- 15 what's unique about that is that those are physical
- 16 structures which could be opened and/or closed, as I'm
- 17 sure you've heard in the media talking about closing
- 18 the locks. Numbers 4 and 5 are completely uncontrolled
- 19 waterways. So, therefore, there's no physical
- 20 structure currently in existence that would act as a
- 21 sufficient or a technical block between the two
- 22 systems.
- On the left-hand side is a portrayal of our
- 24 planned process. We call it a six-step process. And
- 25 we're right now in points one and two essentially,

- 1 specifying problems and opportunities. That's part of
- 2 what we're doing here today. We have put together
- 3 teams of experts within the Corps of Engineers, as well
- 4 as with other agencies, federal agencies, state
- 5 agencies, local stakeholders.
- 6 But what you have to say is important. The
- 7 purpose of this NEPA scoping is to -- as Kevin
- 8 mentioned at the very beginning, is to tell us what is
- 9 significant to you and, just as importantly, what may
- 10 not be as significant. So we will use this information
- 11 that we hear today to scope or to guide the path
- 12 forward for the rest of the study.
- We're also inventorying and forecasting
- 14 conditions. Well, what does that mean? So we need to
- 15 kind of identify what are the uses for the waterways,
- 16 who are the waterway users, what are their uses.
- 17 You might have heard a lot about navigation
- 18 being a primary use. And that's correct. But there's
- 19 also uses, such as, recreation, water supply, water
- 20 discharge. Not many folks know, some may, but about 70
- 21 to 80 percent of the total flow -- and I was listening
- 22 to another -- I'm sorry. Seventy to 80 percent of the
- 23 flow of the Chicago Area Waterway System is municipal
- 24 wastewater discharge.
- I was going to relay a small anecdote. I was

- 1 listening to folks from our Metropolitan Water
- 2 Reclamation District speak at a conference just last
- 3 week, and they said that that number -- I say 70, 80
- 4 percent. They say anywhere from 60 to a hundred
- 5 percent. So up to a hundred percent of that flow could
- 6 come from municipal wastewater discharge. So that's
- 7 obviously a significant use for this system for not
- 8 just the city of Chicago, but the entire Chicagoland
- 9 area.
- 10 Additionally, what the system is used for
- 11 very significantly is flood risk management. It
- 12 doesn't happen very often. I think Mr. Goss may have
- 13 mentioned to it earlier is the locks every once in a
- 14 while need to be opened when we have significant
- 15 rainfall events in the Chicagoland area. The potential
- 16 impacts of not being able to backflow water, so
- 17 allowing water flow both directions out of the system,
- 18 would be significant flooding in the downtown area as
- 19 well as throughout the entire Chicagoland area because
- 20 of backups due to our defined sewer system.
- 21 It sounds like a potential, yes, it's maybe a
- 22 problem for the city of Chicago, but there is
- 23 significant human health and life risk toward this
- 24 ability to maintain the system as a flood risk
- 25 management.

1 Once we identify what these uses are, we need to basically go through the rest of these steps and look at as we're looking at aquatic nuisance species 3 controls, as we're looking at the different plans and 4 how we would prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance 5 species within the Chicagoland Area Waterway System, what we would do and how we would potentially need to 7 mitigate for adverse impact. 8 9 So the current system, the electric barrier 10 system, has maybe not very many adverse impacts. You 11 can still have shipping. You can still have flood risk 12 management. You can still have water supply. However, 13 if you were to introduce something like a hydrologic separation, that could have potentially very 14 15 significant impacts to all those waterway users. So we 16 need to understand what those impacts would be and also 17 be able to provide for mitigation for those adverse 18 impacts. 19 As was mentioned previously, we are 20 collaborating with all of our federal family, with 21 state partners, local agencies, all stakeholders and 22 the general public. And we look forward to keeping 23 everyone engaged. As we move through this process, we

will definitely be coming back to speak with you in the

24

25

future.

1 Thank you for your time. I appreciate it. 2 GENERAL PEABODY: Thank you, Dave. Let's go to Mr. Mike Saffran who's 3 going to talk about the other pathways. And I'll pull up the slide. 5 Go ahead, Mike. 7 MR. SAFFRAN: Thank you, sir. Again, it's a pleasure to be here. 8 The other pathways -- when we started into 9 10 the GLMRIS study, very little was known what was meant 11 by the other aquatic pathways or relative to what the 12 risk are there. There was a lot known about the 13 Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. A lot of efforts have already been made over the last 15 or 20 years to 14 15 address some of the issues related to aquatic nuisance 16 species transfers through the Chicago Sanitary and Ship 17 Canal, not the least of which is the electrical barriers that first went in place in the 2002 era. 18 19 for the other aquatic pathways we knew very little. 20 General Peabody has already mentioned the 21 fact that there was a fear of potentially being 22 outflanked by Asian carp. And that fear last June he 23 challenged the division red team to come up with a plan

to be able to do two things. One, to provide him an

inventory of all of the potential aquatic pathways that

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- 1 exist across that Basin Divide, that nearly 1500 mile
- 2 long divide between the two basins.
- And then, two, to provide a preliminary risk
- 4 assessment relative to the ability of those aquatic
- 5 pathways to facilitate the interbasin transfer of
- 6 aquatic nuisance species.
- 7 We put together a plan. And we were a little
- 8 off the 60-day mark. It might have been 67 or 68 days
- 9 by the time we actually produced a draft report, but we
- 10 had a tremendous amount of help. And when I say a
- 11 tremendous amount of help, our plan was to go to the
- 12 best available experts within US Fish & Wildlife
- 13 Service and USGS to help us with a very important
- 14 component, which was to find the list of species and
- 15 help narrow those list of species down to the ones that
- 16 were the most specific concern.
- 17 Likewise, we went to the state DNRs and USGS
- 18 Water Science Center folks, as well as our own internal
- 19 experts that knew the local conditions to help us to
- 20 identify where are the pathways at.
- So we had kind of a two-pronged study that
- 22 went off in two different directions simultaneously
- 23 initially, and then we brought those teams back
- 24 together to complete the risk characterization.
- 25 The results of what we found out is that, as

- 1 has already been mentioned, we identified 36 potential
- 2 locations where significant water flow could
- 3 potentially occur across the Basin Divide. Of those
- 4 36, they were mixtures of like four different types of
- 5 connections, potential connections, if you will. Some
- 6 of them related to remnants of former canals, like the
- 7 Ohio and Erie Canal, Wabash and Erie Canal, those types
- 8 of canal systems that were initiated back in the late
- 9 1800s.
- 10 We found urban ditches that cross the Basin
- 11 Divide in locations -- in a few locations. We also
- 12 found agricultural ditches across or along the Basin
- 13 Divide. And then we also found a series of natural
- 14 wetlands that just exist along the Basin Divide that
- 15 during high water events could provide potential
- 16 aquatic pathways.
- 17 But of all the 36 of those locations, we
- 18 identified 18 that we believe pose significant risk or
- 19 there was enough uncertainty about the risk that we
- 20 needed to go into additional study.
- 21 But one of those jumped out as a potential
- 22 near term risk, and that was the Eagle Marsh in Fort
- 23 Wayne, Indiana. And there was a combination of two
- 24 circumstances there.
- One is you have two rivers that meet in the

- 1 town of Fort Wayne. The St. Joseph River flows to the
- 2 southwest from southeastern Michigan. And then the St.
- 3 Mary's River flows up into Fort Wayne from south or
- 4 west central Ohio.
- 5 So you've got two rivers flowing, one
- 6 northwest, one flowing southwest, that come together in
- 7 the town of Fort Wayne. And when you have significant
- 8 events there like the largest storm you would expect to
- 9 occur in any given year, water backflows from the
- 10 Maumee River Basin, which is formed by those two
- 11 rivers, back across the town of Fort Wayne and what's
- 12 called now the Eagle Marsh, into a tributary of the
- 13 Wabash River.
- When you have up to a 10 percent annual
- 15 return frequency storm or the largest storm you would
- 16 expect to occur in any given ten year period, the depth
- 17 of the water that goes across that Basin Divide is
- 18 about four and a half feet. So very potentially
- 19 significant aquatic pathway there.
- 20 And then as Mr. Goss has already mentioned,
- 21 downstream in the Wabash River there are a significant
- 22 population of Asian carp. We have not detected any
- 23 Asian carp within about 25 miles of the location of
- 24 Eagle Marsh, but below that point there have been
- 25 significant observations of Asian carp, bighead and

- 1 silver.
- 2 So the combination of those two things led us
- 3 to call an on-site meeting near the end of July. We had
- 4 -- all the important stakeholders were there. We had
- 5 the city of Fort Wayne represented, the county
- 6 surveyor. We had the National Resources Conservation
- 7 Service, which help supports the Little River wetlands
- 8 project, which is also a non-governmental organization
- 9 that was involved there. We had the USGS, the Indiana
- 10 Department of Natural resources.
- 11 We put our heads together and decided what --
- 12 to determine what can we do to address this relatively
- 13 near term risk. And we relatively quickly got to the
- 14 solution that we could probably get some sort of a
- 15 temporary barrier like was erected in the Chicago
- 16 Sanitary and Ship Canal done fairly quickly.
- 17 But the Corps of Engineers couldn't take the
- 18 lead on that, because if we were to implement something
- 19 like that, it would take us -- we would have to go
- 20 through and comply with NEPA. It would probably take
- 21 us a minimum of six to eight months if everything went
- 22 perfect. We didn't think we had that much time.
- The Indiana DNR stepped up to the plate. U.S.
- 24 GSA assisted by helping provide some funding. And lo
- 25 and behold within less than 60 days of that meeting

- 1 there was an actual fence in place.
- 2 And so we have a fish barrier there at the
- 3 Eagle Marsh that has a design life of five years. And I
- 4 believe it's buying us a window of time to develop a
- 5 more permanent remedy.
- 6 The Corps of Engineers right now is
- 7 conducting a feasibility study of the options and
- 8 technologies to prevent transfer at that location. For
- 9 a long-term remedy we expect to have a report on that
- 10 before the end of this calendar year.
- 11 And then last, but not least, on the other
- 12 pathways or other aquatic pathways is we are completing
- 13 the risk characterization. And right now we have a
- 14 draft study plan out that is being distributed or is
- 15 being considered among the agencies. We hope to have
- 16 that finalized shortly. And then again to complete that
- 17 report before the end of this calendar year.
- 18 GENERAL PEABODY: Thanks very much, Mike. I
- 19 appreciate that.
- Okay. If you recall, at the beginning I
- 21 indicated that we can only do work if we have two
- 22 things, an authority and funding. So we got the
- 23 authority to do this in the Waterway Resource
- 24 Development Act of 2007, which I think went into law in
- 25 December of '07 or January of '08. But we didn't have

- 1 any funding until June of '09. And that initial
- 2 funding that came down was somewhere around \$200,000. I
- 3 don't have the precise amount. We've received
- 4 incremental funding since then. But if we don't have
- 5 adequate funding, we can start things, but we
- 6 definitely can't finish them.
- 7 We've since then been able to work with EPA
- 8 to get some supplemental funding from the Great Lakes
- 9 Restoration Initiative, which has been decisive in our
- 10 ability to move forward aggressively with this funding
- 11 -- or with this study and was very decisive in being
- 12 able to do the other pathways risk characterization
- 13 that Mike talked about.
- I won't go over the details, but on the left
- 15 side of this chart you can see all the things that
- 16 we've done. And this correlates to the details of the
- 17 study process that Dave talked about.
- 18 What's more important and relevant to your
- 19 interest is what we've produced. And that's listed on
- 20 the right. And just to highlight, we do have a
- 21 literature review of what we know or what scientists
- 22 have studied related to the Asian carp. That helps
- 23 inform what we know and helps inform additional study
- 24 efforts that we need to get related to that specific
- 25 species.

- 1 I talked about the white paper of the various
- 2 species that Fish & Wildlife really was responsible
- 3 for. And Mike talked to you about the risk
- 4 characterization, the Eagle Marsh. So we're not
- 5 waiting for a perfect product before we actually cycle
- 6 out reports and interim studies and interim products
- 7 and interim solutions in the case of Eagle Marsh.
- 8 Okay. This is always a popular slide. This
- 9 is the slide that says what our best case scenario is
- 10 for the project schedule. What I want to emphasize,
- 11 again going back to my initial comments, is we have
- 12 great confidence in the multiple actions that we as
- 13 federal agencies under the guidance and support of Mr.
- 14 Goss and others is effective at stopping the Asian carp
- 15 from developing a sustainable population above the fish
- 16 barrier.
- 17 What that does is provide us the time that we
- 18 need to do this study properly and get it right. And
- 19 that is really crucial. If we have a predetermined
- 20 outcome that we say, well, this is obviously the right
- 21 solution, therefore, we must go to it, if we have a
- 22 predetermined timeline that says, well, we're going to
- 23 give you this much time and you must finish the race in
- 24 this much time no matter how well trained an athlete
- 25 you may or may not be and no matter whether you can

- 1 actually get the information you need to get there,
- 2 then almost assuredly we're going to come up with some
- 3 optimal results that may turn out to be ineffective and
- 4 are almost definitely going to be an unoptimal use of
- 5 the taxpayers' dollars. And that is not what we think
- 6 is the appropriate way to do it. And, oh, by the way,
- 7 it's not what a whole host of series of laws and
- 8 policies tell us to do.
- 9 We have the time to do this right. We need
- 10 to get it right. It's important to get it right. We're
- 11 not committed to a permanent, perfect solution. We're
- 12 committed to trying to develop incremental solutions en
- 13 route to the permanent, perfect solution, which is
- 14 almost assuredly going to take years and years.
- Now, we are -- the other thing I want to
- 16 emphasize is we have the right people on the case. We
- 17 have our best professionals that are working the study.
- 18 We have the best professionals from the other federal
- 19 agencies that are supporting us in doing this. And we
- 20 feel very confident that we can get to where we need to
- 21 be doing that.
- But this is as complex as it gets. I can't
- 23 say with certainty that this is the most complex study
- 24 the Corps of Engineers has ever done, but it compares
- 25 in complexity and perhaps exceeds complexity of things

- 1 like the Everglades Restoration Study that we're doing,
- 2 which is an extraordinarily complex ecosystem, or the
- 3 Louisiana Coastland Restoration Study that we're also
- 4 doing that we've already spent over \$25 million on and
- 5 still don't have a recommended solution for because
- 6 it's simply so complex.
- 7 Next slide. Okay. We've already really kind
- 8 of hit this in terms of the interim products, but we're
- 9 pretty confident that this will help us incrementally
- 10 devise and execute solutions before the study is done
- 11 so that we can incrementally reduce the risk and
- 12 increase the confidence that invasive species can't
- 13 transit between the two basins.
- 14 So what can you do? Well, first of all, come
- 15 to meetings like this. We really do need your input.
- 16 Your concerns, your encouragement, your criticisms
- 17 they're all very valued. This is part of how our
- 18 nation works. This is why I wear the uniform, because
- 19 this form of government as challenging as it can be, as
- 20 Winston Churchill said, is still the best form of
- 21 government that there is on the planet.
- There's a list of things, specific things,
- 23 data information requirements that we have that are
- 24 listed on this slide that you or others may be able to
- 25 provide to us. We look forward to that kind of

- 1 information, because it really can help us.
- 2 And in terms of the meetings, this is the end
- 3 of the line. The original meeting was the February 3rd
- 4 here. Obviously we delayed it. But this is the last
- 5 Scoping Meeting. And if you have any specific
- 6 information you want to get into the record about your
- 7 concerns, you have until the end of this month to post
- 8 that to our Website or to send that to us.
- 9 And, lastly, this is a modern information
- 10 age, and there's all sorts of ways to stay in touch,
- 11 whether it's via the Web or the social media. And if
- 12 you want to sign up for our Twitter or Facebook
- 13 accounts, we would be happy to have you do that. And
- 14 we look forward to your interaction in that regard.
- With that, I'm going to turn it back over to
- 16 our moderator, and we'll get forward into our questions
- 17 here.
- Thanks.
- MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you, sir.
- 20 Well, folks, when you look at it, now we've
- 21 been talking to you for about an hour. You've heard
- 22 the different things that we have been working on. And
- 23 when you look around the room, we've got about 60
- 24 persons here that have taken the time out of their busy
- 25 schedule to be with us today.

- 1 As I look around, I see faces that we've seen
- 2 at other hearings that we've had in this series. I see
- 3 some younger faces and some that have a little more
- 4 experience. And that tells us that this is a very
- 5 important topic for each and every one of us here. So
- 6 I really appreciate you all taking the time to come
- 7 here and work with us.
- 8 As we start our second portion of today's
- 9 first session, I would like to note that our study Web
- 10 site is a very good source of study information.
- 11 Interested persons can subscribe to the study's E-mail
- 12 list through that project Web site. And the Corps will
- 13 use the GLMRIS E-mail list to distribute any updates on
- 14 such things as documents that have been added to the
- 15 Web site, opportunities for additional public
- 16 involvement and other important news and events.
- 17 The GLMRIS project Web site can be found on
- 18 the study brochure, the written comment form, and other
- 19 things, such as, the little business card that we have
- 20 all of our information consolidated on. So use this as
- 21 a tool.
- 22 Another way, as the General just mentioned,
- 23 we have the social media aspects and other things to
- 24 help you keep in focus.
- Now moving into the oral comment period for

- 1 the meeting. Those of you who had indicated on the
- 2 registration form that they would like to make a brief
- 3 three minute formal presentation or statement and ask
- 4 questions will have an opportunity to do so. If a
- 5 person would like to ask a question in addition to
- 6 making comment, we ask that you manage your time to
- 7 allow for your comment, question and response in that
- 8 same three-minute period. The Corps will take and
- 9 answer any questions that, indeed, are answerable.
- 10 Again, in order for everyone to have an
- 11 opportunity to speak, we ask that everybody abide to
- 12 the three minute time limit. After everyone has had an
- 13 opportunity to address the panel and if time permits,
- 14 those who have additional comments or questions will be
- 15 given the opportunity and re-enter the comment queue.
- 16 If time does not allow for those that wish to address
- 17 the panel for a second time, please note that you can
- 18 enter any remaining comments on the written comment
- 19 form, or in the hallway here we do have laptop
- 20 computers provided for your convenience. You can enter
- 21 them directly onto the project Web site.
- 22 Please note all forms of comments received
- 23 during the scoping period are weighted equally. So
- 24 whether you get up in front of the forum here, use the
- 25 comment form or the Web site as an medium, you can use

- 1 that, and they are all equally weighted.
- 2 I'll show you a set of visual slides that
- 3 we're going to use to help manage our time. We've put
- 4 this together as a tool to help manage the three-minute
- 5 period that we're working with. The projector itself
- 6 will show a green box. I'll start that once you've
- 7 started your actual comment. That will run for two
- 8 minutes. After the two minutes, it will switch to a
- 9 yellow color and indicate one minute remaining and will
- 10 update every 15 seconds until the three minutes has
- 11 expired, and then turn to a simple color of red.
- If at the end of three minutes you're still
- 13 speaking, I will announce to you that the three minutes
- 14 has finished, and ask you to finish a statement.
- We do feel that this procedure is the most
- 16 fair and will give everybody an equal opportunity to be
- 17 heard.
- 18 Also, I would like to mention that we have a
- 19 stenographer with us this evening. She's located right
- 20 off to the side of the panel here. She will be
- 21 recording all comments and questions.
- We will ask that anybody that is going to
- 23 make a statement to us come to a microphone. We've got
- 24 a microphone located on both sides of the auditorium
- 25 here. We want to make sure that you can be heard. So

- 1 make sure that the microphone is placed and positioned
- 2 closely. We will have helpers staged at each
- 3 microphone.
- Before you give your comment or question, we
- 5 would like to ask that you give your name and help us
- 6 with that. If you can spell it, if it's a tricky
- 7 spelling, that would be most appreciated. Your
- 8 organization and affiliation, if you represent any. And
- 9 then for some statistical reasons if you could give us
- 10 your zip code, that will help us as we move forward.
- 11 And then, again, speak into the microphone.
- 12 And we ask that you speak slowly. And we do thank you
- 13 for your time.
- 14 All right. So you'll notice on the two sides
- 15 here we've got one called the blue line, one called the
- 16 yellow line. And I've also got a blue and a yellow
- 17 sheet here. Anybody that has registered with us today
- 18 was given either a blue or a yellow card. We will
- 19 start with the blue cards. These are the ones for the
- 20 folks that had preregistered on our project Web site
- 21 before today. Once we're through that list, then we
- 22 will go to the yellow line on this side of the room and
- 23 hear from those who have registered to speak today.
- Now, I will call off the names of the first
- 25 two persons to start the queue. The second person does

- 1 not need to stand in line. I will just keep one person
- 2 in the queue all along.
- And I've got to get my computer to go back on
- 4 here.
- 5 And we'll just go in an orderly fashion like
- 6 that.
- 7 So the first person that has registered with
- 8 us today is Constance VandePolder. Following second up
- 9 will be Michael Bodary.
- 10 So if Ms. VandePolder is here, we'll start
- 11 with you. When you're all set, just can you start with
- 12 your name and information.
- 13 MS. VANDEPOLDER: I'm Connie VandePolder from
- 14 Michigan here, Battle Creek area.
- 15 I've been raised and lived in Michigan most
- 16 of my life. I have come today with a real sense of
- 17 history and responsibility and caring that I think you
- 18 see demonstrated among all of us that are here.
- 19 Michigan has historically had a true
- 20 appreciation for responsible management of our natural
- 21 resources. We think of Hiawatha, what we've all heard
- 22 "By the Shores of Gitche Gumee," et cetera. We're all
- 23 familiar with the Erie Canal. And certainly we all
- 24 know about Illinois and Chicago politics. Enough said.
- 25 My family background is relatives on my

- 1 father's side of the family did come through the Erie
- 2 Canal. They settled four farms on the lakeshore near
- 3 Benton Harbor, Michigan, right along the southern part
- 4 of the lake. I was raised with swimming, sailing,
- 5 fishing. And, yes, I recognized responsibility of
- 6 commercial and economic issues.
- 7 My great grandfather was one of the most
- 8 outstanding fruit farmers who raised Michigan peaches
- 9 and grapes, shipped them over the lake from St. Joseph
- 10 to be sold in Chicago. He set most times the highest
- 11 price his quality was that good. So you're listening
- 12 to one who has deep roots here and a respect and a
- 13 desire for Michigan to bloom.
- 14 We all know right now what time we're having.
- 15 I personally know that we have international borders to
- 16 consider. Michigan perhaps has most at stake standing
- 17 with boundaries on four of the Great Lakes, four of
- 18 them.
- 19 And we've had a history of being interested
- 20 in animals and agriculture. Our area, of course, had
- 21 the northwest territory and grant rights for land
- 22 grants for colleges, and we know about the land-grant
- 23 colleges and certainly their expertise in calling to
- 24 restore and help Michigan.
- I would ask that we not just consider an

- 1 emergency Band-Aid answer or an answer that is the
- 2 least dollars outgo, because we have to get this right
- 3 the first time.
- 4 Thank you.
- 5 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you.
- 6 Okay. Second on our list Mr. Bodary.
- 7 Following him will be Barbara McCallahan.
- As soon as you're adjusted there, you can go
- 9 ahead. If you want to start with your name.
- 10 MR. BODARY: My name is Michael Bodary. I'm
- 11 a City Council member for Ypsilanti here. And I want
- 12 to welcome you all to Ypsilanti, first of all.
- 13 I'm here to appeal to the Army Corps of
- 14 Engineers and the president's administration to support
- 15 the protection of the Great Lakes from further attack
- 16 of invasive species.
- 17 One fifth of the world's freshwater is
- 18 contained in this ecosystem. Since the beginning of
- 19 commerce on the lakes, there have been many intended
- 20 and unintended introductions into the system. Sea
- 21 lampreys were introduced that did severe harm to the
- 22 lake trout. The poisoning of the lampreys in their
- 23 spawning streams almost eliminated the problem, but
- 24 they've made a resurgence. The question of whether to
- 25 continue to bring back the poisons ask if it is wise

- 1 for humans and other species' well-being.
- 2 Gobies have been introduced that have found
- 3 that they cannot compete, neither yellow perch and
- 4 other species for food sources. In many areas they
- 5 have become more common catch in fishing than used to
- 6 be for the more desirable species. Yellow perch have
- 7 been in decline for many years and have not been able
- 8 to survive the competition and will not be able to
- 9 survive the competition of Asian carp.
- Now it is before us that we can prevent
- 11 another species from supplanting native or the
- 12 carefully managed introduction species. The multi-
- 13 billion dollar sport fishery industry is just one
- 14 affected area. Pleasure boating and enjoyment of
- 15 beaches can be negatively affected, also.
- 16 The impact extends over an international
- 17 boundary. Yes, the closing of the Chicago Sanitary
- 18 Waterway affects some commerce in the area of Illinois
- 19 and Indiana, but does it justify ignoring the problem
- 20 until it is too late. These species of Asian carp have
- 21 shown that they can take over and out compete the
- 22 native fish.
- 23 Most of us probably will not live to see the
- 24 impact of the interaction of -- at this critical
- 25 juncture, but we owe it to our children and our

- 1 grandchildren to stop the delays and take action now.
- 2 Please close the canal until we can find a permanent
- 3 solution to the Asia carp invasion. Once the lakes are
- 4 invaded, it will be too late.
- Now, briefly I would just like to quote a
- 6 couple of things from an article in the Journal
- 7 Sentinel.
- 8 "The public is clamoring for the U.S. Army
- 9 Corps of Engineers to speed up its five-year study on
- 10 how to permanently block Asian carp."
- "Meantime, Army Corps officials say the
- 12 public doesn't need to worry: The electric fish
- 13 barrier that it's operating at about half its potential
- 14 voltage on the canal about 35 miles south of Lake
- 15 Michigan."
- 16 How do they know that?"
- 17 Their study says it proves it.
- But they will not be releasing their study
- 19 until winter of 2014. That's a long ways away.
- 20 Also, with only three volts of power when it
- 21 could be doing six volts of power, I would be concerned
- 22 that it's not really doing the full job that it could
- 23 be doing.
- 24 And there's several other things in this
- 25 article. I'll leave that to be entered into the

record. 1 2 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Could I ask for your zip code before you --3 It's 48197, right here. 4 MR. BODARY: GENERAL PEABODY: Thank you, sir. 5 appreciate that. 7 I would like to clarify just a couple of The first is that we have not made a 8 definitive determination about whether lock closure is 10 an effective solution or not. We studied it on an 11 immediate basis, and as a result of fish biologists' 12 opinions, concluded that we were not able to alter the 13 way we currently manage the locks. 14 Lock closure is a possible alternative that 15 will be examined as part of the study. So I've been 16 emphasizing that to the navigation industry that just 17 because we haven't made a decision to close the locks doesn't mean we won't. 18 19 I do want to emphasize, however, that under 20 the current structures, as Mr. Wethington pointed out, 21 if we were to close the locks today, there would still 22 be two alternative pathways to the Little Calumet and 23 Grand Calumet Rivers that would allow various species

to migrate through. So lock closure itself is clearly

not a solution that is going to work in the short term

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- 1 just by itself.
- Now, the second point is let me talk about
- 3 the fish barrier operating parameters. That's a very
- 4 important point you brought up, and I think it's
- 5 important that the public have a clear understanding of
- 6 what those parameters are and why we operate them that
- 7 way.
- 8 There was a study done by Dr. Mark Pegg I
- 9 think in around 2003 or 4 that while we were designing
- 10 the second barrier -- the first barrier was a
- 11 demonstration product that basically used off-the-shelf
- 12 technology in the parameters that were used in much
- 13 smaller scales. That proved to be effective, but those
- 14 were smaller scales, and basically stopped fish from
- 15 going to inlands and stuff like that.
- 16 The study he did indicated that it may take
- 17 up to four volts per inch to deter fish from swimming
- 18 through the barrier. We did follow-on studies with our
- 19 Engineering Research and Design Center to confirm what
- 20 Dr. Pegg or deny what Dr. Pegg had studied. And what
- 21 we found is he was apparently right. The first barrier
- 22 can only go up to one volt per inch. And, by the way,
- 23 there's several parameters we followed, but to simplify
- 24 understanding we're just going to focus on the voltage
- 25 parameter, but there's other parameters that you have

- 1 to modulate to be able to effectively stun or deter the
- 2 fish.
- 3 The studies that we have done show that fish
- 4 five and a half inches and larger are stunned. Not
- 5 just deterred, but stunned. In other words, they're
- 6 zapped into unconsciousness by the current operating
- 7 parameters that we have operating in the canal today.
- 8 And those parameters are two volts per inch to be
- 9 clear. We can go up to close to four volts. That
- 10 design was based on the Dr. Pegg study, but we hadn't
- 11 completed our research up to that point.
- There are two issues that would prevent us
- 13 from going up to the full parameters. The first is
- 14 safety. And whether you all agree or not, we are
- 15 obligated to operate the canal system for all the
- 16 purposes that are authorized under law, and that
- 17 includes currently navigation. If the law changes,
- 18 we'll change the way we operate the projects.
- 19 But the navigation industry has to be able to
- 20 operate safely through that stretch. And the higher
- 21 electricity, the more juice we put in the water, the
- 22 more challenging the ability to operate safely becomes.
- So we have done a series of safety tests with
- 24 the Coast Guard. And we're confident that we can
- 25 operate navigation safely. But the Coast Guard has

- 1 many, many concerns. And they've put a whole host of
- 2 regulation restrictions on navigation in that stretch
- 3 of the waterway.
- 4 To go to higher parameters we have to have
- 5 more studies, more information. We're doing those
- 6 studies with the Coast Guard. We'll submit to them a
- 7 safety report probably in the next two months that will
- 8 tell us or that would tell them what the impacts are to
- 9 safety and that they would have to evaluate if we went
- 10 to higher operating parameters.
- Now, what would those parameters be. It gets
- 12 to the second point of the research. Current research
- 13 indicates that very small fish, basically around two to
- 14 three inches in size, may not all be stunned by the
- 15 electric field that we're currently operating. It has
- 16 to go slightly higher to 2.3 volts. Again, simplifying
- 17 it.
- Well, so why don't we go to 2.3 volts? Well,
- 19 the answer is the fish biologists tell us that fish of
- 20 that size are younger than a year, so they're less than
- 21 a year old, and fish less than a year old tend to hang
- 22 out where they're born. So that they don't get eaten
- 23 by other fish, they hide in nooks and crannies. And
- 24 the way -- the location where fish are spawned and
- 25 would be that old are several pools down from where the

- 1 fish barrier is.
- 2 So the fish biologists tell us with
- 3 confidence that they think there's an extremely low
- 4 chance that fish of that size might be near the fish
- 5 barriers.
- The other reason that we need to do more
- 7 research on this particular issue is because it's
- 8 impossible in the laboratory to replicate the field
- 9 conditions. So the fish are not only influenced by the
- 10 electrical current, but by the actual water current.
- 11 And the higher the water velocity, combined with the
- 12 electricity, the more difficult for them to swim up
- 13 against it. And obviously the smaller the fish, the
- 14 more difficult it is for them to swim against the
- 15 velocity.
- 16 John, do you want to add anything to that?
- 17 MR. GOSS: That's fine.
- 18 GENERAL PEABODY: I think it's very
- 19 important. You brought up two very important points
- 20 that I think it's important for the public to
- 21 understand. And if you have any follow-up questions on
- 22 either of those, we would be happy to engage you with
- 23 them.
- 24 But we will do follow-on research on the
- 25 operating parameters for the smaller fish.

- 1 MR. GOSS: You might just clarify later this
- 2 month you're going to have more information.
- 3 GENERAL PEABODY: Yes, that's a great point.
- 4 Thanks, John.
- 5 At the end -- well, hopefully in about two
- 6 weeks we intend to publish the research report related
- 7 to the research we've done thus far.
- 8 MR. BODARY: Well, just to say there was some
- 9 agreement and some disagreement with some of the
- 10 statements you make in this article from other sources.
- 11 So it's not --
- 12 GENERAL PEABODY: That wouldn't be the first
- 13 time I've read something in the press that wasn't
- 14 precisely accurate.
- MR. BODARY: Or two scientists don't even
- 16 agree with each other sometimes. So -- but it was an
- 17 interesting article that tried to present both sides,
- 18 your side and their side.
- 19 GENERAL PEABODY: Yes, sir.
- 20 MR. BODARY: And that's our concern is that
- 21 as citizens we want to make sure that we can get as
- 22 many safeguards in place no matter who's right.
- 23 GENERAL PEABODY: Right.
- MR. BODARY: A hundred years from now we'll
- 25 know.

- 1 GENERAL PEABODY: And we agree with you. We
- 2 agree with you, sir. And that's why we don't -- we're
- 3 not fixed on what we're doing today. And we'll change
- 4 as information dictates that we should change.
- 5 MR. BODARY: Thanks for the follow up.
- 6 GENERAL PEABODY: Thank you, sir. Appreciate
- 7 it.
- 8 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you, sir.
- 9 Okay. Third on our list Ms. McCallahan. And
- 10 then following will be Thomas Ridge.
- 11 When you're ready, go ahead.
- MS. MCCALLAHAN: Thank you.
- Good afternoon, gentlemen. I want to thank
- 14 each of you for your presentations.
- 15 I'm Barbara McCallahan, the Director of
- 16 Community Affairs for U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow. And
- 17 I will be reading the following prepared statement.
- 18 MR. BLUHM: Can I ask for your zip code
- 19 quick?
- 20 MS. MCCALLAHAN: 48226.
- MR. BLUHM: Thank you.
- MS. MCCALLAHAN: There are many challenges we
- 23 face in protecting our Great Lakes from invasive
- 24 species. Senator Stabenow has asked me to attend today
- 25 on her behalf to address an imminent threat of concern

- 1 to her and the people of Michigan, the threat of Asian
- 2 carp.
- 3 Asian carp pose a grave threat to our \$7
- 4 billion fishing industry, \$16 billion recreational
- 5 boating industry, and the entire Great Lakes ecosystem.
- We are glad to see so many of you here today
- 7 to share your concerns with the Army Corps, because
- 8 this is so critical to our Michigan way of life.
- 9 Senator Stabenow has been a real champion on
- 10 the issue of Asian carp and has been working with
- 11 Congressman Dave Camp to lead the effort in a
- 12 bipartisan way on the federal level. This has been one
- 13 of her top priorities for Michigan, which is why she
- 14 has conducted hearings in Washington and introduced the
- 15 Stop Asian Carp Act last week. This requires the
- 16 speedy creation of an action plan to permanently
- 17 separate Lake Michigan from the Chicago Area Waterway
- 18 System. This is the only way to protect our Great
- 19 Lakes from Asian carp and other invasive species.
- The Chicago locks need to be closed
- 21 immediately while we work on this long-term action
- 22 plan, but closing the locks isn't enough to solve the
- 23 problem. We need more aggressive, decisive action, and
- 24 we need it right away.
- Thank you.

- 1 And for anyone who's interested, press
- 2 releases of the Stop Asian Carp Act are back here at
- 3 the rear of the room.
- 4 Thank you, gentlemen.
- 5 GENERAL PEABODY: Thank you.
- 6 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.
- 7 Next we'll hear from Mr. Ridge. Following
- 8 will be Andy Buchsbaum. I'll have to apologize for
- 9 that one.
- 10 When you're ready, sir, go ahead.
- 11 MR. RIDGE: We want to make people aware of
- 12 the dangers that Asian carp can bring to the Great
- 13 Lakes. If we don't stop them, then they can devastate
- 14 the entire lakes. If that happens, then no one will be
- 15 able to enjoy the fantastic Great Lakes.
- 16 We can stop the carp by fixing the electric
- 17 fence or by reversing the flow of the river. If we
- 18 don't do either of these, then the carp will get in and
- 19 devastate the lakes. Some of you may like boating, but
- 20 if the carp get in, you cannot go boating in the Great
- 21 Lakes.
- 22 Everywhere the carp have been, they
- 23 completely devastate the place. The food chain in the
- 24 Great Lakes will slowly be destroyed by the carp.
- 25 People who count on fish for their food will go hungry.

- 1 Tourism will die. The Great Lakes won't be so great
- 2 anymore.
- 3 GENERAL PEABODY: That's awesome.
- 4 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.
- 5 GENERAL PEABODY: Thank you.
- 6 MR. BLUHM: Let's give him a hand.
- 7 GENERAL PEABODY: When you graduate from
- 8 college, I've got a job for you in the Army Corps of
- 9 Engineers, help us out. Thanks.
- MR. BLUHM: Thank you.
- 11 And with that, I believe Mr. Ridge is our
- 12 youngest speaker of the series. So --
- 13 GENERAL PEABODY: All right.
- 14 MR. BLUHM: -- that takes a lot. Thank you.
- Okay. We are on number 5. Sir, if I could
- 16 have you maybe help me with your last name. I think I
- 17 butchered it quite poorly.
- 18 Following will be Kyle Cragg.
- 19 MR. BUCHSBAUM: No, you butchered it fine.
- 20 It's Andy Buchsbaum. My zip code is 48104.
- 21 And, Mr. Ridge, you're a hard act to follow.
- 22 Nice job.
- 23 And, in fact, you've heard from Mr. Ridge and
- 24 others about some of the terrible things that could
- 25 happen if Asian carp get in the system. So I'm going

- 1 to focus my comments today on the study and on what
- 2 GLMRIS should cover and what it may not be covering.
- 3 As you know, the National Wildlife
- 4 Federation, I'm the director of the Great Lakes office,
- 5 and we've already commented multiple times with written
- 6 comments. So I'll be focused here, because I only have
- 7 a few minutes.
- 8 First off, the GLMRIS study is a feasibility
- 9 study, which means that it's weighing costs and
- 10 benefits of options that have been identified. The
- 11 problem that we have is the way those options are being
- 12 identified right now.
- The Corps in its presentation today, its
- 14 written materials has consistently said that although
- 15 Congress has said that the feasibility study is one
- 16 that should identify ways of preventing Asian carp from
- 17 getting into the system, the Corps believes that the
- 18 way to interpret the word prevent is to reduce the risk
- 19 to the maximum extent possible. That is not a normal
- 20 interpretation or definition of the word prevent. And
- 21 certainly, you're right, that sometimes it's impossible
- 22 to do a hundred percent prevention because of
- 23 technology considerations, but then that's what you
- 24 said. You say we prevent to the extent technically
- 25 possible, not reduce the risk to the extent possible.

- 1 That's a completely different standard, one that is not
- 2 authorized by Congress.
- 3 The reason this is important is because that
- 4 means that your study is going to be considering
- 5 options that are not designed to prevent Asian carp
- 6 from getting into the Great Lakes. It's that simple.
- 7 Your study is going to be -- is considering
- 8 the feasibility, weighing the costs and benefits of
- 9 doing things that -- taking measures that don't do the
- 10 job. And we believe that's actually illegal, because
- 11 Congress has said what you have to do, number one.
- We also believe it's ill-advised. It's
- 13 starting with the assumption of failure. Because if
- 14 you're simply -- if you're looking at options that
- 15 reduce the risk to the maximum extent possible, however
- 16 that is defined, then what you're looking at is putting
- 17 in place measures like acoustic bubbles or tinkering
- 18 with the electric fence and saying what are the costs
- 19 and benefits of that. And, of course, the costs of
- 20 that are going to be far lower, and the benefits we
- 21 presume would also be far lower, but the costs would be
- 22 far lower than some of the other things you're thinking
- 23 about that you actually have to do to prevent. So
- 24 that's number one.
- Number two is that the study -- because

- 1 you're considering so many different things, including
- 2 many options that you're not authorized to consider,
- 3 the study that you're doing is taking much too long.
- 4 I'll get to urgency in a second, but the idea that it's
- 5 going to take five years to complete the study.
- 6 Now, you say that there are going to be
- 7 products, interim products, along the way. The interim
- 8 products will be fine and probably useful for the
- 9 public, for others to understand things. But the way
- 10 that Congress works now they can't do anything until
- 11 you finalize the study. So if it takes you five years
- 12 to finalize a study, it doesn't matter what the interim
- 13 products are. No action can be taken that will at
- 14 least permanently solve the situation in the Chicago
- 15 canals and across the region until a final study has
- 16 been done.
- 17 Now, you can take actions based on
- 18 preliminary studies that are preliminary actions, but
- 19 not the final actions. This is my understanding, not
- 20 the final action. Which means that we're looking at a
- 21 problem that's going to continue, risks that will
- 22 continue. Playing Russian roulette with the Great
- 23 Lakes will continue not just for the five years of the
- 24 study, but then as long as it takes to implement the
- 25 study afterwards.

1 Finally I want to point out two things that we learned last week at the Great Lakes Commission meeting in Washington from Dr. Leon Carl, who's part of 3 your task force, one of the chief scientists responsible for figuring out what it would mean if the 5 carp got in the Great Lakes. We've heard over the years that -- these myths that the electric fence, for example, is all you need to keep carp out of the lakes. 8 We know that's not true certainly because of the DNA. 10 The eDNA samples in the fish that were actually found 11 at least leads one to believe that the fence are not 12 going to be all that you need. 13 The other myths we hear, well, even if they get past the fence, they can't reproduce in the lakes 14 15 or the canals. Even if they can reproduce, there's not 16 going to be enough to eat for them, so this isn't as 17 big of a problem as we actually -- everybody said. 18 Well, we believe that science has already 19 proven that wrong. But what Dr. Carl said at this 20 Great Lakes Commission meeting really -- he said 21 afterwards it really made his hair stand up on end 22 because of the concern. 23 The first thing they found was that the fish 24 -- Asian carp larvae begin to swim vertically on their

own much sooner than they thought, which means they

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- 1 don't need -- they don't think they need nearly as long
- 2 a stretch of water, turbulent water, before they can
- 3 reproduce and breed, which means that the hundred
- 4 kilometer limit that we believed was necessary is not
- 5 necessary. In fact, wave action in the Great Lakes --
- 6 he didn't say this, but other scientists said that wave
- 7 action in the Great Lakes themselves might be all
- 8 that's needed to keep the eggs suspended enough before
- 9 reproduction can happen.
- 10 Second thing he said was that he found that
- 11 Asian carp -- he found that -- he also found that Asian
- 12 carp they thrive -- they eat just fine when the food is
- 13 Cladophora. Cladophora, which is a native algae in the
- 14 Great Lakes, which really kind of bedeviled a lot of
- 15 the coastal areas of Lake Michigan, and which indicates
- 16 that there's a lot of food in the Great Lakes
- 17 themselves that will enable Asian carp to thrive.
- With those two things, I know I'm over my
- 19 time. I want to just point out that this is an
- 20 incredibly urgent problem, and we can't wait five years
- 21 for this study to be completed before we address it.
- Thank you.
- MR. BLUHM: Thank you.
- 24 MR. GOSS: Thanks, Andy, for pointing those
- 25 things out.

- 1 Certainly we are following up on all of the
- 2 preliminary research things that you talked about. And
- 3 we have a wide range of other research and development
- 4 projects that are being worked on. We had a meeting of
- 5 over 50 scientists about a week ago who are working on
- 6 the various projects that are in the Asian carp
- 7 strategy. And we'll be continuing to bring forward
- 8 information as we get it, and certainly looking at ways
- 9 to use things, as Leon pointed out, to adjust our
- 10 strategy. So we are working on the adjustments. We
- 11 will have some comments on that very soon. Thanks.
- 12 GENERAL PEABODY: Excellent points, Mr.
- 13 Buchsbaum. Thanks for coming again.
- 14 First of all, I want to be clear, we actually
- 15 -- you made a statement that I think we agree with, and
- 16 that's we want to prevent to the extent possible. So
- 17 maybe it's a matter of semantics and misunderstanding
- 18 each other, but it's not like we want to focus on risk
- 19 reduction to the exclusion of prevention, not at all.
- 20 What we're trying to do is be open and
- 21 transparent and be clear to the public that the goal
- 22 that the Congress has given us, in fact, may not be
- 23 achievable. It's something we don't know before we can
- 24 get through the study process.
- 25 But that -- I want to be very clear. I think

- 1 I stated this when I did the presentation. I do want
- 2 to be clear to you, sir, the goal is prevention. That
- 3 is definitely what we want to do. But all of our
- 4 professional experience informs us that goals of
- 5 getting to perfect solution are not always achievable.
- 6 And we don't want to wait for the perfect and let that
- 7 be the enemy of the good if we can get to some
- 8 incremental solutions now.
- 9 We already have executed incremental
- 10 solutions to improve the fish barrier and improve its
- 11 effectiveness and reliability. You're very well
- 12 informed. I think you're well aware of these issues.
- 13 And the authority that's allowed us to do that is the
- 14 Section 126 authority. I am not an expert on this,
- 15 because I haven't read the legislation closely.
- 16 However, it is my understanding that the current
- 17 continued resolution we're operating under does not --
- 18 Section 126 does not apply.
- Now, that's not a concern for the moment,
- 20 because it's a very temporary measure. It's only two
- 21 weeks long. But as I think you probably are aware,
- 22 Secretary Darcy wrote a letter to the committees
- 23 recommending that the Section 126 authority or an
- 24 authority similar to it be extended in time for a
- 25 period of two years, not one year, and then be

- 1 broadened to cover the entire Great Lakes and
- 2 Mississippi River Interbasin Study. Now, we don't know
- 3 what Congress will do with that request, but we are
- 4 engaged with dialogue at the staff level on that issue
- 5 and answering their questions related to.
- 6 I'm not sure what you meant by options not
- 7 authorized to consider, because we, in fact, intend to
- 8 consider all options that appear to be feasible or
- 9 viable. I think one of the things I did say was that
- 10 the study authority tells us to look at available
- 11 options and technologies. And so one of the things
- 12 we're not going to do is pursue something that looks
- 13 like it can't be executed in the near term.
- Now, I can see a scenario where if we find an
- 15 optional alternative that looks promising in the long
- 16 term but it's not readily available us pursuing that
- 17 under the study authority to try to get to that perfect
- 18 nirvana end state where we have real true prevention.
- 19 So I'm not rejecting that out of hand. I'm just making
- 20 clear what we understand the study authority to tell
- 21 us.
- Now, one of the things that really concerns
- 23 us with regard to some of the options is you talked
- 24 about hydro separation and that's an alternative that
- 25 needs to be pursued. We certainly will pursue that.

- 1 One of the concerns with executing hydro separation in
- 2 heavily urbanized terrain with complicated waterway
- 3 uses like Chicago has is the ability to do that on an
- 4 expedited timeline. It's unlikely that it could be
- 5 done quickly. It's likely to be extraordinarily
- 6 expensive. And in these debt-ridden times, it's
- 7 uncertain whether those kinds of solutions will be
- 8 funded.
- 9 We will not make a recommendation based on
- 10 cost. We will simply outline what we believe the
- 11 likely cost scenarios to be, and then the decision
- 12 makers that are far above my level, which is basically
- 13 in the upper reaches of the administration and
- 14 Congress, will assess the information we provide and
- 15 make decisions about which alternatives to pursue.
- So we may make a recommendation that in the
- 17 near term this, that or the other option or technology
- 18 may be the best ones to pursue, but the decision makers
- 19 will decide which ones.
- I hope that helps clarify. Your points are
- 21 so interesting I think it might be appropriate if we
- 22 allow a follow on at this point, Andy.
- MR. BUCHSBAUM: Thank you, General.
- 24 We certainly understand the -- sorry. I'm
- 25 messing up your microphone. I'll just go like this.

- 1 Yes, we certainly understand the concerns
- 2 that you point out. I'm glad to hear you say that it's
- 3 not within the purview of the Corps to identify -- to
- 4 consider cost on the options that you're looking at,
- 5 because hydrological separation is not a single option.
- 6 There are many different ways to do it, many different
- 7 costs, many different benefits, and some are quite
- 8 expensive and some aren't.
- 9 And I certainly would hope that because that
- 10 option is the most obvious one, I mean, it certainly is
- 11 an obvious one to completely solve the problem, that
- 12 that would be the first one that's looked at and looked
- 13 at quickly.
- 14 Particularly because hydrologic separation, a
- 15 permanent barrier in the canals, if you will, if that's
- 16 to be done, then it's going to take a long time to
- 17 implement. And the longer it's spent studying, the
- 18 longer delay in implementation. And it's one of those
- 19 things where once breeding populations establish
- 20 themselves in the lakes, then it doesn't matter if it
- 21 took five years or 10 years. It's too late. And so
- 22 then we're into an eradication or rapid response
- 23 program. We know we can't eradicate. A rapid response
- 24 program.
- So that's why we keep on encouraging you to

- 1 prioritize. And you probably will hear from the Great
- 2 Lakes Commission that the Great Lakes Commission and
- 3 Great Lakes cities are doing a study, as you know, that
- 4 will identify three potential locations for
- 5 hydrological separation and not recommend any of them,
- 6 but just as places where the costs and the benefits
- 7 seem to be optimal.
- 8 And if you can use that study, take off from
- 9 it and use that, not have to reinvent that wheel,
- 10 actually do feasibility studies around those options
- 11 right away, that could actually answer a lot of
- 12 questions quickly and put Congress on a path to action.
- 13 Your study, as I understand it, will not
- 14 automatically result in any action by Congress or by
- 15 state legislatures, whatever. If hydrologic separation
- 16 is pursued, there's going to have to be new laws passed
- 17 by Congress, new laws passed by the State of Illinois
- 18 and others. And that can't happen until the study is
- 19 done.
- 20 So even if the study is -- makes an
- 21 incredible recommendation that everybody agrees on
- 22 hydrological separation, there's still going to be new
- 23 laws that need to be passed. So because of that it's
- 24 incredibly important that you prioritize and get that
- 25 one done first.

1 Thank you. 2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hear, hear. 3 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. 4 GENERAL PEABODY: Thanks, Andy. Just two quick comments. The first is we're 5 not going to not consider cost, but we're not going to 7 reject any alternatives simply on a cost basis. Now, that is -- normally cost is a consideration if it's a 8 cost -- an alternative that's considered too expensive 9 10 based on certain parameters and guidelines that were 11 given, then normally we might not consider it, pursue 12 it further. In this case, that's not going to happen. 13 Secretary Darcy is committed to that. 14 With regard to the Great Lakes Commission 15 study, we look forward to what they've produced. 16 have had conversations with them. We cannot advise 17 them by law or direct them, but we have pointed out to 18 them the policies and guidelines that we work under. 19 And I know for a fact there's at least one former Corps 20 employee that is on the study team. And so hopefully 21 they'll be able to take that expertise and apply it. 22 What we don't know is what they're going to 23 produce. And until we're able to evaluate 24 independently, we just can't make a judgment on how 25 much or what aspects of their study we'll be able to

- 1 use. But we're very hopeful that we'll be able to use
- 2 a good piece of it.
- 3 So thanks. Appreciate your comments.
- 4 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you, sir.
- 5 Okay. Our sixth speaker is Mr. Cragg. I see
- 6 you're ready.
- 7 And following will be Melissa Damaschke.
- 8 And, Mr. Cragg, when you're ready, if I could
- 9 have you state your name and a zip code, if you have
- 10 one for us. We would appreciate it.
- 11 MR. CRAGG: 48302.
- Good afternoon. My name is Kyle Cragg. I'm
- 13 a fifth grade student at Notre Dame Marist Academy in
- 14 Waterford, Michigan.
- 15 My school participates in the Catholic
- 16 International Baccalaureate Program. As part of this
- 17 program, I have chose this topic of exotic species in
- 18 the Great Lakes.
- 19 After studying this topic for the past month,
- 20 my group is worried that Asian carp will get into the
- 21 Great Lakes and devastate fish population.
- These carp can weigh up to a hundred pounds
- 23 and jump up to 10 feet in the air. They will
- 24 overpopulate the Great Lakes, and we may not be able to
- 25 enjoy swimming, fishing and waterskiing. This would be

- 1 a terrible thing for the Great Lakes.
- I hope to enjoy the fantastic Great Lakes for
- 3 my lifetime, and also wish that future generations will
- 4 not miss out on these fun, beautiful and amazing lakes.
- 5 My group is asking that your team of
- 6 engineers consider building a new electric fence to
- 7 stop these dangerous fish. One design that my group
- 8 and I came up with is a tall barbed wire electric fence
- 9 with a curved top. This would stop the fish from
- 10 getting across or through the fence.
- If the new fence fails, the best alternative
- 12 is changing the flow of the Chicago River, which would
- 13 help so we don't have to worry about this 30 to 40
- 14 years from now.
- We must stop these fish from getting into the
- 16 Great Lakes at all cost. I hope your team can help
- 17 stop these terrible destructive fish.
- 18 Thank you for letting a fifth grade student
- 19 voice his opinion.
- MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you.
- 21 GENERAL PEABODY: If we could get a copy of
- 22 your design, we would like to take a look at it. And
- 23 we'll give you some feedback on it I promise you that,
- 24 okay?
- 25 Sir, if we could get a copy of your design,

- 1 we'll take a look at it. We'll give you some feedback
- 2 on it. How is that? Sound good? You can give it to
- 3 the folks outside afterwards or you can wait until
- 4 we're done, and you can give it to me personally, okay?
- 5 Thank you. Appreciate that.
- 6 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Very good. Thank you.
- 7 Next Ms. Damaschke. And then following our
- 8 eighth speaker will be James McIntosh.
- 9 When you're ready, go ahead.
- 10 MS. DMASCHKE: Sure. Melissa Damaschke. It's
- 11 D-a-m-a-s-c-h-k-e. The zip code 48201.
- 12 I am here to represent Sierra Club's 143,000
- 13 members and supporters in Michigan. Sierra Club is
- 14 part of the Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Coalition.
- 15 So you'll notice that my remarks echo what Mr.
- 16 Buchsbaum with the National Wildlife Federation said.
- 17 Unfortunately the Great Lakes region is
- 18 currently home to over 180 invasive species. I am
- 19 speaking to you today because Sierra Club is concerned
- 20 that our lakes may become home to yet another invasive
- 21 species Asian carp unless the Army Corps of Engineers
- 22 expedites its GLMRIS study to prevent their
- 23 introduction.
- 24 Sierra Club has three concerns we wish to
- 25 address at today's meeting. Number one, the Army Corps

- 1 of Engineers is moving forward on GLMRIS with the
- 2 intent to reduce the risk of invasive species
- 3 transferred between the Great Lakes and Mississippi
- 4 River. If the Army Corps of Engineers doesn't commit
- 5 to full prevention of invasive species, the study is
- 6 set up to fail before it begins. The Corps must
- 7 prevent rather than reduce the risk of invasive species
- 8 movement between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi
- 9 River.
- 10 Number two, the GLMIRIS study takes too long.
- 11 The study's timeline and strategy must be structured so
- 12 a solution is delivered prior to the establishment of
- 13 breeding populations of Asian carp in the Chicago Area
- 14 Waterway System. This means that the study needs to be
- 15 completed in the next 12 months rather than mid 2015
- 16 date.
- 17 Lastly, the public needs to continue to be
- 18 engaged in this process. The Army Corps of Engineers
- 19 should create an opportunity for regular discussion
- 20 forums during which the public can interact with
- 21 technical staff for detailed Q and A on project
- 22 progress. This should be separate and in addition to
- 23 the requirements of the NEPA process.
- In conclusion, Sierra Club strongly urges the
- 25 Army Corps of Engineers to expedite the GLMRIS study to

- 1 prevent the introduction of Asian carp while continuing
- 2 to engage the public in this process. We have too much
- 3 to lose in the Great Lakes region. People depend on the
- 4 Great Lakes for not only drinking water, but for jobs
- 5 and to maintain their quality of life. An invasion of
- 6 Asian carp or another invasive species is not
- 7 acceptable, especially when we have the opportunity to
- 8 prevent it.
- 9 Thank you.
- 10 And since I do have some left over time, I
- 11 would like to take the opportunity to ask a quick
- 12 question, if I may.
- MR. BLUHM: Go ahead.
- MS. DAMASCHKE: Can you please elaborate on
- 15 the data collection that in the study you say that
- 16 you're going to be doing for the next two years?
- 17 MR. WETHINGTON: Absolutely. Thank you for
- 18 your question.
- 19 What we'll be doing is looking at all realm
- 20 of potential uses of the waterways and data associated
- 21 with potential impacts of aquatic nuisance species
- 22 control technologies that may be implemented. So this
- 23 data would include navigation data, such as, commercial
- 24 cargo navigation, recreation, commercial passenger
- 25 navigation. We're looking at evaluating the fisheries

- 1 in both the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins,
- 2 both the commercial value, as well as recreational
- 3 value of fisheries.
- We're looking at, also -- we have to look at
- 5 the flood risk management issues that I spoke to
- 6 earlier in the Chicagoland area and what would be the
- 7 economic associated with the potential health and human
- 8 life safety with regard to implementing an aquatic
- 9 nuisance species control that would have a negative
- 10 impact to those things.
- 11 So that along with habitat assessments,
- 12 habitat mapping, determining exactly where all these
- 13 habitats lie and trying to if not quantify them
- 14 economically but at least establish their intrinsic
- 15 value. Those are some of the data collection that we
- 16 will be pursuing.
- 17 MS. DAMASCHKE: Thank you.
- 18 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you.
- 19 Our eighth speaker today is Mr. McIntosh.
- 20 And that finishes the folks that had
- 21 preregistered. We'll move to the yellow cards now.
- 22 First on that list will be Mr. Matt Doss.
- When you're ready, Mr. McIntosh.
- MR. MCINTOSH: Hi. My name is James
- 25 McIntosh. Zip code is 48105.

- 1 A minute ago or so we listened to a couple of
- 2 young people talk about their experience with the Great
- 3 Lakes and why they're concerned about it. I guess I
- 4 would like to talk about my youth on the Great Lakes.
- 5 I grew up in Grand Haven, Michigan in the
- 6 '50s. And I remember in grade school hearing about the
- 7 greatness of what the Great Lakes Seaway would do to
- 8 the Great Lakes. And I remember taking a trip with my
- 9 dad and my family, and we went along the Great Lakes
- 10 Seaway essentially, and we looked at all the canals
- 11 that ended up connecting the Great Lakes in my hometown
- 12 of Grand Haven to the Atlantic Ocean.
- But it wasn't until I was a teenager, because
- 14 what I did as a teenager was walk the sand dunes and
- 15 the lakeshore south of Grand Haven. I mean, that's
- 16 where I lived for three months a year.
- 17 And then suddenly one summer you couldn't go
- 18 to the beach anymore because the Great Lakes or at
- 19 least Grand Haven north and south were covered with
- 20 dead alewife. And, you know, it was -- you know, it
- 21 stunk. But the worst part of it was when you stepped
- 22 on them. It made this really funny popping sound that
- 23 I'll never forget. And we didn't learn with the
- 24 alewife. We didn't learn with the next thing and the
- 25 next thing. And, I mean, we've nearly destroyed the

- 1 Great Lakes as it is.
- The Asian carp we have to stop it. It isn't
- 3 prevention. It isn't reduction. It is stop it. And
- 4 from somebody that lived on the Great Lakes most of his
- 5 life if that means closing Chicago, that's fine, do it.
- 6 One comment that I've heard in the discourse
- 7 you just mentioned about this issue of data collection.
- 8 Much of the data collection you're talking about doing
- 9 between now and 2015 sort of seems tangential to the
- 10 issue of how do we stop Asian carp from getting into
- 11 Lake Michigan.
- 12 And then I have a couple of questions, if I
- 13 might. Is Chicago mitigating its stormwater and
- 14 wastewater treatment problems? Are they going to solve
- 15 their problem so they aren't essentially the Achilles
- 16 heel of the Great Lakes? If the carp establish
- 17 themselves in the Great Lakes, in Lake Michigan first,
- 18 what is it going to cost to get them out of the Great
- 19 Lakes and how long will that study take? Who's going
- 20 to pay for it? What will it take to correct the water
- 21 flow changes that have been made in the past in the
- 22 Chicago area so that they flow naturally? Thank you.
- MR. BLUHM: Okay. Thank you.
- 24 GENERAL PEABODY: Okay. Sir, I'm not sure I
- 25 captured all your questions.

- John, do you want to take any of these?
- MR. GOSS: They're all large. Go ahead and
- 3 take them.
- 4 GENERAL PEABODY: Okay. Then I'll ask you to
- 5 -- John, you or others to answer. Mr. McIntosh, if we
- 6 don't answer all your questions, please let us know,
- 7 because we want to answer your questions.
- 8 First on the data collection. In order to
- 9 recommend alternatives, we have to have by law an
- 10 understanding of the cost, the benefits and the impacts
- 11 of the recommended alternatives. And that has to also
- 12 be vetted in public forums like the one we're having
- 13 here today.
- So, for example, we're going to do surveys of
- 15 the fisheries. We're going to do surveys of the
- 16 navigation uses. We're going to do surveys of the
- 17 water flows, of the water quality, how it's used, all
- 18 the impacts. We're going to do studies of potential
- 19 impacts of Asian carp on the Great Lakes. That's going
- 20 to be an accelerated part of it, but we're at least a
- 21 year away from that information. USGS has taken that
- 22 on, so on and so on.
- 23 So that's why all the data that we've talked
- 24 about has to be produced, because we need to have a
- 25 scientifically based understanding of what the impacts

- 1 are to the alternatives. It's a precondition to go
- 2 forward with the study.
- 3 In terms of Chicago stormwater, frankly I'm
- 4 not in a good position to answer that, because that's
- 5 an authority that's outside the purview of the Army
- 6 Corps of Engineers. Metropolitan Water Reclamation
- 7 District has that responsibility.
- 8 But you heard Dave earlier talk about the
- 9 enormous quantities of discharge that goes into that
- 10 waterway. So if you're not going to use that waterway,
- 11 then an alternative mechanism has to be developed or
- 12 you depopulate Chicago. That's literally what we're
- 13 talking about. Because what Chicago -- the large
- 14 portions of the residential area, in particular
- 15 Chicago, sits on what used to be a large, marshy,
- 16 swampy area, much like much of the United States. I
- 17 mean, a lot of our natural wetlands no longer exist
- 18 because we inhabited them. And that -- depopulating
- 19 Chicago has enormous obviously economic consequences
- 20 and would be extremely costly.
- 21 I'm not sure what you mean about correcting
- 22 the water flow, but I think what you're talking about
- 23 is restoring it to its pre-civilized condition. And,
- 24 again, that goes back to what I just talked about.
- Did we get to answer the fundamental

- 1 questions that you had?
- 2 MR. MCINTOSH: Well, one question that you
- 3 didn't address is if they establish themselves, if the
- 4 carp establish themselves in Lake Michigan, what's it
- 5 going to take to get rid of them and who's going to pay
- 6 for it?
- 7 GENERAL PEABODY: That's a great question.
- 8 We're not there. And that's not one of the
- 9 things we're going to study in terms of getting rid of
- 10 them. We are going to study the impacts if they were
- 11 to be established so that we have an understanding of
- 12 the costs and benefits of preventing them from getting
- 13 in there versus the costs and benefits of various
- 14 alternatives to include lock closure.
- MR. MCINTOSH: But, you know, when you say
- 16 that, it -- you know, you read these places where
- 17 they've gone in and killed small lakes to save, you
- 18 know, endangered species or for other purposes. And if
- 19 you look at the cost of doing that for just a little
- 20 bitty body of water that isn't used for drinking water,
- 21 the cost is enormous. If you project that onto Lake
- 22 Michigan, you can depopulate Chicago for that cost.
- 23 GENERAL PEABODY: Okay.
- 24 MR. MCINTOSH: I mean, let's get -- that is
- 25 the scale I think we're talking about. Unless you're

- 1 going to give up on Lake Michigan.
- 2 MR. GOSS: You are proposing an option that
- 3 is sort of like Daniel Burnham's challenge, I guess,
- 4 "Make no small plans." I do not know that we're going
- 5 to have that as one of the cost figures, but certainly
- 6 they're going to put cost and benefit numbers with each
- 7 of these options. I don't think depopulating Lake
- 8 Michigan will be one of those. But --
- 9 MR. MCINTOSH: But will cleaning it be one of
- 10 them?
- 11 MR. GOSS: There are risk assessments being
- 12 done by several different groups, and they're going to
- 13 include what is the impact. So if they get in the
- 14 lake, that will be looked at in these risk assessments.
- 15 The Canadian government has initiated one with the
- 16 Great Lakes Fisheries Commission. That's probably the
- 17 most significant. It's going to be the most
- 18 comprehensive. And they're going to have their
- 19 analysis by the end of this year. So I think we should
- 20 look at that next, because they're the experts on fish
- 21 in the Great Lakes. That's going to be the best thing
- 22 to look at first. They're going to tell us what to
- 23 expect. We can't sit here and give you that answer,
- 24 sir.
- You had one stormwater question, which we can

- 1 answer. Chicago is not treating their stormwater. So
- 2 that would be another significant investment as part of
- 3 the scenario if the decision was made to put it into
- 4 Lake Michigan rather than send it to the Mississippi,
- 5 which is where it flows now. It would be a significant
- 6 investment.
- 7 GENERAL PEABODY: Thanks, John.
- 8 Sir, a couple of points. I think one of the
- 9 premises that you have is that the destruction to Lake
- 10 Michigan is going to be so massive from Asian carp that
- 11 virtually any alternative is appropriate. And that
- 12 premise is something we actually don't know the answer
- 13 to. And that's why we've asked the USGS to do a study
- 14 to tell us what the likely impacts are.
- Now, how much precision they can get to and
- 16 how much confidence they can give us in that answer is
- 17 currently unknown, but we need scientists to study that
- 18 and understand that. We don't have that study today.
- 19 We simply have suppositions that may or may not be
- 20 accurate.
- 21 The other thing I would point to is I'm in
- 22 uniform. I'm very good at two things. I'm very good
- 23 at taking orders and following those orders. And the
- 24 Corps of Engineers has certain authorities and
- 25 responsibilities, and I color inside those lines. I

- 1 don't color outside those lines. I may have interests
- 2 outside of those lines that affect what my authorities
- 3 and responsibilities are, but I stay within those
- 4 authorities and responsibilities.
- 5 The study we've been given tells us to study
- 6 a range of options and technologies that will prevent
- 7 the migration or the movement of aquatic invasive
- 8 species between the two basins. And that's what we're
- 9 going to study.
- If you ask who's going to take on the things
- 11 that you're concerned with, there would need to be laws
- 12 propagated, and they would need to be pointed to
- 13 agencies that have the capabilities to take on those
- 14 kinds of issues. The Corps of Engineers is not an
- 15 agency that has the capabilities that could say this is
- 16 what we need to do to deal with Asian carp once they're
- 17 populated in Lake Michigan. That would be some other
- 18 agency, but it's definitely not us.
- 19 Thanks for your questions, sir. We
- 20 appreciate it.
- 21 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you, sir.
- Okay. That gets us through the first phase
- 23 of our comments, the folks that had preregistered on
- 24 the Web site before getting here today.
- We will now move to anybody that has a yellow

- 1 note card that's been assigned that. I did note in my
- 2 opening remarks that we were going to use one or the
- 3 other microphone. At this point in time depending on
- 4 where you're sitting or which microphone is more
- 5 comfortable for you, you can go to either microphone,
- 6 whatever is the easiest for you to access.
- 7 So with that said, Mr. Doss, I believe, is
- 8 waiting for us. Following number two on this will be
- 9
- 10 So when you're ready, go ahead, sir.
- MR. DOSS: Thank you.
- 12 Matt Doss. Last name is spelled D-o-s-s. I'm
- 13 policy director with the Great Lakes Commission. And my
- 14 zip code is 48104.
- Thank you for coming here today. Thank you,
- 16 General Peabody, Mr. Goss, for the series of meetings
- 17 you're doing. This is an outstanding outreach that
- 18 you're reaching out to the eight-state region
- 19 recognizing that this is a problem that potentially
- 20 affects the entire region and not just the Chicago
- 21 area.
- 22 Also, General Peabody, let me just thank you
- 23 and your comrades in uniform for your service both here
- 24 and abroad.
- 25 The Great Lakes Commission is an intrastate

- 1 agency that was formed in 1955 to work on behalf of the
- 2 eight states that border on the Great Lakes issues of
- 3 common interest. We support the ongoing conservation
- 4 used and sound management of the Great Lakes. So we
- 5 like to think that we're looking out not only for the
- 6 environment of the Great Lakes, but for the economic
- 7 and recreational uses of it.
- 8 So I'm pleased to be here again on behalf of
- 9 the Great Lakes states. We are glad that the Corps is
- 10 pursuing this study. We're very excited about it.
- 11 We're particularly pleased that you're looking at all
- 12 potential pathway of introduction. We should all
- 13 remember that the Chicago Area Waterway System is just
- 14 one of several potential vectors through which Asian
- 15 carp and other aquatic invasive species could get into
- 16 the Great Lakes.
- 17 And it's important, of course, to recognize
- 18 that while many of us here today are most concerned at
- 19 the present time about Asian carp, there are other
- 20 aquatic invasive species that may be coming our way. In
- 21 addition, there are aquatic invasive species in the
- 22 Great Lakes that we don't want to get into other parts
- 23 of the country.
- 24 And I would just remind folks that we believe
- 25 the Zebra muscles came from the Great Lakes and have

- 1 eventually gotten into other waterways in our country.
- 2 So we are both a receiver of aquatic invasive species,
- 3 as well as a vector for them.
- 4 So, again, we applaud you for the work you're
- 5 doing on the GLMRIS study. We also applaud you for
- 6 taking a special look at the Chicago Area Waterway
- 7 System. As people have noted, that is without doubt
- 8 the largest single threat right now in terms of the
- 9 potential introduction of Asian carp.
- 10 We have seen Asian carp coming our way for
- 11 more than a decade. We have not been ignorant of that.
- 12 We know that they've been headed our way. So we feel
- 13 that we must not be the generation that let's them get
- 14 into the Great Lakes.
- Our concern is at the Great Lakes Commission
- 16 we have gone on record unanimously supporting
- 17 ecological separation of the Great Lakes from the
- 18 Mississippi River Basin. All eight of our states have
- 19 agreed to that. That was unanimous, including
- 20 Illinois. So it's a very important policy position
- 21 that we have taken that the best permanent long-term
- 22 solution to protecting the Great Lakes, as well as
- 23 other parts of the country from aquatic invasive
- 24 species is to ecologically separate the two watersheds.
- We recognize the importance of the electric

- 1 barrier system. We feel that and other control
- 2 measures are critical in the near term, but in the long
- 3 term we feel that the best permanent solution is to
- 4 permanently ecologically separate those two water
- 5 bodies. So we appreciate and applaud your focus on the
- 6 Chicago Area Waterway System.
- 7 Our primary concern, we would echo what other
- 8 folks have said, is as much as possible to accelerate
- 9 your focus and your work on that portion of the study.
- 10 We believe that given the current policy debate both
- 11 within the region and in Washington, there's an urgent
- 12 need for more clarity and solutions and ideas for
- 13 achieving ecological separation. So we urge you to
- 14 accelerate and expedite your work on that particular
- 15 issue.
- 16 The Great Lakes Commission together with the
- 17 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative have
- 18 initiated a study to identify and evaluate options for
- 19 achieving hydrological separation. That study is
- 20 underway now. We're pleased to be working with the
- 21 Corps of Engineers and many other entities. We
- 22 appreciate your cooperation and support. We will have
- 23 results from this study by the end of this calendar
- 24 year, and we'll be rolling those out in January of next
- 25 year, again, looking at identifying a handful of

- 1 options for achieving ecological separation, but also
- 2 evaluating their impacts on recreational and commercial
- 3 navigation, wastewater management, the ecology of the
- 4 Chicago Area Waterway System and Lake Michigan, as well
- 5 as stormwater management.
- 6 And we recognize that the Chicago Area
- 7 Waterway System is a very complex system that was
- 8 developed over the last century and provides a
- 9 multitude of beneficial uses for the greater Chicago
- 10 area. And so our position is that we want to
- 11 ecologically separate the two water bodies, but
- 12 maintain or enhance those other beneficial uses.
- We would urge you as much as possible to
- 14 collaborate with us, and also to use the data and
- 15 modeling and other material and information that's
- 16 being generated by our study to help compliment and
- 17 support your study. We don't want to take the place of
- 18 the Corps of Engineers in the GLMRIS study. We want to
- 19 compliment and support what you're doing.
- And, frankly, we've heard some potentially
- 21 conflicting responses. We've been told that, "Yes, we
- 22 will look at your study. We will try to use that." But
- 23 then, on the other hand, we've heard from other people
- 24 that perhaps you're going to have to collect your own
- 25 data and do your own modeling. So we would urge you

- 1 wherever possible to use our resources to help us make
- 2 sure that they are done in a way that you can use them.
- 3 As you mentioned, we have a high level study
- 4 team that's working with us that includes a number of
- 5 former staffers from the Corps of Engineers and others
- 6 who are familiar with the Corps process. So we hope
- 7 that our study is something that you can and will use
- 8 to help you expedite your work.
- 9 So that's all I have to say on behalf of the
- 10 Great Lakes Commission. Again, thank you for coming
- 11 here. The Great Lakes Commission is based in Ann
- 12 Arbor. So it was very convenient for us to come out
- 13 here today. But we do represent and speak on behalf of
- 14 all the Great Lakes states, including Illinois, which,
- 15 as I said, is together with the other states in
- 16 supporting ecological separation as the best long-term
- 17 solution.
- Thank you.
- MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you.
- 20 GENERAL PEABODY: Thanks. Those are great
- 21 comments. And we appreciate your support of many of
- 22 our activities.
- Just a quick response on our ability to use
- 24 the study. We can't take a position on outside
- 25 agencies' efforts, especially nonfederal agencies. But

- 1 we certainly hope and we certainly intend -- we're
- 2 definitely going to look at your study. Forgive me. I
- 3 lost track of where you went. But we're going to
- 4 definitely look at your study, no question about it.
- 5 We're very interested in what you're doing. We will to
- 6 the extent that it's possible use the data and the
- 7 recommendations that you provide to inform our study.
- 8 And we're hopeful that what you're doing will help us
- 9 both move forward in quality and in time the ability
- 10 that we have to do our study.
- 11 So we look forward to what you're doing. And
- 12 we appreciate your effort. Yours is the kind of effort
- 13 that can really help the Corps of Engineers and all of
- 14 our federal partners move forward on a quicker pace to
- 15 do what we are required to do on this study. So
- 16 thanks.
- 17 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you, sir.
- 18 All right. Number two on the yellow list
- 19 And then following number three will be Trilby
- 20 Becker.
- 21 Hi. My name is My
- 22 zip code is \_\_\_\_.
- This is the second presentation that I've
- 24 attended put on by your organization. And I would like
- 25 to say that I know you all are working hard on this

- 1 thing, and your materials are excellent, and you're
- 2 trying to do a good job.
- I just got this one little pamphlet here, and
- 4 it just scares the heck out of me. "Study timeline:
- 5 With sufficient funds, a final reclamation plan for
- 6 Focus I area could be completed by 2015."
- 7 And then additional congressional
- 8 authorization and funding is required to do what you
- 9 guys come up with. So we're talking about 2015 to get
- 10 this thing done, and then God forbid we've got to send
- 11 it to Congress. And what gets done there? Nothing.
- My suggestion is this, okay? I've been
- 13 involved with fish shock studies before in rivers. I've
- 14 stood in the river myself while the shocking is going
- 15 on, okay, and netted the fish as they come up. Now, the
- 16 shocking that we were doing, okay, was not killing the
- 17 fish. It was just stunning them, okay?
- So why don't we just send someone down to the
- 19 river, this cesspool, okay, the Chicago River center,
- 20 turn up the dial a little bit, okay, and get these fish
- 21 coming up? And we could hire a lot of people to pick
- 22 up the dead fish. There's a lot of people out of work,
- 23 okay? And all we've got to do is pick up the fish,
- 24 okay?
- 25 It's a well-known fact, I think you gentlemen

- 1 will agree, that there's three or four areas where
- 2 these fish could be coming up, okay? There are these
- 3 alternate areas that you're suggesting which might
- 4 certainly be possibilities.
- But let's send somebody down there, turn up
- 6 the dial, and let's kill these fish. It's as simple as
- 7 that.
- 8 I mean, we're talking five years to get this
- 9 study, and then nothing is going to happen after that.
- 10 In the meantime who knows what's going to get into the
- 11 lake.
- 12 Thank you.
- MR. BLUHM: Thank you.
- 14 MR. GOSS: The discussion of what interim
- 15 things are the right things to do. There are
- 16 discussions going on about potential eradication of
- 17 fish in the Chicago Area Waterway. There are
- 18 organizations that are not totally supportive of that.
- 19 But certainly I know that I have challenged several
- 20 groups to give us their recommendations on that. I
- 21 appreciate you supporting that, but --
- 22 Who's not in support of shocking
- 23 the fish? What good are they? You can't eat them.
- 24 You're not going to eat anything that's in that river.
- 25 So what's the big deal? Just kill them.

- 1 MR. GOSS: Thank you for your comments, and I
- 2 will use it.
- 3 GENERAL PEABODY: Thank you, sir.
- 4 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Very good. Thank you.
- 5 All right. Number three Ms. Becker. And
- 6 then following will be Gillian Woodrooffe.
- Go ahead when you're set.
- 8 MS. BECKER: Hello. My name is Trilby
- 9 Becker. I'm with the National Wildlife Federation in
- 10 Ann Arbor. My zip code is 48103.
- 11 And I had a question about the other
- 12 pathways. In many cases the other potential pathways
- 13 identified around the Great Lakes Basin for aquatic
- 14 invasive species to enter are blocked on one or both
- 15 sides by barriers, manmade barriers. And I was
- 16 wondering if that wasn't an opportunity that should be
- 17 examined as to potential ways to block invasive species
- 18 from entering the pathway of concern, the area of
- 19 concern.
- 20 Because, as you mentioned earlier, the Great
- 21 Lakes Basin is very flat, and it's very difficult to
- 22 predict which way water is going to flow and which way
- 23 species are going to move. And once they're in these
- 24 areas, perhaps the tamarack lowlands might be a good
- 25 example in Minnesota, the cat is really out of the bag

- 1 at that point. It's kind of hard to find out where
- 2 they're going to be and contain them. And so it might
- 3 be a better opportunity to prevent them from ever
- 4 arriving in these areas to begin with.
- 5 But, also, as you mentioned before, the Corps
- 6 of Engineers doesn't always have the same flexibility
- 7 to act quickly. Because anytime you need to -- anytime
- 8 you do anything, you need to ask Congress and you need
- 9 to get money from Congress and their need to be NEPA
- 10 scoping meetings and all these other things. And in
- 11 many cases these barriers are controlled by the Corps.
- So I wonder if you've, A, thought about
- 13 the potential for preventing AIS from entering the
- 14 Great Lakes by looking downriver away from where the
- 15 potential point of entry is and if you've considered
- 16 what some ways of overcoming this problem of having to
- 17 go through this long protracted process in order to
- 18 obtain permission and money in order to modify those
- 19 barriers in some way that might prevent the passage of
- 20 AIS.
- 21 And, also, these barriers are often -- well,
- 22 let me say AIS there's many different kinds of AIS as
- 23 we know, and there's many other kinds of AIS that's
- 24 going to come up along the way as time moves on. And
- 25 it's very difficult to create a barrier that

- 1 anticipates all of those AIS.
- But, anyway, I was just wondering what your
- 3 thoughts are around barrier modification considering
- 4 all of these points that I've mentioned. Thank you so
- 5 much.
- 6 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.
- 7 MR. SAFFRAN: Very good point, Trilby.
- 8 During the preliminary risk characterization,
- 9 one of the most difficult things that we had to do was
- 10 to try to evaluate what level of impediment that the
- 11 in-stream obstructions provide. And we looked at a lot
- 12 of waterways, lots of dams. We didn't have enough time
- 13 to really do a good thorough evaluation of the relative
- 14 obstruction that each of these dams pose. And there's
- 15 -- again, there's a large inventory of dams. We map
- 16 where each of them exist along the tributary streams
- 17 that lead up to the point across the Basin Divide.
- 18 We haven't really gotten to the point on the
- 19 other pathways yet, though, of looking at the potential
- 20 for enhancing those obstructions as means to prevent
- 21 the migration. We just haven't gotten to that point
- 22 yet, because we're not really sure of what the risks
- 23 are that are posed by those things.
- 24 GENERAL PEABODY: Great point, great
- 25 question.

1 I would describe the 18 points and actually ultimately we're going to look at all 36, but those as the start point to work back downstream both toward the 3 Great Lakes and toward the Mississippi River watershed to do exactly what you identified, find places on the 5 pathway to the potential transition point that allows us to apply control mechanisms to prevent aquatic invasive species from migrating to get to the 8 9 transition point. 10 Because you're exactly right, once they're at 11 the transition point, the Huns are at the door, the 12 Huns are at the gate, and it could be too late. We want 13 to back them away from that point as much as possible. So that's definitely the approach we're going to take. 15 On the long process, I mean, democracy is 16 messy, and the Corps is not a self-authorizing or self-17 funding agency, and we do what we're told. 18 Having said that, Congress did two things in 19 2009 that have been decisive for our ability as a 20 federal team to take proactive measures on this urgent 21 situation. The first is they gave us an authority --22 gave the Secretary of the Army Ms. Darcy authority 23 called Section 126, which basically says, "Ms. Darcy, 24 you can take urgent action on an expedited basis to 25 execute things that you think are appropriate to stop

- 1 Asian carp from migrating through the Chicago Area
- 2 Waterway Systems into Lake Michigan."
- 3 And we have used that authority to execute
- 4 several of the things that we talked about. The bypass
- 5 barrier is one. The Des Plaines River is the best
- 6 example.
- 7 The second thing they did is they gave the
- 8 Environmental Protection Agency under the Great Lakes
- 9 Restoration Initiative money that has turned out to be
- 10 very effective as a source to reprogram to take some of
- 11 these urgent actions. So Mr. Goss talked about the
- 12 fence at Eagle Marsh, and that was funded with money
- 13 from GLRI.
- Now, without those two capabilities and
- 15 similar capabilities going forward, it's very hard for
- 16 us to act on a near realtime basis to our evolving
- 17 understanding of the situation and urgent actions that
- 18 we believe are appropriate.
- 19 So Congress is considering what they're going
- 20 to do about that going forward. That's their authority
- 21 to decide.
- 22 And, John, any further comments?
- MR. GOSS: I just want to add one other
- 24 point. I was the Indiana DNR director, and certainly
- 25 the states have jurisdiction in their rivers. If there

- 1 are Corps structures, the Corps would have jurisdiction
- 2 at their structures. But that's why Illinois is taking
- 3 the lead and is doing an excellent job I think coming
- 4 up with a plan for pushing the carp back in the
- 5 Illinois River. And hopefully that same commitment is
- 6 going to come from the other states.
- 7 Minnesota has voiced a number of suggestions
- 8 already. I think there were some things publicly this
- 9 past week about choosing other points farther down the
- 10 river system to stop Asian carp before they get further
- 11 into their waters.
- 12 So the charge right now is to use the
- 13 resources for keeping them out of the Great Lakes. A
- 14 lot of these projects are funded with Great Lakes
- 15 Restoration funds. We can't without talking to all the
- 16 people involved say we're going to take that money and
- 17 go down the rivers. So we may have to have another
- 18 source.
- But there's certainly the interest and the
- 20 commitment, I think, from the Natural Resources
- 21 Departments to come up with a plan something like the
- 22 strategy we've developed for stopping carp from getting
- 23 into the lakes, to stop the carp from advancing any
- 24 farther, and to dramatically or possibly in some areas
- 25 completely eradicate Asian carp so that we can get the

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- 1 natural balance of our fish populations back in our
- 2 rivers. So that's going to take another significant
- 3 effort.
- 4 But thanks for bringing it up.
- 5 MR. BLUHM: Excellent. Thank you.
- 6 Okay. Number four on our list Ms.
- 7 Woodrooffe. And then following number five Richard
- 8 Reynolds.
- 9 And when you're ready, go ahead.
- 10 MS. WOODROOFFE: Hi. My name is Gillian
- 11 Woodrooffe. And I could give you my postal code. POP
- 12 1A0. And I'm giving you that, although I do live in
- 13 Ann Arbor 48103.
- It's just that I'm representing McGregor Bay
- 15 Association. This is a small cottage owners'
- 16 association in McGregor Bay, which is probably the
- 17 northern most bay in Georgian Bay which is on the
- 18 Ontario side of Lake Huron. And as you know, if Asian
- 19 carp does get into the Great Lakes, Canadians are going
- 20 to be affected by that as well.
- 21 But I'm here speaking on behalf of our
- 22 cottage association of which 70 percent are actually
- 23 Americans. So we understand that this is an American
- 24 problem, but the Canadians are affected by it.
- 25 And I had prepared a statement, but it's

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- 1 basically reiterating what a lot of people have said
- 2 already.
- 3 What I'm finding a little bit troublesome is
- 4 the distance between what's going on here and the
- 5 Canadian authorities. I feel that there isn't enough
- 6 recognition that this -- that we live in an
- 7 international watershed that most of Canada's
- 8 population, and I would go as far to say a great
- 9 percentage of American population, do actually live
- 10 around the Great Lakes.
- 11 And what I am seeing and listening to is
- 12 rhetoric about the problems in the Chicago area
- 13 trumping by a very significant amount the other
- 14 concerns of everybody else in the Great Lakes.
- I did have a couple of questions on behalf of
- 16 another cottager. So I think you've answered one of
- 17 them. But I'm just wondering if there's -- and I don't
- 18 think you do have the answers to this. How long it
- 19 will take the fish to migrate throughout the Great
- 20 Lakes? That's a very grave concern of ours.
- 21 I might add that McGregor Bay is probably one
- 22 of the few areas in Lake Georgian Bay and Lake Huron in
- 23 general that is fairly affected by human development.
- 24 And unfortunately it is also impacted by invasive
- 25 species. I've seen common carp or grass carp in the

- 1 marsh by our cottage in the spring spawning, and it is
- 2 doing damage to that area as well.
- 3 So, anyway, that's one question.
- 4 Yeah. No, that's basically it. I mean, the
- 5 other thing is what I said earlier about taking a city
- 6 of enormous consequence, but nevertheless it seems to
- 7 have more political clout than the rest of us.
- 8 Thank you.
- 9 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you.
- 10 MR. GOSS: I'll just comment quickly on the
- 11 Canadian government's involvement. Their Fisheries and
- 12 Oceans Department in Ontario have initiated the type of
- 13 analysis that you were asking about as far as what they
- 14 think the areas that would be impacted and how long it
- 15 might take. So they're looking at that this year. And
- 16 so there will be some updated evaluations.
- 17 Also just to emphasize how serious the
- 18 Canadian government is, this next week they're going to
- 19 be doing a simulation for an Asian carp invasion. So
- 20 they are actually studying what would their responses
- 21 be if something would happen. They're going to go
- 22 through a series of exercises. And they're taking it
- 23 very seriously.
- And that's connected with the Great Lakes
- 25 Fishery Commission with all the states, also, on our

- 1 side of that risk assessment. So we'll be benefiting
- 2 from all the work that they're doing. It's going to be
- 3 very good.
- 4 GENERAL PEABODY: And just to add to that,
- 5 anything that the Canadian government provides that can
- 6 be useful for our study we will use.
- 7 Thank you, ma'am.
- 8 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.
- 9 Okay. We're on number five now Mr. Reynolds.
- 10 And then following him number six will be Gale Govaere.
- When you're ready, go ahead, sir.
- MR. REYNOLDS: Hi. My name is Richard
- 13 Reynolds. My zip code is 48104.
- I would like to start by saying that, you
- 15 know, what I've witnessed so far is a tremendous void
- 16 between where I perceive you folks to be versus where
- 17 the audience seems to be. There's a disconnect and a
- 18 frustration at least on my part certainly with regard
- 19 to that void.
- 20 I would like to thank you for the opportunity
- 21 to come and share my thoughts with you today. I'm
- 22 representing the Great Lakes ecosystem. It's not some
- 23 organization and I'm not being paid for being here.
- There's nowhere on this earth which is
- 25 outside of humanity's influence. Global warming, ocean

- 1 acidification, depletion of potential and potential
- 2 collapse of ocean fisheries, melting of the polar ice
- 3 caps. Humanity has an incredibly heavy footprint on
- 4 this earth.
- 5 This year world population will reach 7
- 6 billion people. That number in and of itself is not
- 7 necessarily a problem. The problem is with our
- 8 attitude concerning the earth's resources and our
- 9 resulting behavior.
- 10 I've heard repeatedly cost benefit analysis
- 11 with regard to these Asian carp. Thirteen months ago I
- 12 attended a meeting concerning Asian carp at this hotel.
- 13 A number of people in attendance were from Chicago.
- 14 They came to plea not for the Great Lakes, but for a
- 15 handful of jobs in the pleasure boat industry and barge
- 16 industry. A plea totally based on economics.
- 17 Herein lies the problem. Humanity values
- 18 short-term economics ignoring long-term costs as if
- 19 they don't exist. Only when we place economic value on
- 20 what we have, what currently exists, the natural state
- 21 of our environment, will our decisions reflect true
- 22 economic costs.
- I had a career for 25 years, worked for a big
- 24 company. In all work there are those that do a job
- 25 because it pays and those that work because they're

- 1 passionate about the task at hand. Getting a job well
- 2 done was easy if I could find the right people that
- 3 were passionate about the task at hand. I hope there
- 4 are passionate ones among you and those behind you in
- 5 your organizations, but fear this is not the case.
- 6 Conducting a five-year study is devoid of passion for
- 7 the task, as well as the logic regarding the eventual
- 8 outcome.
- 9 There's a military term that I think aptly
- 10 describes where we are today. It's called SNAFU. When
- 11 I was a kid, I heard SNAFU. I never knew what it
- 12 meant. And rather than describe what it means, those
- 13 in uniform today maybe can share it with others if they
- 14 don't know.
- There's another military term that I think
- 16 describes where we'll be in 2015 if we continue down
- 17 the path we're on. That's FUBAR.
- 18 Preventing these fish from taking over the
- 19 Great Lakes and tributary rivers is our responsibility.
- 20 Last fall at a meeting in East Lansing on
- 21 this subject, the most Honorable Derek Bailey of the
- 22 Chippewa Tribes of Michigan shared with us a Native
- 23 American concept called seven generations. It has to
- 24 do with looking forward seven generations and looking
- 25 back seven generations and considering the impact of

- 1 what we do on those that have preceded us and those
- 2 that will follow us.
- 3 So which will it be? Another heavy footprint
- 4 of humanity or corrective action we can all be proud of
- 5 today and for generations forward and back.
- 6 I can't just -- I can't explain to you how
- 7 disappointed I am at where we are. I don't know the
- 8 gentleman's name, but number two on the yellow side
- 9 said let's take action today to do things. I can't
- 10 imagine that we're not doing that. And I'll pay the
- 11 first dollar to put electricity through the stream to
- 12 stop these fish.
- One question I do have in conclusion is we
- 14 have three barriers right now, as I understand, three
- 15 electronic barriers. That suggests that these fish
- 16 will get through an electronic barrier. And I was kind
- 17 of a numbers guy in my career. And if I assume that
- 18 they get through the first barrier, then the
- 19 probability of that fish going forward is 50 percent.
- 20 And if the other 50 percent turn around and go back,
- 21 that's great. But half of them are going to go through
- 22 the next barrier and half of them are going to go
- 23 through the next barrier. So 25 percent make it all
- 24 the way. How many fish are going to make it through
- 25 these barriers over the next five years?

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- 1 Anyway, that concludes my comments. Thank
- 2 you.
- 3 GENERAL PEABODY: Thank you, sir.
- 4 I have a politically correct answer for the
- 5 first question regarding SNAFU. Situation normal all
- 6 fouled up. And FUBAR is fouled up beyond all
- 7 recognition. If you would like the unpolitically
- 8 correct answer, I suggest you watch the film --
- 9 MR. REYNOLDS: Use your imagination.
- 10 GENERAL PEABODY: Yes.
- Or you can switch some of those words around,
- 12 and if you get the first letter right, you can figure
- 13 out where to take that.
- 14 The two points you make take action today. I
- 15 just want to go back to the preamble point that I made
- 16 at the beginning of the presentation, which is, we have
- 17 taken aggressive action. It's been related to the
- 18 Chicago Area Waterway System primarily, but also on the
- 19 other pathways spreading to Eagle Marsh. We're very
- 20 confident that the actions that we're taking in the
- 21 near term are effective in the Chicago Area Waterway
- 22 System.
- Now, let me go to the last question you asked
- 24 about the fish barrier and explain that. The reason we
- 25 have three barriers is, first of all, we built what we

- 1 called a demonstration barrier. That was barrier one.
- 2 The demonstration barrier took what was existing
- 3 technology and existing parameters and applied them in
- 4 the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to assess whether
- 5 they were working.
- 6 The telemetry tests we did we put little
- 7 electronic tags, radio tags, in fish and then monitors
- 8 along the side of the canal to see if fish pass through
- 9 the system. Those telemetry tests indicated to us
- 10 that, in fact, fish were not crossing through the
- 11 barrier system.
- 12 Subsequently we got this laboratory research
- 13 that I already talked about that said one volt per inch
- 14 may not be enough. It may take up to four volts per
- 15 inch. And our research to try to validate that
- 16 information indicated that, in fact, two volts per inch
- 17 is what's effective. And that's what we're applying
- 18 today. And there's a lot of details to it that I could
- 19 add on, but it gets complicated and confusing. So I'm
- 20 kind of dummying it down.
- 21 Why do we have three barriers? Well, the
- 22 first barrier was a demonstration, it was a pilot to
- 23 see if it would work. The short answer was yes, but
- 24 the caveat to it was you need to change some of the
- 25 parameters.

- 1 The second barrier changed the parameters to
- 2 increase its effectiveness.
- 3 The third barrier, which we just completed,
- 4 provides redundancy. So when you take one barrier down
- 5 for maintenance, you have the other one that's
- 6 operating and fish can't get through. But the
- 7 implication that we have multiple barriers because some
- 8 fish may pass through one barrier to go to the next is
- 9 not the case at all.
- 10 And as we continue our research to validate
- 11 the operating parameters, if we get indications that we
- 12 need to change the operating parameters, we intend to
- 13 do so.
- I hope that answers your question. We
- 15 appreciate your concern, as we share it. Thanks, sir.
- MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you.
- 17 Okay. We're on number six Gale Govaere.
- 18 Okay. You're here. Very good.
- 19 And following number seven Alex Yerkey.
- When you're ready, go ahead.
- 21 MS. GOVAERE: Good afternoon. My name is
- 22 Gale Govaere. My zip code is 48226.
- I'm actually here as a representative of
- 24 Senator Carl Levin. And he could not be here today and
- 25 asked if I could read a statement on his behalf.

- 1 First off, I would like to thank the Army
- 2 Corps of Engineers for organizing today's event. Asian
- 3 carp and invasive species are one of the largest
- 4 threats facing the Great Lakes. So it is very
- 5 important that we debate and discuss plans to prevent
- 6 their introduction.
- 7 Senator Levin co-sponsored the National
- 8 Invasive Species Act of 1996 which authorized the Corps
- 9 to build a temporary dispersal barrier in the Chicago
- 10 Sanitary and Ship Canal to stop invasive species from
- 11 entering Lake Michigan. And he has repeatedly sought
- 12 and succeeded in securing authorizing language in
- 13 funding for the Army Corps to complete and enhance the
- 14 dispersal barriers.
- 15 Senator Levin has continually urged the Army
- 16 Corps of Engineers and other agencies to take effective
- 17 actions to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great
- 18 Lakes.
- 19 Last year Senator Levin's Asian Carp
- 20 Prevention and Control Act, which places the bighead
- 21 carp on the list of injurious species under the Lacey
- 22 Act, was signed into law. He sponsored legislation
- 23 that would direct the Army Corps to separate the study
- 24 of hydrologic separation from the full Great Lakes and
- 25 Mississippi River Interbasin Study. And he supports an

- 1 expedited analysis of hydrologic separation of the
- 2 Mississippi River from the Great Lakes Basin, because
- 3 five years is just too long to wait.
- 4 He has also been pushing the Army Corps to
- 5 fully fund this project, and the Corps' fiscal year
- 6 2012 budget request of 3 million for the study is a
- 7 good step forward. We have already invested 37 million
- 8 on the construction and operation of the electric
- 9 dispersal barriers, on Asian carp monitoring and on
- 10 studies. We cannot allow these efforts to be wasted by
- 11 delay. Further, the \$7 billion Great Lakes fishing
- 12 industry is too important to our economy and jobs to do
- 13 anything less.
- 14 Thank you very much.
- MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you.
- Okay. We're on number seven now. Mr.
- 17 Yerkey. And then following number eight Laura Rubin.
- Okay. Go ahead when you're ready, sir.
- 19 MR. YERKEY: My name is Alex Yerkey -- Y-e-r-
- 20 k-e-y. I'm here on behalf of Clean Water Action of
- 21 Michigan. And our state zip code would be 48823 in
- 22 East Lansing. My personal one 48108 here in Ann Arbor.
- 23 First of all, I would just like to thank
- 24 everyone here for their presentations today and the
- 25 work that they've been doing on this very important

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- 1 issue.
- 2 I'm here on behalf of our over 250,000
- 3 members in Michigan to urge you to take steps as
- 4 rapidly as possible to begin the process of
- 5 hydrological separation of the Great Lakes from the
- 6 shipping canals in Chicago and the Mississippi River
- 7 Basin. I understand that I'm the 15th person to speak
- 8 here. So to the extent I might be repeating myself,
- 9 I'll try to limit myself.
- 10 But as both representatives of Stabenow and
- 11 Levin have noted, the fishing industry in the Great
- 12 Lakes is a \$7 billion industry. The cost of closing
- 13 the locks would be roughly 70 million. I understand
- 14 that doesn't completely solve the problem, but, you
- 15 know, our sense is if you can spend a penny to save a
- 16 dollar, you know, why not, especially if it's going to
- 17 make a big dent in the problem.
- 18 The other main issue that I don't believe has
- 19 been brought up is that certain carp have been caught
- 20 past any of our current barriers. One, I believe, in
- 21 the Calumet River. I'm not entirely sure which branch,
- 22 but it was six miles away from Lake Michigan. And
- 23 would have had a clear shot, you know, had we not
- 24 caught it. Which really calls into question, you know,
- 25 are there fish that are making it that we don't know

- 1 about and, you know, what are we doing to deal with
- 2 that issue.
- 3 In our estimation physical and hydrological
- 4 separation is the only proven method of separating or
- 5 preventing the carp from reaching the Great Lakes. And
- 6 given that your Congressional mandate says that you
- 7 need to focus on prevention and not risk reduction, we
- 8 would ask you to focus on that.
- 9 I'll close here with I guess a fairly
- 10 theoretical question, which is, you know, how do we put
- 11 a price tag on the ecological health of the Great
- 12 Lakes.
- 13 That's about it.
- MR. BLUHM: Thank you.
- 15 GENERAL PEABODY: Thank you, sir. We
- 16 appreciate all your points.
- 17 Let me take the Asian carp location question
- 18 first. You're basically accurate. We found one big
- 19 head carp in Lake Calumet, which is -- I think it's
- 20 about right. Five, four or five, six miles from Lake
- 21 Michigan, a couple of miles from O'Brien Lock and Dam.
- 22 I'm not sure of the exact dimensions, but it is north
- 23 of O'Brien Lock and Dam and south of Lake Michigan
- 24 shoreline. That is the only Asian carp that we have
- 25 found despite what's been almost a continuous year and

- 1 a half of fishing expeditions in the area above the
- 2 fish barrier. Thousands of man hours, tens of
- 3 thousands of fish that have been killed or captured,
- 4 one Asian carp above the fish barrier.
- 5 So at least one Asian carp is present above
- 6 the fish barrier. We found it. There may be others.
- 7 EDNA indicates that that's a possibility. But since
- 8 the science of eDNA has not yet evolved to a point
- 9 where we can conclude that the presence of eDNA
- 10 indicates live fish or that we can extract the
- 11 information from eDNA that says this is from a live
- 12 fish, we don't know that with certainty at this point.
- 13 But the fact that we have the eDNA evidence
- 14 has caused enough seriousness for us to take a whole
- 15 variety of actions, which we've already talked about,
- 16 and I'm not going to reiterate again.
- 17 On hydro separation we certainly intend to
- 18 look at that as one of the alternatives. Again, we're
- 19 hopeful that the Great Lakes Commission Cities Study
- 20 that they're executing will allow us to -- will inform
- 21 our efforts and will allows us to perhaps reduce some
- 22 of the study efforts that we have to undertake.
- 23 As to your questions about ecological health,
- 24 I don't necessarily have a good answer for that. I can
- 25 tell you that our charge under the law is to look at

- 1 the impacts, the costs and the benefits of various
- 2 alternatives, understand the impacts, and then do an
- 3 analysis of what those costs, benefits and impacts are,
- 4 and then make recommendations associated with that. But
- 5 ultimately it will be an administration policy decision
- 6 as modified by Congressional judgment that will form
- 7 the long-term actions.
- But thanks, sir. We appreciate your
- 9 comments.
- 10 MR. BLUHM: Excellent. Thank you.
- Okay. We're on number eight Ms. Rubin. I
- 12 see you're there. Great. And then following number
- 13 nine Chuck Denton.
- When you're ready, go ahead.
- MS. RUBIN: Hello. My name is Laura Rubin --
- 16 R-u-b-i-n. My zip code is 48103.
- 17 I'm the Executive Director of the Huron River
- 18 Watershed Council, which is the watershed that you are
- 19 sitting in today. You actually look out the other side
- 20 is Ford Lake. This watershed drains about 910 square
- 21 miles in southeast Michigan and drains into Lake Erie.
- 22 And I'm here today representing our concern
- 23 about Asian carp entering the Great Lakes system, and
- 24 specifically for us the Huron River watershed.
- We're the oldest regional watershed council

- 1 in this state. We were formed in 1965 with a very
- 2 strong scientific bend. We like to say that the Huron
- 3 is the best studied river in Michigan. The majority of
- 4 my staff are scientists. And it's one of the issues
- 5 that I feel like, while I concur with many of the
- 6 speakers, has not been brought up is trying to balance
- 7 science with action. And it's something our
- 8 organization struggles with.
- 9 We do lots of monitoring. We co-lead the
- 10 state's rivers and lakes monitoring program with the
- 11 Great Lakes Commission. We train a lot of people in
- 12 science. And we run up against these issues while on a
- 13 much smaller scale in our watershed, but trying to
- 14 manage how much science we need before we take action.
- And it's one of the things that I think is --
- 16 that I haven't heard or is missing in this in terms of
- 17 trying to balance the science and action in that when
- 18 we're looking at a five-year study are there points in
- 19 that study, are there points after a year or some of
- 20 the data collection where there's a point where you
- 21 look at some of the data, you look at what we've seen,
- 22 and does this cause us to take action. And it's one of
- 23 the things I haven't heard.
- 24 And I guess the question that I want to raise
- 25 to you is we've heard that the Great Lakes Commission

- 1 is doing some data. There is the Canadian government
- 2 that's collecting data. There's a lot of scientists,
- 3 academics that are out there. Is there any point in
- 4 this five-year study where you look at what you've got
- 5 and decide we have enough data to take some action here
- 6 or there might be some intermediate steps? Just
- 7 because I think five years is a long time to take
- 8 action. And I know as our organization we try to
- 9 balance those.
- 10 Thank you.
- 11 GENERAL PEABODY: Yes, ma'am. You make
- 12 excellent points. And I would say in general we concur
- 13 with the approach that you're recommending.
- 14 The way I would characterize it is we intend
- 15 to take science-based action. And the actions that we
- 16 have taken so far are based on all the science and the
- 17 data that we have to tell us what to do. And as I've
- 18 indicated, as that knowledge evolves and if it changes,
- 19 then we certainly are not wedded to what we've done. We
- 20 would intend to make appropriate modifications in our
- 21 actions.
- With respect to the study, yes, absolutely.
- 23 As we go forward and we cycle out and understand the
- 24 data and as we develop an understanding of the options
- 25 and technologies that might be affected, those that

- 1 look to us to be most promising and that are likely to
- 2 potentially be able to execute in the shortest
- 3 timeframe would be areas that we would focus on first.
- 4 Because we don't want to wait for the perfect solution
- 5 which is likely to take a long period of time. We want
- 6 to take incremental steps that will help increase the
- 7 likelihood that Asian carp and other species cannot
- 8 migrate between the two basins.
- 9 So we definitely agree with your approach. We
- 10 intend to follow it. What we can't say with certitude
- 11 is how long it would take us, because we need to follow
- 12 the study process that will reveal the science.
- And, ma'am, if your organization, a science-
- 14 based organization, has information that you think may
- 15 be relevant to us, we would really appreciate you
- 16 providing that to us. And we'll take a look at it and
- 17 use it, if we can.
- 18 So thank you so much. Good points, good
- 19 question.
- MR. BLUHM: Thank you.
- 21 All right. We're up to number nine Mr.
- 22 Denton. I see you're there. And then last on the list
- 23 number 10 Marc Smith.
- When you're ready, go ahead, sir.
- 25 MR. DENTON: Hi. I'm Chuck Denton -- D-e-n-

- 1 t-o-n. I represent Washtenaw Voice. Also, I'm a
- 2 citizen here. Zip code is 48104.
- First of all, I want to thank all of you
- 4 folks for your service. I don't mean any disrespect on
- 5 a personal level. I just have to say what I have to
- 6 say.
- 7 The first thing that I'm disappointed in is I
- 8 wish that there was a Canadian sitting there on that
- 9 table with you as well as a Native American. And
- 10 another representative needs to be there, and that is
- 11 somebody accountable with regards to the inner city.
- 12 You're worried about the fish, which is
- 13 important, but, you know, since I was a boy now I can't
- 14 swim in the rivers. I can't drink the water. You know,
- 15 the Huron River they tell me is poisoned. I can't swim
- 16 in the lakes.
- 17 And I know the Army has been doing it's duty
- 18 since 1820 since you built your first canal up in
- 19 Macomb. And you'll march right over the cliff per the
- 20 orders, which is fine.
- 21 But here we are. Our wetlands are just about
- 22 gone. And, you know, I just feel like the only cash --
- 23 it's the cash flow is what we're worried about. Not
- 24 the Army, but the politics of it.
- And, you know, if the fish are a problem, why

- 1 don't we draft some pike to go get them instead of
- 2 studying this whole situation to death.
- 3 The other thing I don't understand is, you
- 4 know, the Army Corps of Engineers has a site in
- 5 Detroit, old historical Fort Wayne. And if that's a
- 6 reflection of what we're going to be doing, the whole
- 7 facility is dilapidated. It's so bad there that the
- 8 fire hydrants are leaking. If you have a fire, you're
- 9 not going to be able to get any water because the fire
- 10 hydrants are all rusted out.
- 11 So I just apologize for being, you know, so
- 12 direct, but I -- you know, I think what we're doing
- 13 here is studying, and we are -- our cure is worse than
- 14 the disease. And what I mean by that is this is a
- 15 living planet. It means it's got to breathe. We're
- 16 going to clog up the rest of the waterway system for
- 17 some fish. Just find a natural predator and get rid of
- 18 the Asian carp.
- 19 But, you know, on top of that I just seen the
- 20 other day there was individuals smuggling fish. And I'm
- 21 telling you this problem is bigger than just Chicago.
- 22 So my -- I guess my criticism is I wish there
- 23 was a Canadian and a Native American and an inner city
- 24 person here with you being responsible. But I know
- 25 we've got bureaucracy that goes around the planet, and

- 1 in Washington DC it's like a black hole. I don't
- 2 understand how things get done in there any more other
- 3 than money flows.
- 4 So, again, thank you for your service.
- 5 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.
- 6 MR. WETHINGTON: Although we don't have the
- 7 folks who you represented sitting at this table, I
- 8 would like to say that we all represent all those
- 9 organizations who are working together with us
- 10 collaboratively. Mr. Goss from the White House Council
- 11 on Environmental Quality he leads up the Asian Carp
- 12 Regional Coordinating Committee which has a number of
- 13 different organizations. Myself as the Project Manager
- 14 for the Corps of Engineers. We are working -- we took
- 15 a trip up to Traverse City. And while we were up
- 16 there, we went and met with a Native American tribe and
- 17 specifically talked to them about this issue, because
- 18 they voiced an interest and wanted to be included as
- 19 part of the study.
- 20 So although we can't bring everyone here to
- 21 the table today, we do represent all of those
- 22 organizations and entities and cultural backgrounds
- 23 that you described to us. So I appreciate that. And,
- 24 trust me, we're doing what we can.
- 25 GENERAL PEABODY: I would just add we do keep

- 1 the Canadian government informed primarily through the
- 2 mechanism of the International Joint Commission, but
- 3 also in other ways. We are in communications with
- 4 them.
- 5 Thank you, sir.
- 6 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Very good. Thank you.
- 7 Okay. We're on number 10 on the yellow list.
- 8 Mr. Smith, when you're ready, go ahead.
- 9 MR. SMITH: Good afternoon. Marc Smith with
- 10 the National Wildlife Federation. 48103.
- I want to again thank you guys for doing this
- 12 meeting. This is appropriate that it's on Fat Tuesday.
- 13 Your tour has been a party, but now the work has to
- 14 begin, okay?
- So I want to just reference two points. I
- 16 know that we have concerns that I've talked at before.
- 17 We're going to give you lengthy comments to drool over
- 18 when we submit those.
- But one of the two areas I want to talk about
- 20 were electrical barrier and then the other pathways.
- 21 And I wanted to ask kind of more questions. Maybe you
- 22 can reserve the answer until I'm done with my comments.
- So I want to ask the question about the
- 24 Smith-Root Electrical Barrier Operating Report, which
- 25 basically y'all have been referring to as showing that

- 1 electrical fence as having prevented the carp from
- 2 coming in or invasive species has worked. I wonder why
- 3 you have refused to release that report and why did it
- 4 take litigation and the threat of litigation for you
- 5 guys to release that.
- 6 The second part on the other pathways --
- 7 maybe, Mr. Saffran, I can direct it towards you. Again,
- 8 appreciate the fast nature that you did to identify
- 9 those areas. That just shows that the Corps can move
- 10 fast. We appreciate that.
- One of the things in there is you identified
- 12 potential expert panels that would be established at
- 13 each of these areas that basically come together to
- 14 develop an action plan of how to address that threat. I
- 15 want to know when will you start developing or
- 16 organizing those expert panels and when will you --
- 17 what's the criteria for groups or NGOs or key
- 18 stakeholders that will be a part of those panels?
- 19 So that's all I wanted to say. So I want to
- 20 reserve the time for the questions. So report, then
- 21 Mr. Saffran on the ANS other pathways.
- MR. BLUHM: Great. Thank you.
- 23 GENERAL PEABODY: Okay. Good. Thanks, sir.
- Okay. With regard to the Smith-Root report,
- 25 when -- I think we were asked for that information -- I

- 1 think it was the Technical Advisor Group was at least
- 2 one of the groups that asked for that information. The
- 3 report was still being drafted. And at that time it
- 4 wasn't final. And so we were still going through
- 5 analysis of what the information meant. And as I
- 6 indicated earlier, without getting into the details,
- 7 it's very difficult to understand. It's highly
- 8 technical. And we needed our professional experts to
- 9 go through it and make sure we had a clear
- 10 understanding of what the limitations are of the
- 11 research that's done and what conclusions we could draw
- 12 from those limitations. It's not obvious or apparent.
- 13 It's not as my calculus book used to say intuitively
- 14 obvious to the casual observer. It's quite the
- 15 contrary. It's very complex and difficult to
- 16 understand actually.
- 17 Between the time we got that request for the
- 18 information and the FOIA requests which followed
- 19 shortly thereafter, at the time we got the FOIA request
- 20 this was still pre-decisional information and had not
- 21 been adequately analyzed to the point where we thought
- 22 it was ready for public dissemination. So we really
- 23 need to get to that point before we put draft reports
- 24 out there, because conclusions could change. It needs
- 25 to be vetted internally. We need to have a clear

- 1 understanding ourselves of what it means before we put
- 2 it out there.
- 3 Shortly after the FOIA request came out, we
- 4 got information from Smith-Root scientists that they
- 5 were approaching the end of their drafting process and
- 6 it was ready for internal review. And as a result of
- 7 that -- now, we thought it was going to be a few more
- 8 months, and it turns out it was only going to be a few
- 9 more weeks. So as a result of that, we decided once
- 10 our internal drafting review was done that we would
- 11 release the report, because obviously it has a lot of
- 12 public interest. Prior to putting that into the
- 13 interim report, too, for the efficacy study, which
- 14 won't come out for several more months. So that's what
- 15 happened there.
- 16 And I think the other question I'm going to
- 17 let Mike Saffran take here on the other pathways.
- 18 Mike?
- 19 MR. SMITH: Well, actually if I could just
- 20 interject on that just responding to your point. If
- 21 information needed to be vetted through the various key
- 22 agencies before you can release that, why did you keep
- 23 referring to this report as evidence that the
- 24 electrical fence is working?
- 25 GENERAL PEABODY: Well, because we were

- 1 making decisions in realtime. I'm not going to wait
- 2 until I have a report to say, okay, I'm not going to
- 3 make changes, because the Asian carp are there. They're
- 4 approaching the area of the fish barrier. And we can't
- 5 wait for perfect to make decisions. That's why we acted
- 6 on environmental DNA evidence even though we didn't go
- 7 through our normal process of internal -- independent
- 8 external peer review to even apply it. We did the
- 9 internal -- the independent external peer review
- 10 simultaneously with the application of the information.
- This is a situation that's very dynamic. We
- 12 cannot afford to make a mistake. We recognize that.
- 13 And we want to apply the best knowledge in realtime.
- Now, we still have to follow our legal
- 15 obligations to execute these formal report processes in
- 16 the appropriate manner.
- 17 And, further, as everybody here is well
- 18 aware, we've been in litigation on this issue, and
- 19 we've had to defend our decisions. And so we've made
- 20 public that information that we could to support the
- 21 decisions and judgments that we've made.
- 22 But I want to be very clear that as
- 23 information evolves if we believe that decisions that
- 24 we had previously made need to be modulated or
- 25 adjusted, we'll do that.

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- I hope that answers your question. Thank you
- 2 for it.
- 3 MR. SAFFRAN: Hi, Marc.
- The other pathways, I think you're referring
- 5 to the draft study plan we had to complete the risk
- 6 characterization to the other pathways, and basically
- 7 it's still in draft form. I have received a number of
- 8 comments from internal folks within the Army Corps of
- 9 Engineers. We have briefed each of the state DNRs
- 10 where there are pathways within those states, as well
- 11 as Pennsylvania and Michigan also have been briefed on
- 12 basically what our plan is. Haven't gotten any formal
- 13 comments yet. Have received some identification of
- 14 folks who would be available to participate in the
- 15 teams.
- 16 Just to cut it real short, I guess, we've got
- 17 -- the plan calls for setting up individual pathway
- 18 teams for each of the 18 teams to have coordination for
- 19 all locations within any given state, and then to have
- 20 an expert review panel that would be made up of folks
- 21 who aren't actively involved in doing the individual
- 22 work but that who would at key points be briefed on
- 23 what the status is and provide input and direction to
- 24 the teams so that they go forward in the best way
- 25 possible.

- 1 As far as inclusion of NGOs in that process,
- 2 I'm not an attorney, but I understand there's issues
- 3 with something called FACA. And I'm not even sure what
- 4 the acronym stands for, F-A-C-A. But we have contacted
- 5 the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission. My understanding
- 6 is they're exempt from the FACA requirement to try to,
- 7 again, increase the ability to get the best expert from
- 8 outside of our organization frankly to help inform the
- 9 study and the results of that study before we release
- 10 it so that we can put out the best product possible.
- 11 So that's basically what the status is. I
- 12 can't tell you right now how or if we are going to be
- 13 able to involve NGOs in the process.
- 14 MR. SMITH: All right. Thank you.
- 15 GENERAL PEABODY: Thank you.
- MR. BLUHM: Excellent. Thank you.
- 17 All right. Folks, I've got a slight dilemma
- 18 here.
- 19 MR. GOSS: Just to clarify, they could
- 20 recommend individuals, couldn't they, Mike?
- 21 MR. SAFFRAN: You're talking about --
- MR. GOSS: With credentials for the expert
- 23 panels?
- 24 MR. SAFFRAN: Again, I'm not sure that I know
- 25 the answer to that.

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- 1 MR. GOSS: Well, academics or other experts.
- 2 MR. SAFFRAN: That was my intent was to try
- 3 to get the best expert. I understand that there are
- 4 issues if you're not a representative of a government
- 5 agency.
- 6 MR. GOSS: I'm talking about not representing
- 7 groups, but as individuals.
- 8 MR. SAFFRAN: And I'm not sure what the --
- 9 GENERAL PEABODY: We can take information
- 10 from any source. It's our ability to collaborate
- 11 actively with those sources that's in question. I'm
- 12 going to get myself in trouble with my attorney here,
- 13 because I don't understand the details of the law.
- MR. GOSS: We'll take it after the meeting.
- 15 GENERAL PEABODY: Okay. Great. Thanks.
- MR. BLUHM: Excellent.
- 17 Okay. Folks, we're in a slight dilemma here.
- 18 We've been talking very good discussion. We've heard
- 19 from 18 individuals.
- 20 At this point in time I've got about seven
- 21 minutes on the clock. I would like to see a show of
- 22 hands is there anybody else that has not had an
- 23 opportunity to approach the panel that would like to
- 24 now make an oral presentation or statement or comment
- 25 or question for us?

- 1 Anybody?
- Okay. I want to say that because, number
- 3 one, we can definitely take one more or maybe two more,
- 4 but I want to make sure that we give the panel
- 5 especially and the rest of the room a chance to reset
- 6 after this meeting.
- 7 With that said, keep in mind if you do have
- 8 anything that you do think of we will be doing this
- 9 exact presentation and session again starting at 5:30.
- 10 And would like to also say that we thank you all for
- 11 your comments that you have for us.
- 12 If you have anything prepared that you would
- 13 like to turn in, I would ask that you bring them up to
- 14 the front table to myself or leave them out in the
- 15 hallway at the registration table so they can be
- 16 properly entered into our NEPA scoping document.
- 17 Also, if you do wish to send in any written
- 18 documentation, again, that March 31st due date is a
- 19 very important cutoff date for you to remember.
- 20 And then, lastly, if you have any materials
- 21 that we've provided for you that you do not need
- 22 anymore, you do not wish to carry with you, you can
- 23 leave them right there at your location and we will
- 24 come by and recycle those for you. If you need
- 25 additional information or material packets for anybody

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   that was not able to make it today, feel free to help
 1
   yourself out at the registration desk. We do have
    extras, and you can take as many as you would like.
 3
 4
              With that being said, I will adjourn the
 5
    meeting. It's 4:55. And ask you all to have a safe
    and enjoyable evening.
                            Thank you much.
 7
              GENERAL PEABODY:
                                 Thanks everybody.
 8
                     (Meeting concluded at 4:55 p.m.)
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1	CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC	
2	I, Catherine M. Collier, the officer before whom	
3	the foregoing hearing was taken, do hereby certify that	
4	the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing	
5	pages was recorded by me and thereafter reduced to	
6	typewriting under my direction; that said hearing is a	
7	true record of the proceedings; that I am neither	
8	counsel for, related to, nor employed by and of the	
9	parties to the action in which this hearing was taken;	
10	and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of	
11	an counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto,	
12	nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome	
13	of this action.	
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
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21		
22	Catherine M. Collier	
23	Notary Public in and for the	
24	State of Michigan	
25	My commission expires: October 29, 2011	

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	1
NEPA SCOPING PUBLIC MEETING	
In Re: :	
:	
Great Lakes and Mississippi :	
River Interbasin Study :	
Ypsilanti, Michigan	
Tuesday, March 8, 2011	
Proceedings had in the above-entitled matter	
before U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Panel Members,	
at the Ann Arbor Marriott Ypsilanti at Eagle Crest,	
1275 South Huron Street, Ypsilanti, Michigan, at	
5:35 p.m.	

			2
1		APPEARANCES	
2	PANEL MEMBERS:		
3			
4	John Goss -	<u>-</u>	
5		Council on Environmental Quality	
6	Major General Joh	n Peabody - Commander Great Lakes	
7		and Ohio River Division, U.S. Army	
8		Corps of Engineers	
9	Dave Wethington -	CAWS Project Manager	
10	Michael Saffran -	Other Pathways Project Manager	
11	Kevin Bluhm -	Moderator	
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- 1 PROCEEDINGS
- 2 MR. BLUHM: The time is 5:35. I would like
- 3 to call this second session for the day to order.
- 4 My name is Kevin Bluhm. I'm the moderator
- 5 for this evening's session. And I work out of the St.
- 6 Paul District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. And I'm
- 7 very glad and thankful that you're all here with us
- 8 this evening.
- 9 This is our twelfth meeting second session
- 10 here for the GLMRIS, the Great Lakes and Mississippi
- 11 River Interbasin Study, NEPA Public Scoping Meeting.
- 12 I've got to clear my mouth here.
- Before we get started, I would like to just
- 14 ask if you have a cell phone, any type of electronic
- 15 device here, you turn it into a mute or a quiet mode.
- 16 That would help us out a little bit.
- 17 And if you're not totally familiar with our
- 18 facilities here, if you need to excuse yourself to use
- 19 the restroom or take a call, out in the hallway here
- 20 and just down the hall is where the restrooms are and
- 21 the open public spaces there. Feel free to excuse
- 22 yourself at any time if you need to during our meeting.
- Okay. If you haven't got a packet of
- 24 materials like this one right here, just hold a hand
- 25 up, and we can make sure we get a packet to you.

- 1 Anybody that stopped at the registration desk, however,
- 2 should have one. And I'll go through those materials
- 3 momentarily.
- 4 The green half sheet here is our agenda. This
- 5 is what we'll be following as our roadmap for tonight's
- 6 meeting.
- 7 The quarter-size sheet and the blue booklet
- 8 this is a packet designed to give you some study
- 9 overview information and a synopsis of what GLMRIS is
- 10 all about.
- 11 The white half sheet here is the piece that's
- 12 most important for where we're at in our study. In the
- 13 public comment period we want to make sure we get any
- 14 and all comments that you have. The center section, as
- 15 well as the back panel is designed to allow you room to
- 16 write down and start any comments or dialogue you have
- 17 for us. If you need more of these or additional room,
- 18 you can add comment sheets to that.
- I just want to know or let you know that you
- 20 can drop them off with us today or if you need some
- 21 more time you can take them with you, just noting that
- 22 the comment due date is March the 31st. So at the end
- 23 of the month.
- The lavender or purple sheet is a frequently
- 25 asked question sheet designed to try to cover some of

- 1 the more interesting questions that we get asked most
- 2 frequently.
- 3 The salmon-colored sheet here talks about
- 4 some of the other efforts that are going on. And
- 5 you'll hear more about that in our presentation.
- 6 And the gold-colored sheet is a sheet that we
- 7 ask that if you would like to make a formal
- 8 presentation to the panel that you fill this out. If
- 9 you haven't filled this out and would like to at this
- 10 time make a comment to the panel, I would ask that you
- 11 fill one of these out, and then take it to the
- 12 registration desk just outside the doorway here.
- 13 And if you have any materials that you would
- 14 like to present or submit as part of your statement or
- 15 testimony, the blue sheet is a nice piece to accompany
- 16 anything that you turn in to help us keep it in proper
- 17 order and make sure that the correct appropriations
- 18 with that.
- 19 And then the last sheet here is a set of the
- 20 slides that the Corps will be using. And this is just
- 21 to give you a little bit of a chance to write down or
- 22 jot any comments as we go through some of those slides.
- 23 And, again, this packet is available in the hallway.
- Okay. All right. And then, also, our
- 25 meeting itself is designed in two different goals for

- 1 this evening's meeting. We want to make sure that,
- 2 number one, we present information about the study to
- 3 you. And that's the first part that we're starting
- 4 now.
- 5 And then our second part is to solicit your
- 6 comments on the significant issues that should be
- 7 included in our GLMRIS efforts and on the insignificant
- 8 issues that can be eliminated from further study.
- 9 The Corps is hosting 12 public meetings
- 10 throughout the study area in an effort to provide
- 11 opportunities for those interested in the study to
- 12 learn about the study and then also provide your oral
- 13 comments. Please take note the NEPA public scoping
- 14 period does close on March the 31st.
- 15 As indicated on the agenda, this public
- 16 meeting is organized in two sessions. An identical
- 17 presentation was given earlier this afternoon followed
- 18 by the comment period. The first one ended at about 5
- 19 o'clock. And we are starting roughly at 5:30.
- The break was designed to give us a chance to
- 21 reset the room and ask any questions you have. Just
- 22 keep in mind any of the comments that you may have had
- 23 during the break are not part of the public scoping
- 24 document. And if you want to make sure that those are
- 25 entered in, use the comment form or take the liberty

- 1 once we are in the comment period again to state those
- 2 in the microphone for us.
- 3 Also, after the meeting is over, in a similar
- 4 fashion to our break we just had, if you have any
- 5 additional comments or questions you would like to ask,
- 6 feel free. The team members will be available once
- 7 we've adjourned the meeting tonight.
- I would like to now announce the panelists to
- 9 you. Our first panelist nearest to myself is John
- 10 Goss. John is the Asian Carp Director for the White
- 11 House Council on Environmental Quality.
- 12 Next to him Major General John Peabody,
- 13 Commander of Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, U.S.
- 14 Army Corps of Engineers.
- Third on the table Mr. Dave Wethington. Dave
- 16 is the GLMRIS Project Manager.
- 17 And last on the table Mr. Mike Saffran, the
- 18 Other Pathways Project Manager.
- 19 And you'll hear from all of these men in just
- 20 a few seconds.
- 21 Also, we are in the Detroit District, and the
- 22 Detroit District Commander Mike Derosier. Where is
- 23 Mike at? He's in the back there. He's hosting our
- 24 meeting. And we want to thank you for the facility.
- 25 And any comments from you?

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- 1 MR. DEROSIER: Just our pleasure in hosting.
- 2 MR. BLUHM: Very good.
- 3 And also for those that have been monitoring
- $4\,$  us, this is a reschedule. The last time we were
- 5 supposed to be in town earlier last month we had quite
- 6 a bit of snow coming through the area and appreciate
- 7 the chance to reschedule this and have a chance to come
- 8 back into town.
- 9 Okay. With that said, the introductory
- 10 remarks are over. I'm going to turn the meeting over
- 11 to Mr. Goss and give a little bit of an update on the
- 12 Asian carp information.
- 13 MR. GOSS: Thanks a lot. And that's the last
- 14 time I'm going to thank you, Kevin. We're not doing
- 15 this again. Just teasing. Because we've been on this
- 16 magical mystery tour for about eight weeks, and this is
- 17 the twelfth stop.
- 18 So I am coordinating a pretty significant
- 19 effort to stop the Asian carp from getting in the Great
- 20 Lakes. It is an unprecedented collaborative effort
- 21 amongst federal agencies, state agencies and some
- 22 Chicago agencies at this point. And we are working on
- 23 expanding that to include all the stakeholder groups
- 24 that are interested. And we're certainly happy to have
- 25 individuals and organizations that you represent to be

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- 1 part of this project.
- 2 This is a process. This Great Lakes and
- 3 Mississippi River Interbasin Study will take some time
- 4 to do it properly. And we'll be talking about that for
- 5 the next half hour or so.
- 6 The role that everyone can play is to help
- 7 evaluate, help determine as we go along if we're moving
- 8 in the right direction. And there will be a number of
- 9 points over the course of this project where we're
- 10 going to need to check back with everybody and see if
- 11 it makes sense and if we're on the right track. So,
- 12 again, this is just the first round, and you can expect
- 13 more.
- 14 The Obama administration to the Great Lakes
- 15 is strong. And I think you can see just by the fact
- 16 that the Council on Environmental Quality decided to
- 17 become involved. They are the policy, environmental
- 18 policy, people in the White House. And so I'm here
- 19 representing them. And I report to Nancy Sutley who's
- 20 the chair of that.
- 21 Also, I want to say up front that we have
- 22 some effective electric barriers that are working. We
- 23 have proactively addressed other pathways, which we'll
- 24 be talking about that have been identified just in the
- 25 last six months that needed immediate attention, and

- 1 we've given them attention. And we're working together
- 2 in a very coordinated way to implement a strategy that
- 3 is covering a lot of bases beyond just the Chicago
- 4 Waterway. So that's what I wanted to share with you is
- 5 some of the things that are happening with Asian carp
- 6 beyond just this study.
- 7 I think you know that we've been dealing with
- 8 a lot of invasive species for years. Certainly this is
- 9 the first chance we've had to stop one before it gets
- 10 established, and we're committed to doing that. That's
- 11 why we're here.
- 12 These fish are very efficient. They are
- 13 consuming vast quantities of plankton wherever they
- 14 reside, often outcompeting and starving our native
- 15 species. We are very concerned about the Great Lakes.
- 16 I'm a fisherman. We know that perch, walleye, white
- 17 fish, small mouth, steelhead, salmon all could be in
- 18 jeopardy. We know that.
- 19 We also know that the biggest area of concern
- 20 is on the south side of Chicago where we have a
- 21 waterway that is the focus of most of the discussion
- 22 here. On the left you'll see the original streams. So
- 23 the Chicago River flows from basically just from the
- 24 downtown area and a little bit up north towards
- 25 Evanston, down and out in Navy Pier. That was the

- 1 original stream.
- 2 The Calumet Rivers that come from the Indiana
- 3 side went out to the lake. They're on the south side
- 4 of Chicago. The Des Plaines coming down you'll see on
- 5 the other map now is connected by a manmade waterway
- 6 that was put in a hundred years ago.
- 7 Chicago needed a draining system. They had a
- 8 problem in the 1890s. Their water supply from the lake
- 9 was contaminated by their own waste. And the change
- 10 that was made was to change the drainage and send it to
- 11 the Mississippi. So water actually flows in now from
- 12 Lake Michigan, not a lot, but a little bit, and then
- 13 the vast majority of the water in the Chicago Waterway
- 14 is stormwater and treated wastewater from their
- 15 treatment plants. So it's a very unique drainage
- 16 system and disposal system for that whole area of about
- 17 6 million people depending on it.
- 18 Again, to refresh your memory, you probably
- 19 looked at these maps, but very quickly coming back from
- 20 Lake Michigan there are five different points of water
- 21 flow that come down to one point at the electric
- 22 barriers. And another good news item this week is that
- 23 the third electric barrier is fully functioning, being
- 24 safety tested. And we now have additional assurance
- 25 that fish cannot get through that barrier. And General

- 1 Peabody can speak to that later. We'll be talking
- 2 about it I'm sure with questions.
- 3 The carp population is down here on the
- 4 Illinois River. You can see about where the Kankakee
- 5 comes in near Dresden Lock and Dam. There is an
- 6 established large collection of Asian carp. In fact,
- 7 the Illinois River now has the largest Asian carp
- 8 concentration -- concentrated population of any river
- 9 in the world. And it's almost all one species.
- 10 So we are holding them in check right now.
- 11 The barriers are holding them. And between the
- 12 barriers and Lake Michigan there are a number of things
- 13 I want to talk about.
- 14 A couple of things on the strategy is that we
- 15 have a Coordinating Committee. I chair that with
- 16 Cameron Davis. And he is the leader of the Great Lakes
- 17 Restoration Fund. The money for about two thirds of
- 18 these carp-controlled projects comes from the Great
- 19 Lakes Restoration Fund, and then there's some money in
- 20 base budgets. Going into the president's budget for
- 21 2012 we have almost \$30 million in base budgets, Corps
- 22 of Engineers, Fish & Wildlife Service, USGS, that will
- 23 carry on these projects. So it's going to be less
- 24 dependent on the Great Lakes Restoration Fund beginning
- 25 in 2012 if the president's proposals are adopted.

- 1 This group is the coordinating and policy
- 2 group. And we have added representatives of the
- 3 states. This last fall the governors designated two
- 4 people from each state. So they're represented with
- 5 the federal agencies and the Chicago and State of
- 6 Illinois people that are the project management team
- 7 for this.
- 8 Another development this last year was in the
- 9 analysis of other pathways it was determined that
- 10 immediate action was needed in Fort Wayne, Indiana at
- 11 the Eagle Marsh. Mike Saffran will give the details. I
- 12 just want to say this proves that the Corps of
- 13 Engineers can identify something and recommend an
- 14 action and get something done. This was accomplished
- 15 basically in three months. And so now there is a fish
- 16 fence up to keep an established carp population in the
- 17 Wabash, in my state in Indiana in the Wabash. They're
- 18 all the way up to Huntington close to Fort Wayne from
- 19 working their way through a floodplain to get to the
- 20 Maumee to get to Lake Erie. They saw it, the action
- 21 was taken.
- 22 Likewise, on the Des Plaines River -- that
- 23 map is not up there anymore, but it runs parallel to
- 24 the ship canal. It was identified by the Corps that
- 25 there were points where floodwaters could allow carp to

- 1 go from the Des Plaines River into the ship canal, and
- 2 that was above the barrier, between the barrier and the
- 3 lake. There's a 13 mile fish fence up there now.
- 4 Again, constructed on a rapid schedule and done under
- 5 budget, way ahead of the projected schedule by the
- 6 Corps of Engineers. So these guys are responding.
- 7 They're working hard on this.
- 8 For 2011 we will continue the sampling and
- 9 monitoring, looking at continuing electro-fishing and
- 10 netting, also trying out some different types of nets
- 11 and gear that are going to be experimented with.
- 12 And I want to show you the results. I've got
- 13 it on another slide. This year by electro-fishing
- 14 pretty constantly through the year over 33,000 fish
- 15 were brought up -- shocked, brought up, identified by
- 16 electro-fishing and then other netting, commercial
- 17 netting, total. One bighead carp was found. There was
- 18 one. But that's one out of 36,000 fish that were
- 19 identified.
- 20 Research and development is another big part
- 21 of the strategy that's funded by this federal funding
- 22 looking at carp control methods that can be used in the
- 23 interim that could possibly be part of the long-term
- 24 solution and then also can be applied in our rivers. We
- 25 have a tremendous challenge in the whole Mississippi,

- 1 Ohio, Missouri drainage basin to figure out how to get
- 2 it back to a natural balance with our native fish.
- 3 Asian carp have completely taken over many stretches of
- 4 those waters.
- 5 The research and development list that you
- 6 see there that's about four or five out of about 15
- 7 projects that are already in motion, and we intend to
- 8 add more as projects come forward. We're going to look
- 9 for the money to keep adding projects.
- 10 One area of research is on toxins to find
- 11 something that would be Asian carp specific and
- 12 hopefully not taking out other fish.
- 13 Seismic sonic technology to disrupt their
- 14 activities possibly at their spawning time in their
- 15 spawning areas and tributaries making it so
- 16 uncomfortable that we're not going to have effective
- 17 reproduction.
- 18 Also possibly to herd the fish to areas where
- 19 they can be captured or possibly to eradicate fish with
- 20 sonic underwater waves that would actually take them
- 21 out.
- 22 Also, doing risk assessments. There's a
- 23 variety of things that are being looked at both by U.S.
- and Canadian researchers to look at habitat,
- 25 to look at food supplies, and to do another evaluation

- 1 all around the Great Lakes to determine what would be
- 2 the projected impact if we had an outbreak of Asian
- 3 carp, where are they likely to locate, what are the
- 4 food sources they're looking for, and then we can begin
- 5 to develop a response plan based on that kind of
- 6 information.
- 7 Also, looking at other -- besides eDNA,
- 8 looking at other ways to track fish. Maybe there are
- 9 some other things that could be identified. And
- 10 pheromones as an attractant is another idea where we
- 11 try to use it like a magnet to bring Asian carp to an
- 12 area where they could be eradicated.
- So that's just a few. I just wanted to give
- 14 you a feel for other things besides the study we're
- 15 talking about tonight where things stand.
- 16 Just in conclusion, we do feel confident that
- 17 the barriers are working. That's buying us time to
- 18 work very carefully on these analyses to get the best
- 19 solution. We need to get the right solution for the
- 20 long term to stop invasive species from moving from the
- 21 lakes to the rivers and from the rivers to the lakes.
- 22 And we are determined to get it done right. We need
- 23 your help. Thanks.
- 24 GENERAL PEABODY: Okay. Good evening,
- 25 everybody. I really appreciate you coming out this

- 1 evening. And we look forward to a dialogue with you.
- 2 We're going to go through a presentation. We'll try to
- 3 keep it as concise as we can. And then we look forward
- 4 to your comments and questions.
- 5 And one of the things we were able to do in
- 6 the last session is provide a lot of responses to some
- 7 of the concerns, whether they were phrased as a
- 8 question or not. We hope to be able to do that
- 9 tonight.
- 10 Let me just comment, though, that
- 11 unfortunately I have to leave here personally at 7:30.
- 12 I've got a flight. I've got to be in Washington
- 13 tomorrow for Congressional testimony. And I probably
- 14 won't get in until midnight, if everything is running
- 15 on time. So I will have to leave at 7:30. But I
- 16 encourage you to stay here as long as you wish to
- 17 dialogue with our panel whether I'm present or not.
- 18 Mr. Goss mentioned a couple of times that the
- 19 fish barrier is effective. And I just want to
- 20 highlight that, first of all. Because one of the
- 21 concerns that we have is -- and one of the accusations
- 22 we get is, "Well, you're not taking action." And
- 23 that's just not the case.
- In fact, we just completed the third barrier.
- 25 It is ready to go into operation now. The only reason

- 1 it's not in operation is because it's pending the
- 2 safety report that we're required to deliver to the
- 3 Coast Guard and for them to evaluate. Once they've
- 4 completed their evaluation, then we'll be able to turn
- 5 it on.
- 6 If something happens to the other barriers
- 7 that are operating, we'll instantly turn that on and
- 8 then just deal with the consequences with the Coast
- 9 Guard on an expedited basis.
- 10 The reason we know the fish barrier is
- 11 effective is because all of the research that we have
- 12 done in the laboratory and all of the field validation
- 13 efforts we've done in the field tells us that. Just
- 14 very briefly we've done a series of tests at our
- 15 Engineering Research and Development Center in
- 16 Vicksburg, Mississippi in the laboratory which tell us
- 17 that the fish barrier effectively stuns anything larger
- 18 than five and a half inches. Now, there's a data gap
- 19 between about five and a half to about 2.8 to three
- 20 inches, I think.
- Is that right, Kelly?
- MS. BAERWALDT: Yes.
- 23 GENERAL PEABODY: So there's an area there
- 24 that we're not sure what's going on.
- 25 But we also know that fish between about 1.7

- 1 to 2.8 inches, about two to three inches, not all of
- 2 those fish are necessarily stunned. These are very,
- 3 very small fish. And they're what the fish biologists
- 4 call young-of-the-year.
- 5 So if the operating parameters are not
- 6 necessarily going to stun the young-of-the-year fish,
- 7 why don't we turn the fish barrier operating barrier
- 8 parameters up? There's two reasons for that.
- 9 First of all, the young-of-the-year fish are
- 10 not in that pool according to the fish biologists. The
- 11 closest breeding population is three pools down below,
- 12 the fish barrier below, the Lockport Pool. And the fish
- 13 biologists tell us that these young-of-the-year tend to
- 14 congregate where they're born. Because when they're
- 15 really small fry, they tend to get eaten by other fish.
- 16 So they like to hang out in little nooks and crannies
- 17 where they might not be able to be found.
- 18 The other concern that we have is that in
- 19 order to go to higher operating parameters we have to
- 20 do so in a safe manner. And already the Coast Guard --
- 21 this is the one location in the United States of
- 22 America where the Coast Guard will not jump into the
- 23 water and rescue you if you fall in, because you could
- 24 die from the electrical shock if you fall in the water
- 25 there. So first advice for everybody is don't navigate

- 1 that reach of the river unless you really have to. And
- 2 second advice is if you do navigate that river, make
- 3 sure you follow the Coast Guard rules. And for God
- 4 sake don't fall in the water there, because it is
- 5 dangerous. There's no question about that.
- 6 Now, Kelly Baerwaldt here -- Kelly, raise
- 7 your hand for everybody -- is a fish biologist with the
- 8 Corps of Engineers, and she's a real professional.
- 9 She's been absolutely determinative in our ability to
- 10 understand all the things that we need to in order to
- 11 make the fish barrier effective. And she's conducted a
- 12 series of field validation tests that's focused
- 13 primarily, not exclusively, but to simplify it
- 14 primarily on the telemetry.
- 15 So Kelly will do surgery on these fish of all
- 16 kinds of size. We don't put Asian carp there, because
- 17 we're not interested in putting Asian carp closer to
- 18 the barrier than they already get there naturally. And
- 19 put little radio tags in these fish. And then she has a
- 20 series of radio receivers in and near the walls of the
- 21 canal. And so far of, I think, 95 fish we've tagged
- 22 we've gotten hits on 82 of them.
- 23 Is that right?
- MS. BAERWALDT: We've got 105. And we're
- 25 tracking about 70 percent of them.

- 1 GENERAL PEABODY: Okay. So 105. We're
- 2 tracking about 70 percent. So a little over 70 of
- 3 them.
- And 600 -- over 600,000 hits you've received
- 5 on those 70 fish, 70-plus fish. Six hundred thousand
- 6 hits. So we've detected these 70 fish thousands of
- 7 times each, and none of them have moved out of the pool
- 8 where they are.
- 9 So that gives us a very high confidence that
- 10 the fish don't move between the barriers. That's very
- 11 good information. So the lab tests are being validated
- 12 in the field. Now, we're doing more research, but all
- 13 the information we have gives us extremely high
- 14 confidence that the fish barrier works.
- Now, let me go on to the purpose of today's
- 16 meeting, which is the Great Lakes and Mississippi River
- 17 Interbasin Study. But before I do that, first a paid
- 18 nonpolitical advertisement from your local Army Corps
- 19 of Engineers recruiting office. The reason I wear this
- 20 particular uniform it's the uniform our soldiers wear
- 21 when they go into a combat zone. And it's as a
- 22 physical reminder not just to myself, but to everybody
- 23 I interact with that this is a Nation at war. Whether
- 24 we personally agree with the objectives or the reasons
- 25 for going to war, we are a Nation at war.

- 1 And we have lots of sons and daughters,
- 2 brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, moms and dads
- 3 in harms way doing the Nation's bidding. And they are
- 4 supported by a whole host of professionals, civilians,
- 5 whether they're contractors or Department of the Army
- 6 or Department of Defense civilians, including Corps of
- 7 Engineers professionals.
- 8 Currently today, and you see some of their
- 9 photos up on the slide, we've got 87 professionals from
- 10 the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, the area I'm
- 11 responsible for, and well over 600 from the entire
- 12 Corps of Engineers, deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan
- 13 building facilities not just for our service members
- 14 but also in support of the local Nations and helping
- 15 those local Nations build their own construction
- 16 capacity.
- 17 Because it is our belief that we're not going
- 18 to win this conflict through force of arms alone. In
- 19 fact, if you read the Insurgency Doctrine, you'll
- 20 understand that that's virtually impossible. The way
- 21 you win insurgencies is through the classical phrase
- 22 "Winning the Hearts and Minds." And one of the ways of
- 23 doing that is by building infrastructure and more
- 24 importantly, building capacity in the local populous so
- 25 that they can run their own governments in an effective

- 1 manner.
- 2 And we're trying to do our part. And we've
- 3 got tons of volunteers. We have now today over 10,000
- 4 Army Corps of Engineers civilians who have volunteered
- 5 to deploy overseas and serve you by volunteering. They
- 6 don't have to go. They're all volunteers to do this
- 7 important work. So just a reminder on that.
- 8 Okay. Now, let's get to the business we're
- 9 here for. Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin
- 10 Study, acronym GLMRIS. Up there you see the study
- 11 authority. I'm not going to read it to you, but
- 12 highlight a couple of things.
- We're told to study a range of options and
- 14 technologies available. So don't invent what you can't
- 15 find or what you can't reasonably develop in a
- 16 relatively short period of time. To prevent the spread
- 17 of aquatic nuisance species between the Basin Divide,
- 18 between the Great Lakes and the Ohio River. So that's
- 19 the task.
- 20 A couple of points of emphasis. Hydrologic
- 21 separation, which has received a lot of media
- 22 attention, is an alternative that we will study. So
- 23 that's the physical separation of the watersheds
- 24 hydrologically. Some people call it ecological
- 25 separation. But things move through the air, and we're

- 1 not dealing with the air. We're only dealing with
- 2 stuff that moves through waterways in accordance with
- 3 the study requirements.
- 4 Second, and this has also received some media
- 5 attention, the goal and the task is to achieve a state
- 6 of prevention. But all of our engineering knowledge,
- 7 judgment and experience tells us that perfect 100
- 8 percent solutions, total prevention, may not be
- 9 possible. I didn't say won't be. I said may not be.
- 10 Nature has a way of overcoming what man builds. Look
- 11 at Pompeii as one example. Look at Mount St. Helens,
- 12 which occurred in most of our lifetimes.
- There are things that the Corps of Engineers
- 14 -- as wonderful as we are, there are things that we are
- 15 not necessarily able to achieve. Now, I'm not saying
- 16 we can't. I'm just saying that manmade physical
- 17 obstacles may not be the only solution. That's what the
- 18 Corps of Engineers is expert at is physical engineered
- 19 solutions; right?
- 20 But Mr. Goss talked to you at a little bit of
- 21 length about biological controls. And, after all,
- 22 these are biological organisms that actually may be
- 23 more susceptible to biological than physical controls.
- 24 Here's the point. We don't know without
- 25 going through the study process what the type of

- 1 solutions are that are going to be effective. Our
- 2 experience tells us that it's likely going to be a
- 3 suite of solutions that we will incrementally employ as
- 4 technologies and capabilities make themselves clear to
- 5 us.
- 6 In the meantime, it is our judgment and our
- 7 recommendation we'll do whatever the Nation tells us to
- 8 do. But it's our recommendation that we follow the
- 9 tried and true study process that we have, that we
- 10 objectively and dispassionately study all the
- 11 alternatives that are out there, and that as the
- 12 information matures and it becomes clear what might be
- 13 possible, we cycle out recommendations and perhaps
- 14 pursue those recommendations incrementally without
- 15 trying to get to some ideal perfect or preconceived end
- 16 state. That's our approach.
- 17 Okay. So let's talk about where we're doing
- 18 this. Well, the map tells you here. It's primarily
- 19 along the dashed line between the Upper Mississippi
- 20 Watershed, which is the Ohio Valley Watershed and the
- 21 Upper Mississippi Watershed, and the Great Lakes in the
- 22 brown there.
- You see the little red square? That's where
- 24 the Chicago Area Waterway System is. And that's the
- 25 focus. That is the focus. That's the primary focus.

- 1 Why? Because that's the only place on that boundary
- 2 line that we've been able to find that has a
- 3 continuously flowing aquatic connection between the two
- 4 basins. Therefore, it is the most susceptible to
- 5 migration by aquatic species between the two basins.
- This is an enormous task. We're talking
- 7 1,500 miles of watershed boundary. We're talking in
- 8 general -- most of you are from this area. You
- 9 understand relatively flat terrain. That means it's
- 10 hydrologically complex. Because when water falls on
- 11 it, small nuances in the typography can make a big
- 12 difference for how that water flows.
- 13 Therefore, it's difficult to understand. And
- 14 in a lot of cases we don't necessarily have the digital
- 15 mapping imagery that can inform with precision how that
- 16 water is going to evolve. We really need to consult
- 17 with local experts.
- Okay. Again, I'm not going to go through
- 19 each one of these points, but this is the slide that
- 20 tells you what's in on the left and what's out on the
- 21 right. So what's in is in green. What's out is in
- 22 red. If it moves by water, it's in. If it moves by
- 23 land or air, it's not.
- 24 It's not just fish. We think fish, but if it
- 25 floats, and there's some plants that float, it's

- 1 included. If it hitchhikes, like a parasite, on
- 2 something else, then that's included, also.
- 3 I've already talked the locations. I want to
- 4 emphasize that the Corps of Engineers does not have
- 5 authority in Canada and neither does the United States
- 6 Congress. And so our authority extends to the U.S.
- 7 side of the Basin Divide.
- 8 The Canadians are certainly interested and
- 9 concerned with this. We have discussed this with them
- 10 primarily through the International Joint Commission,
- 11 but also through other forums. And we're very
- 12 interested in some study efforts that they're
- 13 undertaking. We'll look at anything that they provide
- 14 us.
- I kind of hit a lot of the stuff on the left
- 16 there, the rest of that. And we'll get into some of
- 17 that.
- But I also want emphasize there's lots of
- 19 other policies and laws outside of the specific study
- 20 authority that we have to follow. And the Corps needs
- 21 two things to do something for this country. The first
- 22 thing we need is an authority. Check that block. We've
- 23 got it.
- The second thing we need is appropriations,
- 25 funding. And the money didn't come all that quickly on

- 1 this. That's of little concern now. The good news is
- 2 we are very close to our full capability for 2011 and
- 3 our full capability for 2012 in the president's budget
- 4 should Congress pass that proposal that the president
- 5 sent to them.
- 6 But we're also going to do an Environmental
- 7 Impact Statement. And there's lots of other laws like
- 8 NEPA. That's not the only one, but lots of other laws
- 9 and policies that we have to comply with, too, that
- 10 also form our study process.
- Okay. So how are we going to get this done?
- 12 Well, we're going to have the first focus area, Chicago
- 13 Area Waterway System, that we already talked about, and
- 14 then everything else, which is anything else anywhere
- 15 outside that waterway that might have an aquatic
- 16 connection because of a rain event. And there's
- 17 several of those that we know exist.
- 18 I'm not going to talk about our organization
- 19 chart, but you need to know that this is not just the
- 20 Corps of Engineers. This is a very complex,
- 21 complicated, difficult, challenging problem. We think
- 22 we're pretty talented, but this takes a really truly
- 23 total team effort. That's why Mr. Goss is here today.
- 24 That's why we have the written agreement to collaborate
- 25 from the Fish & Wildlife Service and EPA. That's why we

- 1 have verbal agreements with the U.S. Geological Survey
- 2 and other agencies. And that's why we're reaching out
- 3 here to you today, because we need all the help that we
- 4 can get.
- Now, I talked about maybe potentially getting
- 6 to interim solutions. We definitely know that we will
- 7 be able to give inter-reports on the data that we
- 8 collect. And we have to collect this data, because our
- 9 charge includes analyzing the benefits and the costs
- 10 and understanding the impacts of various alternatives.
- 11 That's a legal requirement under the National
- 12 Environmental Policy Act. We do not have -- in fact,
- 13 I'm not even aware of any instance where the Congress
- 14 has waived that. I think CEQ from time to time on very
- 15 rare instances has provided some narrow exceptions. But
- 16 so far that does not apply to this case.
- 17 Okay. Let's go on to the next slide. So
- 18 we've already talked about a lot of this. What's
- 19 interesting about this slide is it gives you some
- 20 photographs of some of the stuff. And it's not just
- 21 the fish that jump out of the water, the Asian carp on
- 22 the left, which is what all of us tend to focus on, but
- 23 these micro plants and strange little small insects
- 24 that can move through aquatic pathways.
- We're going to look at all of these kinds of

- 1 species. We know there's over 180 of them in the Great
- 2 Lakes alone. There's somewhere on the order of two or
- 3 three, maybe four dozen in the Mississippi Watershed
- 4 Basin. And we'll work with the Fish & Wildlife Service
- 5 and other agencies as appropriate to determine which
- 6 aquatic nuisance species are the ones that are of
- 7 greatest concern likely to have the most impact,
- 8 characterize those, and then figure out what are the
- 9 controls that could be effective in dealing with that.
- 10 Okay. At this time I'm going to ask Mr. Dave
- 11 Wethington, the Project Manager for the Chicago Area
- 12 Waterway System, Focus Area I, to highlight the
- 13 approach to that.
- So, Dave.
- MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you, sir. Appreciate
- 16 it.
- 17 Thank you all for coming out. Again, my name
- 18 is Dave Wethington. I'm the Project Manager with the
- 19 Army Corps of Engineers in Chicago.
- I just want to spend a couple of minutes this
- 21 evening guiding you over just this one slide to talk to
- 22 you a little bit about the Chicago Area Waterway System
- 23 in a little more detail and then as well as the
- 24 planning process.
- 25 So you'll notice on the slide above me on the

- 1 right-hand side you see a picture of the Chicago area.
- 2 You see also the numbers 1 through 5 that are located
- 3 along the lakeshore going from north to south. And
- 4 those five points are the points at which the lakes --
- 5 or the waters of the Great Lakes and the waters of the
- 6 Mississippi River Basin have the opportunity to
- 7 interact.
- 8 What's unique about this system is that all
- 9 five of those streams will flow into a single channel.
- 10 That's the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal. Much like
- 11 the five prongs of a fork would flow into a single
- 12 handle.
- And it allows us a strategic advantage, which
- 14 is where we've constructed the current electric barrier
- 15 system, point number 7 up there behind me. Because that
- 16 acts as, in effect, a control point toward basically
- 17 controlling right now the Asian carp from getting from
- 18 the Mississippi River Basin into any of those five
- 19 points along the shores of Lake Michigan.
- 20 Another kind of unique feature about this
- 21 system is that they have structures. And so we call
- 22 some of them are controlled waterways and others are
- 23 without any physical structures. Those would be
- 24 uncontrolled waterways.
- So points 1, 2 and 3 are considered

- 1 controlled waterways. Points 1 and 2, those are the
- 2 red circles there, that's the Wilmette Pumping Station,
- 3 which is a physical structure, and point number 2 are
- 4 the Chicago Lock. Point number 3 is actually
- 5 controlled by circle number 6 there, which is the T.J.
- 6 O'Brien Lock and Dam. So 1, 2 and 3 are physically
- 7 controlled by some sort of a structure that we can
- 8 operate or close or maintain.
- 9 But what's really important to remember is
- 10 that 4 and 5 are completely uncontrolled waterways.
- 11 There is no physical structure that we can operate or
- 12 maintain within those waterways that would provide an
- 13 effective block.
- And, remember, all five of those waterways
- 15 flow into the same stream. So when you talk about
- 16 closing the locks at Chicago to prevent the spread of
- 17 Asian carp, that may stop one of the waterways, but it
- 18 would be not an effective stop for the migration of
- 19 Asian carp.
- 20 On the left-hand side is basically the
- 21 process the Corps of Engineers uses toward approaching
- 22 a feasibility study. Right now specifying problems and
- 23 opportunities we've put together these multi-
- 24 disciplinary teams within both the Corps of Engineers
- 25 and then pulling in folks from outside agencies. But

- 1 it's also the reason why we're here today is to listen
- 2 to you to specify those problems, those opportunities,
- 3 what's important to you, and just as similarly what is
- 4 maybe insignificant for further study.
- 5 So your thoughts, your opinions will help
- 6 shape the direction of the study, will help scope our
- 7 document and scope the purpose and the direction of our
- 8 study. So it's very important. And, again, appreciate
- 9 your presence here today.
- 10 From there -- and we're also doing this
- 11 concurrently. While we're collecting this information
- 12 is we're inventorying and forecasting conditions.
- 13 Now, what does that mean. The Chicago Area
- 14 Waterway System has many uses. You probably have heard
- 15 a lot about the commercial navigation or the passenger
- 16 boat navigation. But it's also got uses, such as,
- 17 recreational, water supply, water discharge.
- 18 I believe Mr. Goss mentioned earlier that a
- 19 significant percentage of the makeup of the stream is
- 20 actually about 70, 80, sometimes up to 90 percent of
- 21 the Chicago Area Waterway System is comprised of
- 22 municipal wastewater discharge. It's treated, but it
- 23 is still municipal discharge. It's a very important
- 24 pathway for the entire city of Chicagoland.
- 25 Another very important use of the Chicago

- 1 Area Waterway System is flood risk management. And
- 2 this is a serious concern, because it does involve
- 3 human health and life safety. It doesn't happen very
- 4 often, maybe every couple of years, every five years,
- 5 but there will be a significant rainfall event in the
- 6 Chicago Area Waterway, in the Chicago area, that in
- 7 order to deal with the stormwater that falls within the
- 8 footprint of Chicagoland you need to be able to open
- 9 the lock structures, the Wilmette Pumping Station, lock
- 10 structures, to backflow water both into Lake Michigan
- 11 as well as down toward the Mississippi River. This
- 12 alleviates the potential for flooding in the downtown
- 13 area as well as throughout the entire Chicagoland area
- 14 affecting effectively millions of residents,
- 15 businesses, industry.
- 16 So once we've identified what all these
- 17 waterway uses are, we need to take that information and
- 18 basically evaluate what would be the impacts of
- 19 implementing some type of aquatic nuisance species
- 20 control. The current ANS control that we are utilizing
- 21 is the electric barrier system. And the uses -- or I'm
- 22 sorry. The impacts on the waterway uses are fairly
- 23 minimal. General Peabody mentioned the safety uses.
- 24 That's a potential health, life safety risk that we --
- 25 the mitigation of that risk there is easy --

- 1 sufficiently easy ways to do that.
- 2 If you talk about hydrologic separation,
- 3 although it may be possible, there will be
- 4 significantly other potential impacts to those existing
- 5 waterway uses. So those all need to be evaluated. And
- 6 potential negative impacts we need to evaluate the
- 7 mitigation -- ways of mitigating those negative
- 8 impacts.
- 9 So we take basically all this information and
- 10 we put it through that planning process. We evaluate
- 11 the effects. And really, remember, what we're looking
- 12 at here is not what happens if aquatic nuisance species
- 13 spread. It's how do we prevent the transfer. What
- 14 kind of controls can we implement in the Chicagoland
- 15 area or in the other pathways that Mike will describe
- 16 to basically prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance
- 17 species between the basins.
- 18 As was mentioned by both the folks who spoke
- 19 before me, we are in close coordination with other
- 20 federal agencies, state agencies, local stakeholders,
- 21 private industry. So, again, we appreciate everyone's
- 22 input and help with this study.
- Thank you for your time and attention. I'll
- 24 turn it back to you, sir. Thank you.
- 25 GENERAL PEABODY: Great, Dave. Thank you

- 1 very much. I appreciate that.
- Now, Mike Saffran is going to talk about
- 3 where we are with the other pathways study and the way
- 4 forward.
- 5 Mike?
- 6 MR. SAFFRAN: Thank you, sir. It's a
- 7 pleasure to be here.
- 8 It's really an honor to be able to work on a
- 9 project of this significance. And I would like to just
- 10 share with you the work that we've done recently on the
- 11 preliminary risk characterization for the other aquatic
- 12 pathways and basically what our plan to complete that
- 13 risk characterization is.
- When we started into the GLMRIS project,
- 15 there was a lot of information already known about the
- 16 Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and the relative risk
- 17 it poses relative to species migration across the Basin
- 18 Divide. For the other pathways, though, we had very
- 19 little information when we started into this. And as
- 20 Mr. Goss has already explained and Dave and General
- 21 Peabody as well, there have been significant
- 22 investments made in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal
- 23 to prevent Asian carp from migrating as well as other
- 24 species of fish. But, again, very little known about
- 25 the other pathways.

- 1 So General Peabody in a previous session used
- 2 the word being outflanked by the Asian carp from a
- 3 military term. But he challenged us last June to put
- 4 together a plan and implement a plan to provide two
- 5 things. One, an inventory of all the potential aquatic
- 6 pathways that exist over more than a 1,500 mile long
- 7 Basin Divide there that's shown on the map. And to
- 8 perform a preliminary risk characterization relative to
- 9 each of those pathways' ability to facilitate migration
- 10 of species across the Basin Divide.
- 11 We put the plan together. And it was
- 12 basically based on two things. Compile the best
- 13 available information and consult the best available
- 14 experts locally as well as within the Corps and the
- 15 other agencies to help us perform the risk
- 16 characterization. We got a tremendous amount of input
- 17 from the Fish & Wildlife Service and the USGS up front
- 18 in helping us to find the range of species that we
- 19 needed to be concerned with, develop a list for the
- 20 species that exist in the Great Lakes, not yet known to
- 21 be in the Mississippi River Basin and, vice versa,
- 22 invasive species in the Mississippi River Basin, not
- 23 yet known to be in the Great Lakes. They helped us to
- 24 significantly narrow those broad lists. There's over
- 25 120 species that were identified for the Great Lakes,

- 1 not yet known to be in the Mississippi River Basin, and
- 2 about 21 species in the Mississippi River Basin, not
- 3 yet known to exist in the Great Lakes. So we got great
- 4 help there.
- 5 We also got great help from the state DNRs
- 6 and the USGS Water Science Centers in each of the
- 7 states in helping us to identify where the aquatic
- 8 pathways are and to be able to characterize hydrologic
- 9 conditions at those locations.
- 10 We also had a fair number of Corps of
- 11 Engineers folks that really did a lot of the legwork.
- 12 So there was over eight districts of the Corps of
- 13 Engineers involved in putting this together in a very,
- 14 very short timeframe.
- The results of the work, though, were pretty
- 16 impressive for, again, about a 60-day study. We
- 17 identified 36 locations along the Basin Divide where it
- 18 appeared that there was a reasonable probability that
- 19 an aquatic pathway formed and that could pose risk for
- 20 species transfer. Eighteen of those locations we
- 21 determined posed a significant risk for potential ANS
- 22 migration or transfer across the Basin Divide. Those
- 23 sites are the ones that are listed there along the
- 24 divide that General Peabody is pointing out.
- One of those locations really jumped out as a

- 1 very near term significant risk, and that was the Eagle
- 2 Marsh location in Fort Wayne, Indiana. A very unique
- 3 circumstance there. You've got two rivers that come
- 4 together to form the Maumee there, the Maumee River,
- 5 which flows into Lake Erie. You've got the St. Joseph
- 6 River that drains southeast Michigan and it flows to
- 7 the southwest to Fort Wayne. And then you have the St.
- 8 Mary's River that drains west central Ohio and flows
- 9 northwest into the town of Fort Wayne.
- 10 When you have a significant rainfall event
- 11 there, the size of event that would typically occur in
- 12 any given year, the water level rises enough that you
- 13 have an actual backflow of the water from the Maumee
- 14 Basin into the Wabash River Basin, and it occurs
- 15 through something called the Junk Ditch into the Eagle
- 16 Marsh, and then that's into the headwaters of the
- 17 Wabash River.
- 18 When you have a 10 percent annual return
- 19 frequency storm or the largest storm that you would
- 20 expect to occur in any given ten-year period, the depth
- 21 of the water across the Basin Divide is four and a half
- 22 feet. That was considered -- well, that information in
- 23 conjunction with the fact that there were very high
- 24 populations of Asian carp in stretches of the Wabash
- 25 River and established carp populations have been

- 1 observed within about 25 miles of the location of the
- 2 Eagle Marsh really pose a significant set of
- 3 circumstances.
- 4 We held a meeting in mid July with all the
- 5 interested stakeholders. We had USGS there, U.S. EPA,
- 6 Indiana DNR, the Natural Resources Conservation
- 7 Service, an NGO called the Little River Wetlands
- 8 Project. We had the local county surveyor. So we
- 9 basically got all the interested parties and
- 10 brainstormed on what could we do about this
- 11 circumstance.
- 12 And we fairly quickly went to the solution
- 13 that has already been described a little bit earlier
- 14 that helped prevent the bypass of the electrical
- 15 barriers in the Chicago area, and that is a fence sort
- 16 of barrier.
- 17 And the Corps of Engineers looked at can we
- 18 build that and do it quickly. For us to be able to
- 19 implement something like that would have probably taken
- 20 close to a year, because, one, we didn't have an
- 21 implementation authority, which has already been
- 22 discussed, and we also have to comply with the rules of
- 23 the National Environmental Policy Act so that we
- 24 produce an environmental assessment for anything that -
- 25 any type of an action that we would consider taking.

- 1 The Indiana DNR stepped up to the plate at
- 2 that time and said, "Look, that's something that we can
- 3 probably do and do much quicker." U.S. EPA got
- 4 together and helped to make sure that funding was
- 5 available for it. And in less than two and a half
- 6 months, before the end of September, that fence was in
- 7 place. And I say it's a fence. It's a fence on
- 8 steroids. There's significant design features in it.
- 9 It's really designed to protect against adult Asian
- 10 carp, though. It's got about two-inch size openings in
- 11 the fence. But that is a -- it's got a design life of
- 12 five years. That's an interim solution that we feel is
- 13 going to be very effective.
- But we're also right now as we speak working
- 15 on a set of options and technologies that can be
- 16 implemented at the Eagle Marsh location to provide a
- 17 permanent or long-term fix to that issue, to that
- 18 problem.
- 19 For the other 17 pathways, and including
- 20 Eagle Marsh, we're also in the process this year of
- 21 completing the risk characterization. We've got the
- 22 draft plan out right now for how we're going to do
- 23 that. We hope to start implementing that in April and
- 24 have, again, a report available before the end of this
- 25 calendar year on the results of that risk

- 1 characterization. And that will help us greatly focus
- 2 where our resources need to be applied to the other
- 3 aquatic pathways.
- 4 Thank you, sir.
- 5 GENERAL PEABODY: Thank you, Mike. Appreciate
- 6 that.
- 7 Okay. So what have we done so far in
- 8 addition to what we've talked about? Well, on the
- 9 left-hand side you can see the actual study process
- 10 that we followed, which is kind of uninteresting to the
- 11 public, but it's a process that -- and steps that we
- 12 must go through in accordance with our policies.
- But you can see what's more interesting to
- 14 you on the right-hand side, the actual things that
- 15 we've produced. So we've already executed a literature
- 16 review of information on the Asian carp to help us
- 17 focus on that specific species of concern. Remember,
- 18 this is not just about Asian carp. It's about all
- 19 invasive aquatic species.
- 20 Thanks to the support from the Fish &
- 21 Wildlife Service, we have a draft white paper on
- 22 aquatic nuisance species of concern. And they're going
- 23 to help us narrow the focus on specific species to
- 24 focus that that are of highest concern for a variety of
- 25 reasons that they'll help us develop.

1 Mike talked about the preliminary risk characterization. So now we have a pretty good initial inventory of possible aquatic pathways, and we have a 3 good list of which ones that need to be focused on first. And he described what we're doing with regard to that. 7 And then, of course, the most urgent action on the other pathways is Eagle Marsh, because we want 8 to increase our confidence that any measures we put in 10 that marsh are going to be effective. And it is our 11 hope that by -- in about a year we'll be able to 12 produce an alternative formulation briefing which will 13 outline a number of options to take at that location on 14 at least an expedited basis. But that timeline depends 15 on how the facts and science evolves, which are 16 unpredictable until we uncover it. 17 So this is the timeline that everybody is so 18 thrilled with for the Great Lakes and Mississippi River 19 Interbasin Study. And this timeline -- and this is not 20 going to be make a lot of people happy, but this is 21 This timeline we believe is the best case 22 So if everything goes pretty much perfectly, 23 we don't have any huge surprises, and we're able to get 24 all the data that we need, the science and the options

and technologies leap out at us, this is -- it's about

25

- 1 a five-year study. And we're about a year into that
- 2 process at this point now, maybe a year and a half.
- 3 So why is it going to take so long everybody
- 4 wants to know. Well, there's legal requirements that
- 5 we have to follow is the simple answer. And this is a
- 6 complicated issue. The legal requirements, and they're
- 7 multitude, but fundamentally they require us to
- 8 understand the benefits, the costs and the impacts of
- 9 various alternatives.
- This issue is so complex, because it requires
- 11 us to focus on a whole number of species as well. So
- 12 some of these species move and operate biologically in
- 13 different ways. What might be effective against one
- 14 species, and Mr. Goss talked about some of the
- 15 biological controls USGS is looking at Asian carp, may
- 16 not be effective against another. A physical barrier
- 17 that might be effective against one species might not
- 18 be effective against another.
- 19 So to predetermine what the outcome is or the
- 20 answer to the problem is to potentially ignore
- 21 unobvious answers that may, in fact, turn out to be
- 22 more effective once the study process is allowed to
- 23 evolve. And that is very important.
- We don't know before you start a science
- 25 project -- and this is truly a science project. You

- 1 don't know in advance what the outcome of your science
- 2 project is going to be. And to say that we know the
- 3 answer and we know the timeline before we start the
- 4 study process frankly is just not the way that the
- 5 Corps of Engineers does business. It's not the way
- 6 that the Congress and the Nation have told us to do
- 7 business, and it should not be the way that we are told
- 8 to do business.
- 9 However, if we're told to meet a certain
- 10 timeline, if we're told that somebody knows the right
- 11 outcome and we're supposed to do that outcome, we'll do
- 12 our best to achieve that.
- 13 What I cannot do is pledge that we can meet
- 14 the quality standards that we're required to meet by
- 15 other provisions of law in a certain timeframe. So if
- 16 we're told meet a timeline, other provisions of law
- 17 will have to be waived in order for us to satisfy all
- 18 provisions of law. We'll see how this evolves. We'll
- 19 do what the Nation tells us to do.
- 20 Okay. We've already talked about the interim
- 21 products and updates. We've pledged that as a very
- 22 bare minimum the data that we gather will be published
- 23 here. We really need the help of experts, scientists,
- 24 academics and NGOs in particular to look at these
- 25 products.

1 We will have periodic public meetings. can't predict how that will evolve. Once we conclude this meeting, we're going to go back and go through all 3 4 the major recommendations that we've had, and make appropriate alterations to our management plan. 5 6 But you see some of the things that we're 7 going to do. We're going to do these navigation We're going to do fishing surveys. 8 surveys. 9 going to survey cultural and social resources. 10 going to survey all kinds of environmental factors, 11 water quality, water quantity impacts, and a whole host 12 of other stuff that's not even listed on here to 13 include flooding impacts that Dave talked about. 14 It is our hope and it is certainly our intent 15 that if at all possible that as we get greater clarity 16 on what the facts and the science tells us and as we 17 get increased understanding of what options and 18 technologies may be available that we'll be able to --19 those technologies and options that appear to be most 20 promising we'll focus on. And if it's possible for us 21 to cycle out interim reports and recommendations that 22 will at least allow us to incrementally improve and 23 reduce the risk associated with this problem, then 24 we'll tackle that. But it's impossible to predict with 25 certitude whether we'll be able to do that or not.

- 1 How can you help? Well, I've kind of already
- 2 talked about this, but we need your input, and we look
- 3 forward to your comments today. It's more about just
- 4 your input, though. It's also about helping provide us
- 5 the science-based facts, data and technologies that
- 6 might be possible.
- 7 We had a gentleman come up to us after the
- 8 last meeting who said that he had a company that's
- 9 working with a firm in Poland, and this firm in Poland
- 10 has a fish barrier capability that's mobile, more cost
- 11 effective and better than what we're doing. I don't
- 12 know if that's the case, but great. I got his card.
- 13 We're going to look into it.
- 14 That's the kind of information that's really
- 15 helpful for us, because we don't presume to know
- 16 everything. We don't have all the leads. We need a
- 17 whole bunch of Sherlock Holmes out there to investigate
- 18 some of the leads and give us some suggestions, and
- 19 we'll look into those. And we really look forward to
- 20 your support in that regard.
- 21 This is the last event. This event you'll
- 22 see if you look at Ann Arbor it says -- and, of course,
- 23 we're actually in Ypsilanti. But it says February 3rd.
- 24 Of course, we all know what happened that time. We had
- 25 that big snowstorm. And I grew up in northern Ohio. So

- 1 I know well enough when not to fight Mother Nature.
- 2 Sometimes Mother Nature has a way of being in charge.
- 3 And there was no way I was going to try to fight that
- 4 snowstorm. We could have gotten in. And if we had, we
- 5 wouldn't have been able to conduct the meeting, because
- 6 people couldn't have got to it.
- 7 So I apologize we had to delay that one
- 8 meeting, but here we are today. This is the last
- 9 meeting. And as a reminder, we'll take public comments
- 10 until March the 31st. Then the formal public comment
- 11 period will end.
- We'll continue to have ways to engage the
- 13 public. And one of those ways is through social media.
- 14 So we have a Website. You can also go to
- 15 Asiancarp.org, as Mr. Goss talked about. We're on
- 16 Facebook. We're on Twitter. And we appreciate you
- 17 signing up for that.
- 18 With that, I'll turn it back over to our
- 19 moderator Kevin. Thanks so much. We look forward to
- 20 your comments and questions.
- MR. BLUHM: Thank you, sir.
- 22 GENERAL PEABODY: And thank you, sir.
- 23 Applause is welcomed and unexpected.
- MR. BLUHM: All right. Very good. Thank
- 25 you.

- 1 That concludes part one of this evening's
- 2 meeting. Before beginning part two, I would like to
- 3 note that the study Website is a good source for
- 4 additional study information. Interested persons can
- 5 subscribe to the study's E-mail list through that
- 6 project Website as well. The Corps will use the GLMRIS
- 7 E-mail list to distribute updates on such things as
- 8 documents that have been added to the Website,
- 9 opportunities for additional public involvement, and
- 10 other important news and events.
- 11 The GLMRIS project Website can be found on
- 12 any of the informational pieces you were given, as well
- 13 as this little condensed version in the business card.
- 14 Front and back has all the key information. So keep
- 15 that if you want to stay informed as we go forward. And
- 16 as the General mentioned, if you're in the tech age,
- 17 GLMRIS has Twitter and Facebook accounts set up as
- 18 well.
- Okay. So now going to part two, moving into
- 20 our oral comment period this evening. For those that
- 21 indicated on their registration card that they wanted
- 22 to make a brief three minute formal statement or ask a
- 23 question, will have an opportunity to do so. If a
- 24 person wants to ask a question in addition to making a
- 25 comment, we ask that you manage your time to allow for

- 1 a comment, question and response. The panel will
- 2 answer any questions that are, indeed, answerable.
- I have a set of visual slides here that we'll
- 4 use to help manage our time while you're speaking. When
- 5 you begin a statement, a timer on the projector
- 6 overhead here will turn to a green box for two minutes.
- 7 After the two minutes, it will change to a yellow color
- 8 and update the amount of remaining time every 15
- 9 seconds until three minutes has passed. At the end of
- 10 three minutes, it will turn to red. I'll ask if you are
- 11 still speaking at that time that you make a conclusion
- 12 statement. We feel this procedure is the most fair and
- 13 will give everyone an equal opportunity to be heard.
- 14 And that is the procedure we used this afternoon as
- 15 well.
- 16 Also, before we begin, I would like to
- 17 mention we have a stenographer with us. She's sitting
- 18 just off to the side of the panel. She'll be recording
- 19 any and all comments and questions that are brought to
- 20 us. When you come to the microphone, we ask that you
- 21 give us your name. If the spelling is difficult, ask
- 22 that you might help us spell that out. Any organization
- 23 or affiliation that you may represent. And if we can
- 24 for statistical reasons get your zip code, that would
- 25 be most helpful.

- 1 We've got a microphone positioned on either
- 2 side, one labeled as blue line, the other one as yellow
- 3 line. We had quite a number this afternoon. The list
- 4 is a little shorter this evening. We've got a total of
- 5 four people. And the numbering takes off from where we
- 6 started this afternoon. So anybody with a blue card we
- 7 will start with number 10.
- 8 So, Mr. Keifer, you'll be the first one to
- 9 come. And then we will switch to the yellow after
- 10 that.
- 11 MR. QUAIL: Could you tell us your name
- 12 again.
- MR. BLUHM: Yes. My name is Kevin Bluhm.
- MR. QUAIL: Thanks.
- MR. BLUHM: And I work for the Army Corps of
- 16 Engineers out of St. Paul.
- 17 And I probably should spell my name. B-l-u-h-
- 18 m. Because it's not as it sounds.
- Okay. We'll get the microphone adjusted here
- 20 and get it turned on. We'll do a little test with
- 21 that. And you can use either microphone when you come
- 22 to talk to us. Either side is fine. You've got that
- 23 working. Okay. That looks like it's about right. So
- 24 when you come to the microphone, make sure you're close
- 25 enough so that we can hear you. If you can start with

- 1 your name and give us that zip code, that would be most
- 2 helpful.
- Whenever you're ready, go ahead.
- 4 MR. KEIFER: Thank you. My name is Dan
- 5 Keifer. I'm Community Outreach Coordinator for the
- 6 Clinton River Watershed Council in Southeast Michigan.
- 7 When I'm not at work doing watershed council
- 8 work, I'm a member of the Metro Steelheaders Club, and
- 9 go angling, trolling, river fishing for salmon,
- 10 steelhead and walleye all around Lake Michigan. So my
- 11 comments are from both perspectives.
- 12 The Clinton River Watershed is the most
- 13 populous watershed in the State of Michigan. One and a
- 14 half million people live there. It connects to Lake
- 15 St. Clair, which is the largest freshwater delta in the
- 16 world. The State of Michigan with its own Asian carp
- 17 control plan has identified the connecting waters of
- 18 the St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair, Detroit River as
- 19 one of the highest risk waters in the State of Michigan
- 20 to establishing and breeding population of Asian carp.
- 21 So we are very concerned.
- 22 I've been with the Watershed Council for nine
- 23 years. We talk about a lot of issues with our
- 24 constituents and people to get them interested in water
- 25 quality. Nothing comes close to the Asian carp issue.

- 1 Nothing comes close to that in terms of concern of
- 2 anglers, boaters, Michiganders. As I'm sure you've
- 3 heard all around our state, this is our way of life. It
- 4 is of great importance to our economy and to countless
- 5 entrepreneurs and workers all around lake ports of Lake
- 6 Michigan.
- 7 I want to thank you for this opportunity. I
- 8 want to thank you for, Mr. Goss, being here along with
- 9 the Corps of Engineers to show this is a comprehensive
- 10 approach. I want to thank you for the Eagle Marsh
- 11 barrier fantastic work that was done.
- But I still do not get the sense of urgency,
- 13 the sense that this is a war, as the General has
- 14 identified so clearly. A war is not prosecuted by a
- 15 science project. A war does not have a timeline. And
- 16 so the GLMRIS does not reflect this sense of urgency or
- 17 the sense that we are at war.
- 18 My main concern, I guess because it's what I
- 19 do, communications outreach, is the totally
- 20 insufficient communications that this effort has. I've
- 21 gone to the Website many times. I have done many
- 22 presentations on this. I have to piece together
- 23 material, information to do these presentations. I
- 24 have to go to you. Why don't you come to us? Where is
- 25 the -- I appreciate the social network. I'm sure it

- 1 will get better. But where is the YouTube videos of
- 2 this biology here of tagged fish? Put this information
- 3 out. You are losing the hearts and minds, General, of
- 4 the people you need to maintain the funding it will
- 5 take to do this job.
- 6 You need to come to us. Give us the
- 7 information. You've just given us wonderful
- 8 information here today that is still not available on
- 9 the Website. Bring it to us. Tell this story.
- 10 Everybody still thinks this is going to get solved by
- 11 closing the locks.
- 12 Thank you.
- MR. BLUHM: Thank you, sir.
- 14 GENERAL PEABODY: I learn something at every
- 15 one of these meetings. And the first thing I learned
- 16 today is I need to spend more time surfing our own
- 17 Website. No, thank you very much, Mr. Keifer, we
- 18 really appreciate it.
- 19 We get it. We understand the sense of
- 20 urgency, the passion, the emotion behind it. The most
- 21 common words I hear are fear and panic. And those are
- 22 emotion-ladened words. I think there's great cause for
- 23 concern. I absolutely agree with that.
- We have a sense of urgency and we're
- 25 prosecuting what we can with a sense of urgency. But

- 1 the GLMRIS is the wrong thing to focus on for urgent
- 2 action. It's not designed for urgent action. It's
- 3 designed for a permanent solution. And in general when
- 4 you're trying to do something that's going to be long
- 5 lasting and enduring, speed is the enemy of the good.
- Now, there is a place and there is a
- 7 mechanism to execute urgent acts, and that is through
- 8 the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee led by
- 9 Mr. Goss and Mr. Davis. The specific things that the
- 10 Corps brings to that fight in addition to the fish
- 11 barrier, which I've already talked about and which we
- 12 have very high confidence is effective, is the efficacy
- 13 study on the fish barrier. And we are leveraging that
- 14 efficacy study to deliver the information that allows
- 15 us to incrementally improve the fish barrier and
- 16 incrementally advance other efforts in collaboration
- 17 with our other federal and state partners and other
- 18 DNRs very much decisively engaged on this issue to
- 19 ensure that the Asian carp are controlled below the
- 20 fish barrier. And that is where we are focused for
- 21 urgent action.
- I would suggest that if -- and I agree with
- 23 you we're doing a poor job of getting the information
- 24 out if reading the newsprint is any indication of how
- 25 well we're doing. There's tons of inaccuracies in

- 1 almost every single article I read. And I go back to
- 2 the fear and panic verbs. They seem to be more
- 3 inspired by that.
- 4 But having said all that, we're going to
- 5 rededicate ourselves. If you would like a job as a
- 6 Website manager, I think I might have a job for you.
- 7 But we are going to continue to focus on the
- 8 efficacy study and the fish barrier as the area to --
- 9 for the urgent action to make sure that they stay at
- 10 bay. And that does give us, as Mr. Goss said, the time
- 11 that we need to do the GLMRIS study properly. And it is
- 12 really critical that we collectively do that study
- 13 properly so that whatever we devise is really going to
- 14 work and really going to last.
- John, do you want to make any comments?
- 16 MR. GOSS: Just very quickly. I think this
- 17 network information stuff is critically important.
- 18 There's a guy in the back named Jim Breeden. And he
- 19 and I are determined to get this information out there.
- 20 And if we're not doing a good job, please yell at us
- 21 again later.
- 22 GENERAL PEABODY: And, Kelly, tell me how
- 23 much you need for a YouTube video camera, okay? We'll
- 24 get it for you.
- Thank you, sir. Appreciate it.

- 1 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you.
- Okay. We will now go to the persons that
- 3 have indicated they would like to make a comment with
- 4 the yellow sheets. I've got four names so far. We'll
- 5 start with number 11 where we left off this afternoon.
- 6 That will be Tom Quail. And then following him will be
- 7 Dennis -- oh, boy, this is going to be a tough one. You
- 8 always get a challenger. I'll try Fijalkowski.
- 9 So, Mr. Quail, you're up. Take your time.
- Okay. When you're ready, go ahead.
- 11 MR. QUAIL: It's Tom Quail -- Q-u-a-i-l --
- 12 just like the bird. And I am with Michigan Trout
- 13 Unlimited. I'm the Conservation Chair for the state.
- 14 I'm also with the Clinton River Watershed Council. I'm
- 15 a staff member. I work with Dan. So here's the other
- 16 barrel.
- 17 MR. BLUHM: Can I get a zip code?
- 18 MR. QUAIL: 48360.
- MR. BLUHM: Thank you.
- 20 MR. QUAIL: I know way too much about Asian
- 21 carp. I went to the first meeting back in February.
- 22 And I went to the meeting in November for the Michigan
- 23 seminar and bringing this up. I'm going to this
- 24 meeting and all the time in between. And I really want
- 25 to study cold water species. I really want to deal

- 1 with Trout Unlimited stuff, but you're forcing me to
- 2 become an expert in carp. Not good.
- 3 Now, I get all worked up with this. And
- 4 between meetings I think, okay, I'm going to tell them
- 5 this, I'm going to tell them that. And then you put
- 6 this presentation on and, to reiterate what Dan said,
- 7 this is wonderful. This is some great information. You
- 8 took the wind out of my sails.
- 9 But I've got to go down fighting here. You've
- 10 shown that your work on Eagle Marsh was great. I mean,
- 11 you had a problem. You recognized it. You reacted
- 12 quickly.
- 13 You also identified that the Asian carp --
- 14 aren't you going to put my time up there?
- MR. BLUHM: Sorry about that.
- 16 MR. QUAIL: I was geared to watching this
- 17 green and yellow.
- 18 MR. BLUHM: Okay. That was my fault. I can
- 19 speed it up, if you want.
- 20 MR. QUAIL: There you go. This could be a
- 21 long night if I just kept going on and on.
- 22 You also identified that Asian carp is the
- 23 largest -- the concentration of Asian carp in this area
- 24 is -- in the Chicagoland area is the largest in the
- 25 world. That's pretty disturbing, very disturbing.

- 1 You've talked about the number of things that
- 2 you're investigating, developing pheromones, chemical
- 3 suppressions, other eradication methods. You have a
- 4 third barrier in place. That's wonderful. You've
- 5 checked -- you've got it cranked up as high as you can
- 6 go, as high as safely you can go.
- 7 GENERAL PEABODY: As high as the science
- 8 tells us works.
- 9 MR. QUAIL: Yes, that's what I meant.
- 10 So you've got all this stuff going on. But
- 11 what we have here we have a Great Lakes Basin that's
- 12 10,000 years old that can't save itself.
- And there's two analogies I want to make with
- 14 this. Well, let's start with the one analogy. My
- 15 career has been spent in the automotive industry. I did
- 16 not work for one of the Detroit automotive companies. I
- 17 was a supplier and I was a senior program manager. And
- 18 in that we -- you know, I worked with design engineers,
- 19 I worked with product engineers, manufacturing
- 20 engineers. And somewhere back in the mid to late '70s
- 21 Asian car companies came over here -- it's significant
- 22 it's the same name. Asian car companies came over here,
- 23 and they started developing cars in 18 months.
- 24 And the General Motors of the world and the
- 25 Chryslers and the Fords sat down, and they would say --

- 1 and I was in these meetings, because they would bring
- 2 the supplier base in. And they would go through the
- 3 same presentation, and it was wonderful. And these are
- 4 hardworking product engineers, design engineers,
- 5 manufacturing engineers, suppliers. And they're
- 6 telling me exactly -- or telling the audience, telling
- 7 their superiors, telling their CEOs this is the best
- 8 they can do. Well, they lost. And now they produce
- 9 cars in 18 months. They got the message after they
- 10 went bankrupt.
- 11 We don't have that choice. Because if we
- 12 screw up the Great Lakes, it's gone. We can't bring it
- 13 back. We don't have near enough money for that.
- So while, General, you're doing a knock-out
- 15 job here, you have to speed it up. You have to speed
- 16 it up. That's your job. There's no other answer.
- 17 Thank you very much.
- MR. BLUHM: Thank you.
- 19 GENERAL PEABODY: You make analogy to car
- 20 companies. I make analogy to race horses. And race
- 21 horses have top speeds. It's possible we're not at our
- 22 top speed, and I think it is possible to go faster. I
- 23 think it's always possible to go faster. But we are
- 24 encumbered -- encumbered may be the wrong word. We
- 25 have legal and policy requirements that we must abide

- 1 by, and those do require time to work through.
- We have a lot of experience doing studies in
- 3 the Corps. Typically the studies that we do are almost
- 4 never optimally funded. In fact, often they're funded
- 5 at well below 50 percent of capacity from one year to
- 6 the next and often unfunded. And that's one of the
- 7 primary reasons our studies tend to take a long period
- 8 of time.
- 9 The other reason studies tend to take a long
- 10 period of time is what my censor here Ernie Drott calls
- 11 progressive elaboration. And that is you don't know
- 12 what -- to quote a famous or infamous former Secretary
- 13 of Defense "You don't know what you don't know until
- 14 you uncover it." And then you learn as you
- 15 progressively go forward in the study.
- 16 And typically what happens is -- and if
- 17 you're from the car industry, I'm sure you understand
- 18 this, because I'm sure you've dealt with it. You find
- 19 out new capabilities, new technologies, new materials
- 20 that you can apply, and it changes where you started
- 21 with and you go off on different branches and paths
- 22 that you have to pursue. And those tend to add time to
- 23 the study.
- Now, the challenge I think that we have is
- 25 culturally what we try to do is get to a near perfect

- 1 end state for all of our studies. Most of our studies
- 2 are much smaller in scope and scale than this one, much
- 3 smaller and much less complex, much more simple.
- We are really working very hard to change
- 5 that orientation. So that instead of trying to execute
- 6 the perfect or near perfect study and only then make
- 7 recommendations to Congress -- and, oh, by the way,
- 8 that's what our laws tell us to do. Because Congress
- 9 is not in the habit of saying, "Corps, go do a study.
- 10 Just incrementally do solutions as you go along,
- 11 because we trust you." I mean, Congress says, "Wait a
- 12 minute. We're in charge of the taxpayer's dollar here.
- 13 And tell us what you found out from your study, then
- 14 we'll take a look at it. And we'll tell you what we
- 15 think about it, whether we should fund the proposals or
- 16 the different alternatives that come out of the study."
- 17 In the case of this issue, we haven't been
- 18 doing that. Because Congress gave us two things that
- 19 have been absolutely decisive for our ability to be
- 20 responsive to the issues you applauded us for being
- 21 responsive with.
- The first thing is they gave us an authority
- 23 called Section 126 in the 2009 Energy and Water
- 24 Appropriation Act. And that authority gave the
- 25 Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Ms. Jo-Ellen

- 1 Darcy, the authority to take emergency action
- 2 associated with the Asian carp issue. Study
- 3 authorities told us to do it. But it had a sunset
- 4 provision. They said it's only going to last a year.
- 5 It's been extended in the CR. And I'm not sure if it's
- 6 in the current CR or not, but it's kind of irrelevant.
- 7 But the point is they gave us this authority,
- 8 and we acted on it. We built the bypass barrier with
- 9 it. We did two other reports that we thought we might
- 10 be able to do something that we hadn't been able to do
- 11 much with, but we put screens on the sluice gates of
- 12 the locks and some other things.
- 13 The second thing they gave the Nation was the
- 14 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative so that we don't
- 15 have to go back to Congress to reprogram moneys to take
- 16 some of these actions. And John talked about the
- 17 bypass barrier that we delivered -- the estimate was 13
- 18 million, I think. We delivered it for seven-point-
- 19 something million, 7.4, I think, million dollars. And
- 20 the only reason we were able to get that amount of
- 21 money is because we didn't have to do a massive
- 22 reprogramming inside the Corps. We were able to talk
- 23 to the EPA, and they said, "Hey, this is an urgent
- 24 issue deserving of GRI funds. We're going to front you
- 25 the money for that." And as it turns out, we were able

- 1 to give some of their money back.
- 2 So I guess to make this long response
- 3 concluded is we agree with you. We want to go faster.
- 4 But we're cautious, because we also know that speed can
- 5 be the enemy of good. And it's really important that
- 6 for the GLMRIS, the long-term, permanent solutions, we
- 7 get to good.
- 8 Now, we do intend if -- again, as I said, I
- 9 want to emphasize this. If it's possible as we get the
- 10 science-based data and information, as we understand
- 11 the options and technologies, we intend to cycle out
- 12 reports that say, hey, Congress, we think that this is
- 13 an option or alternative that you should consider
- 14 funding so that we can reduce the risk before we get to
- 15 the full prevention goal that we're all after, because
- 16 this is going to do this, that and the other to
- 17 decrease the risk and incrementally improve our ability
- 18 to ensure that whether it's Asian carp or another
- 19 invasive species they're not going to move.
- That's kind of a longwinded answer, but this
- 21 is a complicated issue. And I think you all deserve
- 22 more than just short pat answers. I think we deserve
- 23 to have a conversation with each other. And I'm trying
- 24 to help you understand. And I really appreciate you
- 25 helping us trying to understand, also.

1 So thank you, sir. 2 Yes, Dave. MR. WETHINGTON: Quick thing. Gentlemen, 3 both of you, Mr. Keifer and Mr. Quail, mentioned that this is the first time you've seen this information. 5 Had both of you gentlemen been to the GLMRIS Website, the GLMRIS.anl.gov? And you looked through? I'm sorry that it's not more apparent to you. 8 guess I'll get through to our Web designers, because 10 all this information we presented today, including 11 those banners that are outside, all that information 12 there, those are all on our Website. Those are 13 supposed to be easily accessible and easily visible. So 14 15 MR. KEIFER: That information out there is not the same as what you all just presented, all right? 16 17 GENERAL PEABODY: You're talking about the fish barrier information and stuff? 18 19 MR. KEIFER: I'm talking about all the specific --20 21 MR. WETHINGTON: All the fish -- okay. 22 MR. KEIFER: I'm not talking about the 23 boilerplate --24 GENERAL PEABODY: I've got it. I've got it 25 loud and clear. We've got to do better in that regard,

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- 1 and we'll do that.
- 2 MR. KEIFER: Specifics. You guys got
- 3 specifics.
- 4 MR. WETHINGTON: Okay. With regard to Asian
- 5 --
- 6 MR. KEIFER: And push it out to us. Where's
- 7 the Listserves?
- 8 MR. WETHINGTON: Okay.
- 9 GENERAL PEABODY: Ernie, you got the task?
- MR. DROTT: Yes, sir.
- 11 GENERAL PEABODY: Okay. Thank you, sir.
- MR. WETHINGTON: Thanks for your comments.
- 13 Appreciate it.
- 14 GENERAL PEABODY: Appreciate it.
- MR. BLUHM: Very good.
- 16 Okay. Moving on. Number 12 Mr. -- and I'll
- 17 have to have you help me spell it. Is it Fijalkowski?
- 18 MR. FIJALKOWSKI: Fijalkowski.
- 19 MR. BLUHM: Okay. And then following him
- 20 number 13 will be Kurt Wolak.
- So when you're ready, go ahead, sir.
- MR. FIJALKOWSKI: Yeah. My name is Dennis
- 23 Fijalkowski, and I represent the Michigan Wildlife
- 24 Conservancy.
- 25 And I'm speaking here to reiterate our

- 1 concern that the federal agencies involved in this
- 2 operation do not appear to have sufficient sense of
- 3 urgency as been discussed earlier.
- I think the Eagle Marsh project is great. But
- 5 I think the greatest passage I'll take from this
- 6 meeting are the words of Dan Keifer that you can't
- 7 fight a war on a timetable. And I think you ought to
- 8 write that down and take it back to your offices.
- 9 Because this is a war, and the people of Michigan know
- 10 better than anybody else in the watershed how important
- 11 these Great Lakes are. Forty-three million people live
- 12 in this watershed.
- And I do have to ask the question, many of
- 14 those people live north of us in the great country
- 15 called Canada. Have they been allowed to have any
- 16 input into this process? What we do in Chicago affects
- 17 the Canadians. Probably a third of that 43 million
- 18 live in Canada. I think it's a flaw in your process. I
- 19 don't care if you do get your charge from the U.S.
- 20 Congress. That doesn't mean that you can't work
- 21 through the State Department or some other channel to
- 22 get input from Canadian citizens just like you're doing
- 23 here.
- While the Asian carp is knocking on our door
- 25 because of our decades of negligence and the

- 1 preoccupation of the Chicago area people with 7 million
- 2 tons of cargo that go through the Chicago Waterway
- 3 System, by comparison the Great Lakes fishery is
- 4 estimated at \$7 billion and recreational boating on top
- 5 of that is said to be \$16 billion. Your 7 million tons
- 6 of cargo can't compare. It's not even the same order
- 7 of magnitude.
- 8 As a matter of perspective, many of our Lake
- 9 Michigan ports on the west side of Michigan get more
- 10 recreational boating traffic than the whole Chicago
- 11 Waterway System. And we've got them all up and down a
- 12 300-mile coastline. So that's the difference in scale
- 13 we're talking here.
- 14 We think you should be working right now on
- 15 structures that will stop the invasion of the Asian
- 16 carp. They've been coming to us since 1975. 1975. And
- 17 the General said a couple of times that speed is the
- 18 enemy of good. Well, I might suggest that doing
- 19 nothing is also the enemy of good.
- 20 Since 1975 when this fish because of floods
- 21 in Arkansas entered the Mississippi River, you've known
- 22 that they were coming north to the Great Lakes. And
- 23 over the intervening 35 years or whatever it is nothing
- 24 has been done until two or three years ago. These Great
- 25 Lakes are very important to our people here in

- 1 Michigan.
- Okay. I had some prepared remarks, which I
- 3 could leave, I guess, with the person taking this
- 4 stuff.
- 5 But I would like to also comment that it
- 6 appears that the Corps of Engineers has taken the
- 7 charge from Congress, which was originally to stop the
- 8 Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes, and changed
- 9 it to reducing the risk of invasion. And I put that in
- 10 quotes "reducing the risk." That's not what they asked
- 11 you to do. They asked you to keep the carp from
- 12 entering the Great Lakes.
- And you're saying you need five years to
- 14 study it. You don't need five years to study the Asian
- 15 carp issue. As the General suggested, you're now doing
- 16 research on a whole myriad of species that go either
- 17 from Great Lakes to the Mississippi or in the other
- 18 direction. That's far more than the Congressional
- 19 mandate that was given to this entity. It was to do
- 20 something about the Asian carp, not the minnows that
- 21 might go from one watershed to the other. You've got
- 22 one species you should be looking at.
- Now, after the last meeting, the Natural
- 24 Resource Defense Council and the Alliance of the Great
- 25 Lakes did an engineering study and came up with an idea

- 1 -- actually two physical sites where physical
- 2 separations could take place. We think you ought to
- 3 stop talking about five years. Take a look at the
- 4 information they've already collected. They spent a
- 5 couple million dollars on it.
- 6 GENERAL PEABODY: They're not done yet, sir.
- 7 MR. FIJALKOWSKI: Oh, they're not done yet.
- 8 Okay. Let's use what they've already started
- 9 on and try to expedite this process. This is a war. We
- 10 can't wait for the carp.
- 11 Thank you.
- MR. BLUHM: Thank you.
- 13 GENERAL PEABODY: Okay. Sir, you made
- 14 several points. Let make take them one at a time.
- 15 First of all, with regard to Canada -- well,
- 16 let me just say as a caveat to all these comments. As I
- 17 indicated up front, the Corps of Engineers must have by
- 18 law two things to do anything. The first thing is an
- 19 authorization. The second thing is an appropriation,
- 20 okay?
- 21 And there's a whole host of additional laws
- 22 that we have to follow that from which our policies are
- 23 derived as well. And we have to color inside those
- 24 lines. I wear this uniform because I'm good at doing
- 25 two things, taking orders and following those orders.

1 And if you all disagree with the laws that we have to follow, then I would suggest that you have an opportunity to change those laws through our democratic 3 process. But whether you like the laws or not, I must abide by them. That is not a choice, that is not an 5 option, and I will not go outside those laws, okay? 7 And let me just clarify what some of those laws say. First of all, there is no jurisdiction for 8 the Corps of Engineers inside the borders of Canada. 10 There are several laws that prevent us from actively 11 working in the fashion that you've suggested with 12 Canada. 13 Having said that, we are in conversations 14 with the Canadians. We do keep them informed primarily 15 through the International Joint Commission, but through 16 other informal engagements. And they are doing some 17 study efforts that we are hopeful will help inform our 18 study. And we fully intend to use anything that they 19 provide to us that provides the kind of relevant 20 quality data that we need to prosecute this study. 21 They are interested in it. They're the same 22 users of the Great Lakes as we are. They're impacted, 23 as you said, sir, just like us. And if there's 24 anything that they provide to us that we can use, we 25 fully intend to do that.

- 1 Second, you made an analogy between the value
- 2 of the fisheries and the Great Lakes and the
- 3 recreational industry and the navigation in the Chicago
- 4 Area Waterway System. One of the things that we have
- 5 to do is study all the benefits and costs and all the
- 6 potential impacts.
- 7 Now, like it or not, the Chicago Area
- 8 Waterway System has several authorized uses under the
- 9 law. And until those authorized uses are changed by
- 10 the law, we must follow those. And they're not
- 11 exclusive to navigation, although navigation tends to
- 12 be the interest that receives the most attention.
- 13 Frankly the issue that I'm most concerned
- 14 with, and there are several issues that I must also
- 15 take account of, is flooding. Because it's very flat
- 16 typography in Chicago. I'm sure several of you have
- 17 been there. You understand how flat that terrain is.
- 18 And when water comes down, it doesn't have a lot of
- 19 places to move fast, and it just kind of -- it tends to
- 20 spread out. And we very frequently have to open the
- 21 lock gates.
- 22 In fact, the last time we did it was just
- 23 July of this past year. We had to open the lock gates
- 24 to reverse the flow so that the water instead of
- 25 flowing down toward the Illinois River flowed back into

- 1 Lake Michigan. If we had not done that, there would be
- 2 severe property damage and possible loss of life as a
- 3 consequence of that.
- 4 So we will do an analysis, by the way, of the
- 5 fishing industries and the impacts on the fisheries,
- 6 recreation industry and the navigation industry.
- 7 And we have not decided not to close the
- 8 locks. I want to emphasize that, too. That's very
- 9 much on the table. We're waiting for USGS to do a
- 10 study of potential impacts of Asian carp on Lake
- 11 Michigan so we have some science-based information on
- 12 what's likely to happen as well as all the things that
- 13 Dave talked about that we have to do.
- Now, you also talked about doing nothing, and
- 15 we've got to stop the Asian carp. Well, we couldn't
- 16 agree more that we have to stop the Asian carp. But
- 17 let me just kind of enumerate what we have done to
- 18 clarify that we're not doing nothing.
- 19 In 1996 we got the first authority to come up
- 20 with some recommendations on how to deal with an
- 21 invasive species moving through the Chicago Area
- 22 Waterway System. And the invasive species at that time
- 23 of concern was not the Asian carp. It was the round
- 24 goby. So it wasn't an issue of something moving from
- 25 the Mississippi up into Lake Michigan. It was moving

- 1 the other way. And as it turns out, by the time we
- 2 were able to actually execute anything the round goby
- 3 had already gotten into the Illinois Waterway System.
- 4 John could probably talk in more detail about the
- 5 impact that that has had. I presume it's not much,
- 6 because the Asian carp has pretty much crowded it out.
- 7 Nonetheless that's still an issue of concern.
- 8 However, we put together a panel of academics
- 9 and scientists and asked them, hey, what's out there
- 10 that we could execute that would allow the uses of the
- 11 waterway to continue as currently under law while
- 12 simultaneously attacking this issue of invasive species
- 13 round goby. And they came back with this fish barrier
- 14 technology, this electrical dispersal barrier system.
- So it had never been applied, though, on this
- 16 scale or precisely in this manner before. It had never
- 17 been applied to exactly block a waterway. It had been
- 18 applied to stop a fish from taking a certain pathway
- 19 mostly in inlets and large industrial pipes and that
- 20 sort of thing.
- 21 So we gave the report to Congress. They
- 22 said, "Great. Build a pilot." So we built a pilot.
- 23 That pilot went into installation in 2002. That's nine
- 24 years ago. And that's what's called the demonstration
- 25 barrier, barrier one.

- 1 Now, barrier one seemed to work. The
- 2 telemetry test that Kelly and her folks did told us
- 3 that the fish were not moving across the barrier, but
- 4 that was a more limited test than the test we're doing
- 5 today.
- 6 But one of the things we found out while we
- 7 were designing barrier -- the first version barrier 2A
- 8 was that this scientist Dr. Mark Pegg did a study. He
- 9 said, "Hey, it might take more than one volt per inch."
- 10 Which were the parameters we were operating at the
- 11 barrier at the time. "It might take up to four volts
- 12 per inch to keep these invasive species from moving
- 13 through."
- We said, oh, my gosh, we've got to redo our
- 15 design. So we changed the design, and we gave
- 16 ourselves the ability to modulate the parameters of the
- 17 barrier system to make it effective against fish.
- Meanwhile we started a study that says is Dr.
- 19 Pegg right. And some of the reports associated with
- 20 that study are going to be published this month. But
- 21 the bottom line is what we found out was he had it half
- 22 right. Almost exactly half right, as it turns out.
- 23 It's really a combination of parameters. Two volts per
- 24 inch, 6.5 milliseconds, 15 hertz frequency that turns
- 25 out to be effective against fish five and a half inches

- 1 and larger.
- 2 Since that time we've discovered that very
- 3 small fish may not be affected. But, as I indicated
- 4 earlier -- or may not be stunned. They are affected.
- 5 As I indicated earlier, we're very confident that fish
- 6 of that size are not near the fish barrier.
- 7 What else have we done? Well, Congress told
- 8 us in 2007, "Hey, do an efficacy study. Make sure that
- 9 the fish barrier is effective." So we've been
- 10 prosecuting that study ever since. We've done three
- 11 reports on that study so far, one of which has resulted
- 12 in the bypass barriers that John talked about.
- We looked at changing the way we operate the
- 14 locks. Intuitively I thought we would be able to do
- 15 that. It kind of made sense to me intuitively. But as
- 16 it turns out, once we ran it past the fish biologists,
- 17 they said, "It's really not going to be effective."
- 18 And I have to have -- that's one of the
- 19 things I have to be able to say this alternative would
- 20 be effective for me to be able to recommend it.
- 21 We built barrier 2B on an expedited basis.
- 22 Because when we found out that the -- we applied the
- 23 eDNA evidence or the eDNA technology before our
- 24 policies would normally tell us to do that. And we did
- 25 that on an expedited basis, because we felt we needed

- 1 more information about where fish might be. And that
- 2 gave us indications, first, A, hey, the fish are closer
- 3 than what -- or they appear to be closer than what you
- 4 thought.
- 5 And then, B, there may be some fish that are
- 6 above the fish barrier. We found that out
- 7 incrementally. And John talked about all the actions
- 8 we've taken to try to find those fish above the fish
- 9 barrier.
- 10 We turned up the operating parameters on the
- 11 barrier within three weeks once we got that
- 12 information. We've been operating at those parameters
- 13 ever since. And we've improved the design of barrier
- 14 2B and executed that with American Reinvestment and --
- 15 I can't remember what the acronym stands for. But the
- 16 stimulus funding from the administration. Nineteen
- 17 million dollars just for that barrier alone.
- I could go on, but I'll end it there. There's
- 19 a whole host of other details that amount to this. But
- 20 here's the point. The fish barrier is a physical
- 21 barrier to the fish. It's not something you can see,
- 22 but it stops the fish from moving, because it generates
- 23 electricity in the water that stuns fish five and a
- 24 half inches and larger.
- We are continuing our research to tell us

- 1 whether or not we need to change the parameters, and
- 2 we're continuing simultaneously safety investigations
- 3 to ensure that we can meet the Coast Guard requirements
- 4 for changing those parameters so that navigation can
- 5 traverse safely through that area. Whether we like it
- 6 or not, navigation is an authorized use of that
- 7 waterway, and we have an obligation whether we like it
- 8 or not, a legal obligation, to ensure that the fish
- 9 barrier allows safe passage of commercial, recreation
- 10 and passenger vessels through that area.
- 11 Sir, you talked about prevention versus risk
- 12 reduction. You have a good point. The legislation
- 13 that was passed by the Congress told us prevent. And
- 14 if you look up in the dictionary what prevent means,
- 15 it's primarily stop. A hundred percent is the
- 16 implication. Now, there are other means, but they tend
- 17 to be secondary. And those other means do carry the
- 18 implication of risk reduction.
- 19 But here's the truth. We don't know before
- 20 we go through the study process for sure whether we can
- 21 get to prevent. And so the reality is that many things
- 22 that we engineers build in the world, engineer
- 23 solutions, turn out not to be as good or operate as
- 24 effectively as they're initially advertised. That's
- 25 just reality. Because factors that we don't fully

- 1 understand sometimes get in the way.
- 2 So if I were to advertise, hey, this
- 3 technology is a hundred percent full proof, and it
- 4 turns out not to be, well, our experience tells us and
- 5 our judgment tells us that that may be the case.
- 6 So while we fully intend to achieve the goal
- 7 of prevention, we think it would be irresponsible of us
- 8 not to tell the public and not to tell the Congress
- 9 there's a possibility that we may not get to
- 10 prevention. But we're going to recommend to you all
- 11 the various technologies, we're going to tell you what
- 12 the relative order of magnitude of risk reduction is.
- 13 And then Congress will make a decision as to whether or
- 14 not we should implement those technologies.
- 15 Sir, we appreciate your passion. I've got to
- 16 tell you I grew up in Norwalk, Ohio, not too far from
- 17 here. I hope that doesn't make you Michiganders upset.
- 18 I'm an old Buckeye fan and a very frustrated Cleveland
- 19 Browns fan for my entire lifetime. But I used to go to
- 20 Nickel Beach in Huron when I was a kid all the time.
- 21 And there were dead alewives and dead other fish
- 22 littering those beaches. It was so bad I used to hold
- 23 my nose to eat my lunch, because I couldn't hardy stand
- 24 the stench.
- This is more than just professional with me.

- 1 And professionally every core in my being wants to win
- 2 this fight, but I have a personal commitment, too, from
- 3 my background.
- 4 Sir, I hope that answers your concerns and
- 5 questions.
- I take your point, sir, Mr. Keifer, that
- 7 we're doing a lousy job of getting this kind of
- 8 information on our Websites. We're going to do our
- 9 best to fix that. And please give us feedback on how
- 10 well we're doing as well.
- 11 Thanks for the opportunity to clarify those
- 12 concerns. We appreciate it.
- John, anything you want to add?
- MR. GOSS: I couldn't top that, John.
- MR. BLUHM: Okay. Very good. Thank you.
- 16 All right. Moving along, then, we're on
- 17 number 13 Mr. Wolak. And then following will be number
- 18 14 Charles Tazzia.
- When you're ready, go ahead.
- 20 MR. WOLAK: Good afternoon, folks. My name
- 21 is Kurt Wolak. And when I'm asked to speak at these
- 22 things, this is always my favorite part. I am with the
- 23 organization Carp Are Crap.
- 24 And the reason our organization came together
- 25 was to serve as a bridging organization to help educate

- 1 and inform basically the recreational users of their
- 2 responsibility to this problem. Because one problem
- 3 that you have not talked about in the potential
- 4 pathways -- you've talked about the Chicago River.
- 5 You've talked about the other pathways. But human
- 6 transmission is a very, very, very strong possibility.
- 7 And as more waterways get infected and people are
- 8 coming into this water system during the summer and are
- 9 not informed on how to disinfect or even inspect their
- 10 gear, that's like the Emerald Ash war. We don't know
- 11 where this is going to happen.
- 12 And also we found out that there are many
- 13 people in this area who share their love for this water
- 14 system but have a lot of other talents.
- 15 You say that your best case scenario is 2015.
- 16 And I understand that that says to me that you're going
- 17 to need all the help you can. And while, General, I
- 18 understand that you do have legal hurdles to overcome,
- 19 you're at a distinct disadvantage to the carp who only
- 20 has to obey the laws of nature. And as we can see, he
- 21 has no hurdles. No offense to you. But it's
- 22 unfortunate, but we have to stop the Asian carp and not
- 23 you. Because in the Army Corps of Engineers -- because
- 24 I know with you I have five years, and with the carp I
- 25 don't know what I have.

- 1 And so the other thing that I'm finding out
- 2 about this process is that you come up with a lot of
- 3 good ideas. You bring together minds. And, in fact,
- 4 some of the best ideas you have come up with have come
- 5 from the Carp's Management Plan that was put out in
- 6 2006 and 7. And frankly our organization just started
- 7 going through and picking out points that haven't even
- 8 been addressed. And what happens is you bring these
- 9 people together, and they do come up with fantastic
- 10 ideas. But once they separate, there's nobody to
- 11 assign real responsibility. There's no integrators.
- 12 Who is going to do the actual work on the ground once
- 13 this is done?
- 14 The other thing that I wanted -- I have a
- 15 question for the gentleman who deals with the other
- 16 pathways. We talked about the Eagle Marsh project and
- 17 its effect on the Maumee River. But the other river
- 18 that that is connected to, as you said, is the St.
- 19 Joseph River, which is a river that I have grown up on.
- 20 So that isn't talked about much. St. Joe's River leads
- 21 to the Great Lakes Michigan. So that's another
- 22 pathway. Is that being protected or even involved in
- 23 this?
- One of the other things is there are people
- 25 that can help you. Every time I have gone to my

- 1 organization to find an electrical engineer, to find a
- 2 designer, to find anybody on this project, I have found
- 3 people willing to either put energy and time into it.
- I tell your fish biologist and your folks
- 5 here I think you might be barking up the wrong tree as
- 6 far as the seismic activity. I'm an audio engineer.
- 7 I'm an acoustic designer by trade. You're going after
- 8 a large mass. And talking to the people that have done
- 9 the herding of the fish, the commercial fishermen, they
- 10 use a cavitation, and it creates a lot of energy. And
- 11 what it tends to do is scatter the fish more than
- 12 anything else, and it drives them into deeper water
- 13 areas where it takes more and more energy. You're
- 14 talking about fish -- if you're talking about the big
- 15 head carp, that's 85 to 95 pounds. And also are
- 16 spawning in temperatures that are about 68 to 72
- 17 degrees, which is a time where a lot of other people
- 18 are in the water.
- So if you're trying to disrupt a large body
- 20 mass, you're also talking about something that is about
- 21 as big as a child.
- 22 You might have better luck dealing with
- 23 trying to disrupt the eggs after they've spawned,
- 24 because they go to a specific area, hydrologically they
- 25 also float in a column, and they must remain viable for

- 1 -- in that water area for two to three days semi-
- 2 buoyant. If you can somehow reduce the viability there
- 3 or somehow make them sink.
- 4 Thank you.
- 5 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.
- 6 MR. GOSS: I would like to talk to you
- 7 afterwards, please.
- 8 GENERAL PEABODY: Mike, do you want to talk
- 9 about the St. Joe issue?
- 10 MR. SAFFRAN: My understanding is that there
- 11 is actually a small land, a bit of land, between the
- 12 St. Joe's that flows to Lake Michigan, the St. Joseph
- 13 River that flows into Fort Wayne. I think it may have
- 14 been Portage or something at one time, but my
- 15 understanding is it doesn't directly connect to Lake
- 16 Michigan.
- 17 MR. WOLAK: Is it flood prone, though? Is it
- 18 like being a marsh area? Is it, you know, going to be
- 19 connected during the spring seasons?
- 20 MR. SAFFRAN: I quess the thing I'm going to
- 21 have to do there is say I don't know. And that I'll
- 22 get with the Michigan DNR folks, and we will get to the
- 23 bottom of that.
- MR. WOLAK: Thank you.
- 25 GENERAL PEABODY: If I could follow up on

- 1 that. We had a real good question earlier. A lady
- 2 made the point that by focusing on the connection
- 3 points that's kind of -- you wait until the Huns are at
- 4 the gates, and that's almost too late.
- 5 The reason we focused on the connection
- 6 points was to figure out where they could transit and
- 7 then work our way back downstream in both directions to
- 8 identify places that we could obstruct or stop various
- 9 species from moving.
- 10 Now, in the case of the Wabash, one of the
- 11 reasons that's such a concern is that it's one of the
- 12 longest obstructed rivers in the United States. And so
- 13 it's possible for Asian carp to get closer to that
- 14 transition point at Eagle Marsh than in any of the
- 15 other points. And that's why that was highlighted as
- 16 such a key issue.
- 17 But we take your point about St. Joe. We
- 18 need to work our way back down through that river with
- 19 the local professional experts who understand it,
- 20 specifically the Michigan DNR, and see if there's any
- 21 possible additional connection points. And we'll do
- 22 that. Thanks for pointing that out. Appreciate it.
- MR. BLUHM: Very good.
- 24 MR. GOSS: I forgot you mentioned human
- 25 transfer. It's a huge concern. It is not addressed in

- 1 our current action plan. And it's one of the most
- 2 difficult to get a handle on.
- 3 We know that many fish have moved to other
- 4 bodies of water historically with help. Bait buckets
- 5 would be an equal concern. Not that we have a lot of
- 6 bait in our current bait delivery system, but I think
- 7 for anyone who's sinked minnows if I was fishing on the
- 8 Kankakee, which is infested with carp, and took any
- 9 minnows from there a few miles, they could be heading
- 10 for Lake Michigan. So --
- 11 MR. WOLAK: Most commercial operations use
- 12 wild netting as well. So you can't ensure.
- MR. GOSS: So those are big concerns. I
- 14 think we've got to work with the state people in every
- 15 state to do education projects on these two areas. How
- 16 do we make people think. If they had any -- for any
- 17 reason if they were taking fish to another area make
- 18 sure there are no carp, whatever that might be. They
- 19 thought they were stocking their pond or whatever.
- 20 Because I think it could happen. So I need your ideas
- 21 on that. We need to put together education projects.
- 22 Thanks.
- MR. BLUHM: Okay. Excellent. Thank you.
- 24 All right. We are on number 14 on the yellow
- 25 sheet. Mr. Tazzia when you're ready, come on up. And

- 1 if you can give us your zip code, we would appreciate
- 2 that.
- 3 MR. TAZZIA: Sure. And the last name is
- 4 actually Tazzia -- T-a-z-z-i-a. Zip code 48236.
- 5 First I just want to say thank you for the
- 6 great presentation and information, for the great work
- 7 on Eagle Marsh and the third barrier, and for the
- 8 opportunity to speak.
- 9 I will preface this by saying I don't have
- 10 near the experience with this issue as everybody else
- 11 who's talked and near the information. But I do share
- 12 their passion. I'm a lifelong Michigan resident,
- 13 lifelong Michigan fisherman. These are treasured. You
- 14 know this occurred at least 150 times probably in the
- 15 last couple of months. So I can't say anything that
- 16 these guys haven't already said.
- 17 So I came up here with a couple of questions.
- 18 One is for you, General. Back in, was it, 2002, 2003
- 19 we had that huge regional power loss for several days
- 20 that knocked out I don't know how many states. So that
- 21 always to me begs the question what are your
- 22 contingency for power loss on the electrical barriers?
- 23 And what is your confidence in those?
- And my other question is for Mr. Goss. And
- 25 this isn't a question so much related to what the

- 1 hearing is about as far as preventing the transmission
- 2 of the carp into the Great Lakes. It's more a question
- 3 of dealing with the problem you already have throughout
- 4 the Mississippi River Basin. Just wondering if anyone
- 5 in the administration has considered, you know, looking
- 6 at approaching that problem from an economic
- 7 standpoint. That's an awful lot of fish protein
- 8 swimming around in the Mississippi River, an awful lot
- 9 of potential fertilizer, an awful lot of potential
- 10 fishmeal. And if there's one thing that we do well in
- 11 this country, it's exploit species to extinction for
- 12 economic purposes. We're pretty good at that here.
- So I'm just wondering if there's been any
- 14 work done to try to get industry involved to exploit
- 15 this, because there are -- I know the Mississippi River
- 16 is long, but it's pretty narrow, too, relative to
- 17 oceans and things like that. So those are my
- 18 questions.
- 19 Thank you.
- 20 MR. GOSS: I'll take that one first, because
- 21 it's kind of a fun one. Yes, the State of Illinois is
- 22 focused on creating a marketable product. And they
- 23 have identified some communities that historically were
- 24 river towns with fish processing from river-caught
- 25 fish. And they're helping two and possibly three of

- 1 those communities develop processing plants this year
- 2 that are going to come up with a variety of products,
- 3 including fishmeal, fertilizer and food. So they're on
- 4 it.
- 5 They have also some plans to do marketing and
- 6 to work on both export and domestic marketing to get
- 7 people interested in trying Asian carp. So it is a --
- 8 it's a white fish. It's a bony fish. You've got to
- 9 steam it or bake it, get the meat off the bone, but
- 10 then you can use it for about anything. High protein,
- 11 low fat. Doesn't retain the problems like the fatty
- 12 fish would with pollution-related contaminants and so
- 13 forth. And there is a future for it.
- So they're looking at getting the market to
- 15 step in and hopefully take off. And definitely
- 16 eradication through -- or at least suppressing the
- 17 population seriously through commercial fishing. And
- 18 putting it out there in the market is a good part of
- 19 the strategy. They do have funds from Great Lakes
- 20 Restoration money, but the State of Illinois is doing
- 21 all the work on it. So I think we have some hopes that
- 22 it's really going to take off this year.
- Thanks.
- 24 GENERAL PEABODY: Thanks. Great question on
- 25 the power loss. It's something we're concerned about.

- 1 We are and we have generator -- backup generators at
- 2 the barrier sites to address that issue. But there's a
- 3 challenge with getting them automatically to turn on,
- 4 because this is not your normal electricity. It's not
- 5 AC. It's DC. And it goes through impulses that
- 6 rapidly change. So there's rapid energy changes many
- 7 times a second. And as you can imagine, that puts a lot
- 8 of stress on whatever the power source is. So a
- 9 generator is not as reliable as main power. If we were
- 10 to lose main power, that's an issue of concern.
- Now, we're continuing -- our electrical
- 12 engineers are working with the contractor Smith-Root to
- 13 increase the reliability of generators, but we're not
- 14 taking it for granted that we have standard main power
- 15 coming through the standard transmission lines. We want
- 16 to make sure that we have good backup generators that
- 17 are able to transmit for long periods of time. And we
- 18 do have plans to do that, and we're testing those plans
- 19 to make sure that they're reliable.
- 20 So thanks for that question.
- 21 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Very good. Thank you.
- 22 All right. That concludes the list of people
- 23 that had identified when they checked in that they
- 24 would like to make a comment or presentation to us.
- 25 At this time it's 7:30. I would like to ask

- 1 and see if there are any hands of anybody that has not
- 2 had a chance to address the panel. If you now would
- 3 like to make a comment, now would be the time to raise
- 4 your hand.
- 5 Okay. Then I'll ask -- yes, come on up.
- 6 Because you haven't registered, if I could have you
- 7 start with your name and affiliation, that would be
- 8 great.
- 9 MS. MONTGOMERY: It's Lia Montgomery. And
- 10 54201.
- 11 And, sorry, but I couldn't resist the eight-
- 12 hour drive. I just get so much energy from people from
- 13 Michigan. It's just so wonderful how much you care
- 14 about these lakes. And I hope you hear that.
- And, General, you know -- first of all, we
- 16 watched the drive and fumble the other night. So my
- 17 God.
- 18 GENERAL PEABODY: Thanks. I appreciate that.
- 19 Rub it in.
- 20 MS. MONTGOMERY: The Browns they are really -
- 21 but we've got the Packers. So sorry.
- You know, you're so good at what you do.
- 23 You're just -- I can see why you're the General. And
- 24 it makes me feel really good that you're on our side.
- 25 But I was really excited last week that we

- 1 have a Senator from Michigan and a Congressman who are
- 2 not happy with your five-year plan and are trying to do
- 3 the legal thing the way you keep saying, you know, you
- 4 have to abide by.
- 5 So we've got Debbie Stabenow who says 18
- 6 months. "You quys are going to have to do this in 18
- 7 months." We've got Durbin who's on board. We're so
- 8 close now to a Congressional backing on this finally
- 9 after all this time.
- 10 My concern is is what I hear from you is
- 11 they're probably going to have a hearing on this bill
- 12 before they do anything with it, and they're going to
- 13 ask you to come and sit in front of them. And are you
- 14 going to say it's really a bad idea if we go to 18
- 15 months because there's no way we can do this in 18
- 16 months and feel good about it or -- you know, are you
- 17 going to be able to step up to the plate when they come
- 18 to you and say, "Can you do this in 18 months"? Are you
- 19 going to be able to say to them, "You know, it might be
- 20 really hard, and we might have to, you know, look at
- 21 some things differently than we would if we had the
- 22 luxury of time"?
- But I hope at that point you're going to find
- 24 that passion, that little boy passion, of Lake Erie and
- 25 realize this is a crisis, and we don't have the luxury

- 1 of time.
- 2 You know, I had dinner with my ex-husband
- 3 last night, and I thought I had the luxury of time when
- 4 I married him, and, you know, you just don't know
- 5 everything. You don't. And, you know, you can take 20
- 6 years to study this, and you still, you know, might
- 7 find things out later on.
- 8 But I guess that's what I want to know. I
- 9 want to know that when you go before Congress that
- 10 you're not going to let these Michigan people down,
- 11 that you're not going to let us down in Wisconsin and
- 12 everywhere.
- 13 You know, I left Monday morning, and the sun
- 14 was coming over the lake, and it just takes my breath
- 15 away. And I know all these people feel that.
- 16 So the other concern I have is between the
- 17 last time I saw this wonderful group, who is now ready
- 18 to go home, was 4,000 pounds of live Asian carp in
- 19 Canada, and we're worried about finding it in bait
- 20 buckets. How does 4,000 pounds of live Asia carp get
- 21 from the United States -- this isn't coming from Mexico
- 22 mind you. This is coming from the United States. How
- 23 is that -- I know this might not be your jurisdiction.
- 24 But how are we allowing live Asian carp to get into a
- 25 truck and go all the way to Canada before it's stopped.

- 1 That's not helping anything.
- 2 So those are my two things. Please tell me
- 3 that you're going to do your best in that hearing and
- 4 tell me what we need to do to stop these carp going to
- 5 Canada.
- 6 Thank you.
- 7 GENERAL PEABODY: I'm going to let the Asian
- 8 carp director who directs Asian carp to do what they're
- 9 supposed to do to talk about transporting them in
- 10 trucks. That's a great concern, as we've talked about.
- 11 Look, I don't know that I'm going to testify
- 12 in Congress or not. I have once already. If they
- 13 would like me to testify, I will again. I can tell you
- 14 that I'm going to do two things with regard to the
- 15 study timeline. The first thing I'm going to do is put
- 16 it back under a microscope and try to figure out ways
- 17 that we can move faster. I can't make any promises.
- 18 I think we need to have a clear understanding
- 19 of what all the provisions of law are and what all the
- 20 policies are and where we may have room for maneuver
- 21 and then engage our higher headquarters on that.
- Because, as I frequently pointed out, we have
- 23 our legal requirements and we have timelines that
- 24 devolve from those legal requirements, but the carp
- 25 don't really have a whole lot of respect for our laws.

- 1 They follow only one law, and that's the natural law.
- 2 And that includes migrating up streams and river and
- 3 propagating their species and potentially threatening
- 4 the Great Lakes, which we can't let happen.
- 5 Whether we can -- if I testify, I'm going to
- 6 do what I always do, and that's I'm going to give my
- 7 best professional advice and articulate my best
- 8 understanding of the situation. And that's what my
- 9 role is. I'm not a policy maker. And I'm not a
- 10 decision maker. I have certain decision authorities,
- 11 but it's fairly tightly constrained once -- I mean, I
- 12 have lots of decision authority with relation to the
- 13 fish barrier actually. I made the decision to turn up
- 14 the parameters without consulting anybody. Called my
- 15 headquarters and said, "Hey, we're going to turn up the
- 16 parameters. You kind of, sort of ought to know this."
- 17 And they said, "Okay."
- 18 But when it comes to advising Congress, I'm
- 19 not sure they're going to ask my opinion. I'm not sure
- 20 they want my opinion. If I am asked, I will give it
- 21 candidly. And we are going to take a look at our study
- 22 process and the timeline and see if there's ways we can
- 23 focus on producing outcomes that are more in line with
- 24 what people would like us to achieve.
- 25 But I've also got to tell you that I also

- 1 feel a very strong obligation to ensure that whatever
- 2 it is we recommend is actually going to work. And it's
- 3 just impossible -- I mean, the whole purpose of a study
- 4 is to uncover what you don't know and make a
- 5 recommendation about some new thing. Otherwise, you
- 6 wouldn't need a study.
- 7 And so the study process that we have
- 8 actually works. It's very effective for deliberate
- 9 issues that you have time to deal with. Of course, the
- 10 challenge here is we're trying to do the study process
- 11 for deliberate issues that's got urgent characteristics
- 12 with it.
- 13 Having said all that, as I articulated
- 14 earlier, for all the reasons I cited we're very
- 15 confident in the fish barrier. We're very confident in
- 16 all the actions that the Asian Carp Regional
- 17 Coordinating Committee is taking. We have a certain
- 18 tightness in our gut, because there's always something
- 19 you don't know, whether it's how your spouse is going
- 20 to turn out 20 years from now or whatever it is. And
- 21 so it's those unknowns that do concern us. And that's
- 22 why we have a pretty intensive effort to try to find
- 23 whether there's Asian carp above the fish barrier or
- 24 reduce the population below or do all the research that
- 25 John talked about.

- 1 And I'll let John talk about what we're going
- 2 to do about human transport and trucks in Canada and
- 3 all that stuff.
- 4 MR. GOSS: It's a shock that they're still
- 5 coming with truckloads. The Canadians told us last
- 6 fall that they had intercepted several last year.
- 7 Fortunately Congress did act. The president signed in
- 8 December to add bighead to the Lacey Act. So it wasn't
- 9 even really illegal to move them through the states
- 10 until December 15th when that was adopted.
- 11 Fish & Wildlife has a million dollars at
- 12 least in their budget for Lacey Act enforcement. They
- 13 are taking it very seriously. And they are trying to
- 14 determine where there might still be some illegal
- 15 activity. The one that was fined \$50,000 for a
- 16 truckload was heading for Toronto to the live fish
- 17 market. The Canadians are watching very carefully.
- 18 Every fish truck is being inspected at the border very
- 19 carefully.
- 20 All we can say, I think, is that it's still
- 21 an education project, and we need to figure out if
- 22 they're coming from states in the south or wherever.
- 23 We've got to work with those states in partnership to
- 24 stop it. We've got to get it at the source and we've
- 25 got to stop it.

- 1 So we'll be working with Fish & Wildlife very
- 2 hard to make sure -- hopefully that's the last one
- 3 we're going to ever see in a truckload.
- 4 But thank you for coming from Wisconsin
- 5 again.
- 6 MS. MONTGOMERY: My pleasure.
- GENERAL PEABODY: And, Kevin, I apologize,
- 8 and everybody, but I do have to leave to get to the
- 9 airport. I would really like to stay and chat
- 10 informally. I find some of those discussions some of
- 11 the best.
- 12 Yes, sir?
- 13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I just have one
- 14 question.
- 15 GENERAL PEABODY: Sure.
- 16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Does the young lady
- 17 does she feel that you're something like her ex? That
- 18 was terrible.
- 19 MR. WETHINGTON: You can just end on that.
- 20 GENERAL PEABODY: Yes, I think I will.
- I want to highlight, though, that both Dave
- 22 Wethington and Mike Saffran are real experts on the
- 23 study itself.
- Mr. Ernie Drott -- you want to raise your
- 25 hand. Tallest guy in the room at, what, six-eight,

1 Ernie? 2 MR. DROTT: Yes, sir, six-eight. GENERAL PEABODY: Will be able to answer 3 questions related to the fish barrier. 5 And then Kelly Baerwaldt, our fish biologist, can talk about some of the things that the Corps is doing with both eDNA and the validation testing of the 7 fish barrier. 9 I'm going to turn it back to Kevin. 10 while you're talking, Kevin, pay no attention to the 11 man in uniform, but I have to exit stage left. 12 Appreciate your time and your passion. 13 really do. And we appreciate your constructive criticisms, because they're going to help us get 15 better. 16 Thank you. 17 MR. QUAIL: We appreciate you. 18 GENERAL PEABODY: Thank you, sir. 19 MR. BLUHM: All right. Thank you, sir. 20 Okay. While the General is exiting, I would 21 like to ask one last time if anybody would like to make a comment now that hasn't had a chance to do so yet 22 23 this evening? Either signify by raising your hand or 24 making your way to the microphone. 25 I thought maybe he was going to the

- 1 microphone. It doesn't look like it.
- Okay. I'll ask one last time. Anybody that
- 3 would like to make a statement that has not had a
- 4 chance to do so, this would be your last chance.
- 5 Okay. Seeing none, then I'll ask if anybody
- 6 that has already made a presentation or a comment to us
- 7 tonight if you would like to make a follow up or a
- 8 secondary comment for that, now would be the time to
- 9 make your way to the microphone.
- 10 MR. WOLAK: One last question?
- MR. BLUHM: Yes, go ahead.
- 12 Come on up to the microphone. If you can
- 13 start with your name again, we would appreciate it.
- MR. WOLAK: My name is Kurt Wolak.
- 15 And my question has to do with ongoing
- 16 funding. The sea lamprey costs about 20 to \$30 million
- 17 a year to control in the Great Lakes, so we can see
- 18 that money needs to be ongoing. What kind of fundings
- 19 for us are we pursuing in this regard?
- Thank you.
- 21 MR. GOSS: I can say very definitely that
- 22 President Obama's 2012 budget proposal includes over
- 23 \$30 million for ongoing projects. So that will get us
- 24 approximately two thirds of the projects identified in
- 25 our strategy. That includes money in the Corps budget

- 1 for the barriers and for the GLMRIS study to go at the
- 2 projected level right now.
- 3 So I think we have that commitment from the
- 4 President, OMB in the presentation, Congress is about
- 5 to have at it. If they ever get the 2011 done, then
- 6 they start on the 12. In the 11 budget, most of our --
- 7 the majority of our funding came from the Great Lakes
- 8 Restoration Fund. Projects that were already in
- 9 operation in 2010 have been able to continue at their
- 10 same level.
- 11 But about almost a dozen things that we added
- 12 to our plans have not started yet, because we're six
- 13 months into the year with no funds released. So even
- 14 three or four of those things I mentioned on the R and
- 15 D side we haven't actually funded those yet.
- 16 So we need action in Congress on the budget
- 17 just to stay on the current plan with those projects.
- 18 We have a good proposal, I think, for commitment to put
- 19 money not just in the Corps budget, but also in Fish &
- 20 Wildlife and in USGS to follow through on these carp
- 21 projects.
- 22 So they're becoming mainstream. They're not
- 23 in danger of floating away if Great Lakes Restoration
- 24 money disappear.
- So we still need GLRI money to do things, and

- 1 that's the flexible money. So please remind your
- 2 Congressional people that most of the carp projects
- 3 came from GLRI and please keep it going.
- 4 Thanks.
- 5 MR. BLUHM: Great. Thank you.
- 6 Okay. Just a recap of today's events, we've
- 7 heard from some 24 people today, six of them tonight, a
- 8 little over an hour of testimony this evening and two
- 9 hours this afternoon. So we've heard well in excess of
- 10 three hours of comments, questions for us.
- 11 At this time I would like to ask one last
- 12 time if anybody would like to address the audience,
- 13 come on up to the microphone.
- 14 If you want to start with your name again,
- 15 please.
- 16 MR. QUAIL: It's Tom Quail -- Q-u-a-i-l.
- 17 Michigan Trout Unlimited. 48360.
- Quick question. When are we going to do this
- 19 again? When do we meet next? And in what kind of
- 20 forum? Will it be the same type of forum?
- 21 MR. GOSS: Dave is working on it. He's
- 22 thinking about it.
- MR. WETHINGTON: I've been thinking about it
- 24 a lot actually.
- One of the slides that General Peabody

- 1 discussed earlier today had kind of a strategy. And he
- 2 didn't spend too much time on it, but we've kind of
- 3 outlined a concept of an Executive Steering Committee.
- 4 Basically the Executive Steering Committee is a
- 5 collaboration of federal and state agencies that have
- 6 some sort of governmental or regulatory authority, and
- 7 are going to get together on a regular basis to look at
- 8 how GLMRIS is progressing, specifically this study.
- 9 Talking about Asian carp or other things is
- 10 kind of beyond the scope of what I can talk about
- 11 today, because I couldn't tell you when the next time
- 12 we're going to get together and talk about the barrier
- 13 or Asian carp.
- But specifically this Interbasin Study we
- 15 anticipate having these Steering Committee meetings on
- 16 maybe a quarterly or every bi-annual-type basis. And so
- 17 we would imagine that maybe not every meeting, but at
- 18 least every other meeting would have a public component
- 19 to it. We may not do the forum where we come to all 12
- 20 locations, but we would have the opportunity where
- 21 folks could call in and listen. It would be like
- 22 teleconference lines or video teleconferencing. But we
- 23 would definitely allow a couple of hours for a similar-
- 24 type format. Someone provides an update on what's
- 25 going on, and you can listen in, provide comments

- 1 either via E-mail or speak your mind via phone. Or if
- 2 you can attend in person, we may try to move them
- 3 around, have one in Chicago, one in Detroit, one in
- 4 Buffalo, et cetera.
- 5 So that's kind of the concept. I would look
- 6 for it probably not too soon, but within the next 6 to
- 7 12 months I would imagine for sure.
- 8 MR. QUAIL: Thanks.
- 9 MR. BLUHM: Excellent. Thank you.
- 10 Okay. Any -- yes. Go ahead.
- 11 MR. KEIFER: Dan Keifer, Clinton River
- 12 Watershed Council. 48309.
- 13 Thanks for the opportunity for additional
- 14 questions.
- Too, what would the anticipated response of
- 16 the GLMRIS study be to the report of the Great Lakes
- 17 Commission on the Chicago Waterways?
- 18 And, secondly, can you give any comments on
- 19 specific actions this year on the 17 other significant
- 20 risk other pathways?
- 21 You did a great job on Eagle Marsh. What's
- 22 the next?
- MR. WETHINGTON: Sure. I'll speak to the
- 24 first question about the Great Lakes Commission study,
- 25 and then I'll turn it over to Mike with regard to the

- 1 other pathways.
- 2 Specifically the Great Lakes Commission study
- 3 is looking at how to implement hydrologic separation in
- 4 the Chicagoland area. That's a very specific study.
- 5 And they're trying to adhere to an expedited timeline
- 6 so that it may -- it will affect the type of data they
- 7 collect and the type of information they present.
- 8 However, it will be a technical report that
- 9 does look at where would maybe be the optimal points
- 10 for hydrologic separation within the Chicagoland area.
- 11 And since the Interbasin Study will be looking at
- 12 hydrologic separation as a specific alternative that we
- 13 do address, the information that is generated by the
- 14 Great Lakes Commission study is timed very well such
- 15 that it could inform our study and our process of
- 16 looking at, okay, so you guys have already spent this
- 17 time looking at where and how you might do it. We
- 18 might be able to use that in combination with the
- 19 information that we've gathered looking at all the
- 20 range of economic and environmental and social impact
- 21 data to help inform our study. We wouldn't have to
- 22 spend the extra time to look at where those points may
- 23 be.
- So we'll -- it has the potential to inform
- 25 our study, especially if it meets all the data quality,

- 1 acceptability-type parameters that any information
- 2 would need to meet.
- 3 MR. SAFFRAN: Regarding the other aquatic
- 4 pathways, the other 17 locations, we're going to go
- 5 back and fill in all the data gaps that we had from the
- 6 preliminary risk characterization. So we're going to
- 7 complete the risk characterization at each of those
- 8 locations, identify which locations really warrant
- 9 consideration of options and technologies to prevent
- 10 transfer.
- 11 There's a number -- well, let me -- a number
- 12 of the locations are areas where it probably is not
- 13 going to require a whole lot of money or a whole lot of
- 14 engineering expertise to effect -- well, a solution
- 15 that prevents migration across that pathway. So we're
- 16 going to work with the states and the locals and help
- 17 them identify what things they can potentially do there
- 18 within their own state management plans that will
- 19 prevent the migration of species across those
- 20 locations.
- 21 So what you can expect that the Corps will
- 22 produce is a draft report before the end of this
- 23 calendar year. It may take us a little while to
- 24 finalize it, because quite frankly what we'll be doing
- 25 is working with the states on actions that can be done

- 1 that would make the risk go away. And so we should
- 2 have a draft report again before the end of this
- 3 calendar year.
- 4 And ultimately if we have any other locations
- 5 like Eagle Marsh where it's clear that there's a very
- 6 significant issue that warrants federal involvement in
- 7 how to mitigate the risk there, then we will go through
- 8 the same process that we had gone at Eagle Marsh, which
- 9 is, one, look at what can we do interim temporary, and
- 10 then, secondly, the Corps will complete the feasibility
- 11 study options and technologies at those locations to,
- 12 again, effect a long-term solution.
- MR. BLUHM: Great. Thank you, Mike.
- 14 All right. I'll look back to the audience.
- 15 Anybody that would have an additional comment, question
- 16 to address the panel, now would be the time to move to
- 17 the microphone.
- 18 Okay. I think I finally got you all.
- 19 All right. Looking at the clock, it's 7:53.
- 20 I would like to mention that if you have any prepared
- 21 statements for us, that you leave them either with
- 22 myself at the front or as you exit at the back table.
- 23 And thank you all for your statements.
- 24 If you have anything you would like to write
- 25 in, send in or have additional comments to us,

remember, March 31st is the golden date. That is the 1 date things need to be postmarked or E-mailed to us to be considered as part of this NEPA scoping process. 3 And, remember, the Website is a very good repository for any additional information. 5 6 Help us recycle any materials Last thing. 7 that you do not need. If there are materials we provided that you don't need any longer, just leave 8 them at the table here as you sit or at the 10 registration table in the hallway, and we'll be glad to 11 recycle those. 12 And if you find that you would like an 13 additional packet, packets are available. This is our 14 last meeting. You can take as many as you would like. 15 It will just be less for us to recycle. 16 And with that said, 7:54 on a Tuesday evening 17 here we will adjourn the meeting. 18 Thank you all for your time and patience. And 19 we look forward to working with you in the future. 20 (Meeting concluded at 7:54 p.m.) 21 22

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1	CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC		
2	I, Catherine M. Collier, the officer before whom		
3	the foregoing hearing was taken, do hereby certify that		
4	the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing		
5	pages was recorded by me and thereafter reduced to		
6	typewriting under my direction; that said hearing is a		
7	true record of the proceedings; that I am neither		
8	counsel for, related to, nor employed by and of the		
9	parties to the action in which this hearing was taken;		
10	and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of		
11	an counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto,		
12	nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome		
13	of this action.		
14			
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18			
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21			
22	Catherine M. Collier		
23	Notary Public in and for the		
24	State Michigan		
25	My commission expires: October 29, 2011		

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<b>\$16</b> 68:5	<b>2002</b> 74:23 87:18	5 5 6:18 31:2 32:10	9
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