

## 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.

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
HEARING

In the matter of:  
Public Scope Meetings for the  
Great Lakes and Mississippi  
River Basin Interbasin  
GLMRIS PUBLIC HEARING

The Hagerty Conference Center  
NMC Great Lakes Campus, 715 E. Front Street  
Traverse City, Michigan 49686  
Thursday, January 27, 2011 - 5:45 p.m.

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

2 MR. KEVIN BLUHM, Moderator

3 TRAVERSE CITY PANEL:

MR. MIKE SAFFRAN

4 Other Pathways Project Manager

MR. DAVE WETHINGTON

5 GLMRIS Project Manager

6 COLONEL VINCENT QUARLES

Commander Chicago District

7 US Navy Corps of Engineers

8 MR. JOHN GOSS

Asian Carp Director

9 White Council on Environmental Quality

10 RECORDED BY: Ann M. Holmes, CER 2629  
Certified Electronic Recorder

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

2 Traverse City, Michigan Thursday, January 27, 2011 - 2:11

3 MR. BLUHM: Welcome everybody. My name is  
4 Kevin Bluhm. I'll be the moderator for today's meeting  
5 and for this evening. I come from the St. Paul Corps  
6 of Engineers District Office, and I've been with the  
7 team moderating these sessions. And I look forward to  
8 a very interesting session today. You guys get the  
9 first plaque. I didn't make it out yet, but I'm going  
10 to draw a little star on a piece of paper.

11 This is our biggest crowd so far. So I want  
12 to thank you all for taking time out of your busy days,  
13 your schedule, to come and share with us, see what we  
14 have to tell you and then, more importantly, tell us  
15 what you think of the issues at hand and what we're  
16 talking about.

17 Getting going, we've got a packet of  
18 materials and we do have a slight problem. Some of our  
19 materials are running short. So if you didn't get the  
20 complete packet, check with the registration table on  
21 your way out if there's more materials you'd like. But  
22 we've got a full -- full set of materials that we use  
23 during the meeting here that we find very helpful, and  
24 I'm going to go through these to start with.

25 The green half sheet is the agenda. This is

1 kind of our rules for today of what we're going to  
2 follow to get us through our sessions. We've got a  
3 small quarter page, and then a little bit larger blue  
4 booklet that gives a good study background. This  
5 information can be quite helpful in getting up to speed  
6 on the topics at hand. The white half sheet of paper  
7 is the piece that I want to talk about right now.

8           Because we're in a scoping comment period,  
9 this piece here (indicating) is what we're going to use  
10 as our road map to get any comments/ suggestions that  
11 you have for us. You can use this device, if you'd  
12 like, to write down any of your thoughts or comments.  
13 There's room in the center and on the backside for  
14 anything you'd like to say.

15           Also, we've got an electronic way of doing  
16 this as well. We've got comment stations in the back,  
17 and if you log into our website information, you can  
18 also put the same type of information through  
19 electronically if that fits your needs. And then,  
20 also, we have microphones here for our second portion.  
21 If you'd rather talk to us about your concerns, you can  
22 make an oral statement as well. If you want to make an  
23 oral statement, the yellow sheet is encouraged to be  
24 filled out in advance. If you want to do that, you can  
25 excuse yourself at any time, if you have not done so

1 yet, and that piece is found at the registration table.

2 This will help us for getting the information and

3 specifics about you correct.

4 Also in our packet we've got a purple FAQ,

5 frequently asked questions sheet. This is designed to

6 give you a little bit more details on some of the

7 questions that we hear most often. The salmon-colored

8 sheet of paper has information about other efforts that

9 are going on, and you'll hear more of that in the

10 presentation following. And then the blue sheet of

11 paper gives you methods for presenting any materials

12 that you'd like to submit as part of the record. If

13 you've got prepared statements that you would like to

14 issue to us, this piece is encouraged to be filled out

15 to accompany anything you have with you so we have the

16 right context. And then, lastly, the white booklet

17 here does have a copy of all those forms that we'll be

18 going through in our presentation momentarily. And

19 that can be used to help go through. All these

20 materials again are available on the website as well.

21 Okay. Let's see here. Now, anybody that

22 preregistered on our project website to give an oral

23 comment and have not checked in yet, we would ask that

24 you go to the register-to-speak table in the lobby,

25 that's just outside the doorway. If you've checked in,



1 then you're all set, you're already in the queue to  
2 make your comments. If you do want to make an oral  
3 comment and have not preregistered, you can also go to  
4 that table and register as well at this time.

5 Our GLMRIS team has organized this public  
6 meeting to accomplish two goals for you. First is to  
7 present information about the study itself, and then  
8 the second and the most important reason why we're here  
9 today is to solicit your comments on the significant  
10 issues that should be included in the GLMRIS effort and  
11 as well as any insignificant issues that can be  
12 eliminated from further study. The Corps is hosting  
13 twelve such meetings throughout the study area in an  
14 effort to provide opportunities for those interested in  
15 the study to learn more about the study itself and to  
16 provide oral comments to us.

17 Please note that this is a NEPA public  
18 scoping type meeting, and the period for this closes on  
19 March the 31st, 2011. As indicated on the agenda, this  
20 public meeting is organized in two sessions. An  
21 identical presentation will begin -- be given at the  
22 beginning of each session, followed by the oral comment  
23 period. The first public comment period will end at  
24 approximately 5:00 p.m., and the second session will  
25 begin at 5:30. There will be a 30-minute break between

1 the two sessions. Study staff will be available during  
2 the break for any questions, and then the second public  
3 comment period, as well as this -- as well as this  
4 meeting, will end at 7:00 p.m.

5           If you have any questions or concerns, staff  
6 can be found in the lobby or at the front of the room  
7 here during the meeting. And study team members will  
8 be available during that break and as much time needed  
9 after the meeting to answer any questions that you  
10 have. Please note that you're welcome to speak to any  
11 of the Corps staff or the panelists during the breaks  
12 or after the meeting, but any comments that are not  
13 presented during the oral comment period as part of the  
14 microphones in the front or submitted in written will  
15 not be part of a NEPA documentation. So it's important  
16 that if what you have to say you want to have recorded  
17 as part of the record that you use the forms that we've  
18 put together, either through the electronic media,  
19 writing them down or talking through the microphone.

20           At this time I'm going to introduce our  
21 panelists that we have. We've got three of the four  
22 seats filled here. We are waiting on the colonel to  
23 show, and I'll -- hopefully he'll show up here very  
24 shortly. His plan was supposed to land, and hopefully  
25 -- hopefully, it will work out. We'll cross our

1 fingers on that.

2 Immediately sitting to my right is Mr. John  
3 Goss, who is the Asian carp director in the White House  
4 Council on Environmental Quality.

5 He'll be the first speaker. The vacant seat  
6 here is for Colonel Vincent Quarles. He's the  
7 commander of the Chicago District US Army Corps of  
8 Engineers. The third person in line here, Mr.

9 Dave Wethington; he is the GLMRIS project  
10 manager. You'll hear from him momentarily. And then  
11 last on the table, Mr. Mike Saffran; he's the Other  
12 Pathways Project manager. And he'll also be talking  
13 about some of the other efforts that are going on.

14 I'd like to acknowledge that we are sitting  
15 in the Detroit District Area, and our hosting district  
16 Lieutenant Colonel Mike DesRosier is here. And I want  
17 to thank Mike and his staff for helping us out putting  
18 this meeting together and accommodating this crowd.

19 MR. DeROSIER: Thank you all for attending  
20 today.

21 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you, sir. Okay.

22 With that I'm going to turn the presentation  
23 over to Mr. Goss, and Mr. Goss will begin the  
24 presentation specifically looking at the Asian carp  
25 control update.

1 MR. GOSS: Good afternoon. Thanks everyone  
2 for making a special effort on a winter day to come and  
3 get some more information about the effort to stop  
4 Asian carp from becoming established in the Great  
5 Lakes. It is great to be here on the lake. I come  
6 from Indiana. We have a little piece of Lake Michigan  
7 down there. You guys have a lot of lakes up here. But  
8 certainly we are all extremely focused.

9 This is a very serious challenge, and there's  
10 an urgent need to develop a permanent solution to  
11 stopping the transfer of aquatic invasive species from  
12 the lakes to the rivers, which has historically been a  
13 significant problem, and also from the rivers to the  
14 lakes and specifically Asian carp right now.

15 I am based in Indianapolis, but I work for an  
16 office in Washington. It's called the Council on  
17 Environmental Quality. And that is the environmental  
18 policy office in the White House advising the president  
19 on important environmental and conservation matters. So  
20 that means that I have good access in Washington to the  
21 decision makers and the budget makers and the people  
22 that are in charge of the resources to continue this  
23 battle with invasive species.

24 Most recently my job was with the Indiana  
25 Wildlife Federation, and in that capacity I worked with

1 many folks up here, at the tip of the mitt and other  
2 groups up here on the Great Lakes compact, on funding  
3 for the Great Lakes restoration projects. And prior to  
4 that, I was the DNR director in Indiana and definitely  
5 have been in many of the battles with you folks as we  
6 have put together a coordinated effort around the Great  
7 Lakes with all the states pulling together to get  
8 federal and state decision makers to do the right thing  
9 on the Great Lakes.

10 So I just wanted to let you know that I am  
11 seriously and personally committed as well as  
12 professionally.

13 And I'm also a fisherman, and I'm seeing  
14 Asian carp in our rivers in Indiana already creating  
15 some serious problems. We have them in the Wabash.  
16 They're moving up the White River to the areas where I  
17 fish for small mouth.

18 And this is going to be a significant  
19 challenge for a long time for all of our states to work  
20 on, "How do we reduce the Asian carp population before  
21 they crowd out our native species in the river?" So  
22 specifically we're making sure that we're staying ahead  
23 of an invasion in terms of the carp. This is a unique  
24 situation. Most of you have been watching as different  
25 waves of other invasive species have passed through the

1 Great Lakes and created havoc. We are certainly on the  
2 front end of this one. We have an opportunity to stop  
3 it, and I'm going to talk to you about the various ways  
4 that we're trying to do that.

5           You've probably seen the videos of the  
6 jumping silver carp. That's what really got the  
7 attention of people, not just on the lakes but all over  
8 the country, that this is a pretty -- pretty amazing,  
9 kind of a crazy fish that we're dealing with. And,  
10 also, I want to -- I want to say it really helped, I  
11 think, with this level of knowledge and the interest in  
12 Congress, and certainly your members from Michigan have  
13 been part of this to raise it to the level of awareness  
14 of the White House. And they asked me to join this  
15 team last fall to coordinate all the resources with the  
16 federal agencies. Since November, we've added the  
17 state DNR people in the state to the team that's  
18 working on this.

19           And I believe that we're putting the best and  
20 the brightest in the Great Lakes into this fight and  
21 that we're going to be successful.

22           The Obama Administration about a year ago  
23 committed over 70 million dollars to stopping Asian  
24 carp.

25           That's a strategy called the "Asian carp

1 strategic framework." These are very voracious eating  
2 fish, prolific breeding fish. They multiply very  
3 rapidly. From watching their progress up the  
4 Mississippi to the Ohio tributaries and all the  
5 Mississippi tributaries, we know that they've left a  
6 trail of destruction. They are crowding out native  
7 fish.

8 Commercial fisherman on the Mississippi say  
9 this is basically the only fish you can catch in many  
10 areas of the Mississippi River already. We also are  
11 seriously concerned about the ecological challenges,  
12 the multi-billion dollar impact to commercial and  
13 recreational fishing and the impact on communities like  
14 Traverse City.

15 The administration, as I mentioned, committed  
16 over a year ago to start this as a coordinated budget  
17 project.

18 We have a proposal pending with our funding  
19 in the budget for next year that would add another 25  
20 million to the effort to keep this progress going and  
21 to fund the study that we're going to be talking to you  
22 about today to find the long- term permanent solution.  
23 The federal agencies involved include the EPA, the U.S.  
24 Geological Survey, the Fish & Wildlife Service. Of  
25 course, the Corps of Engineers are handling a very

1 important part of the project with the Chicago  
2 Ship Canal and also with other -- other pathways that  
3 we're examining. And, also, there are some key local  
4 agencies in the State of Illinois that are on this team.

5           The organization is we have -- we have what's  
6 called a Regional Coordinating Committee, and now that  
7 does include, as you can see in the center, a diagram  
8 that includes representatives of each state that are  
9 participating. And that's a very important addition  
10 just in the last couple of months. And then we have  
11 some work groups that are putting together  
12 recommendations. One of those is going to be meeting  
13 in February. That's called the Technical and Policy  
14 Work Group. And that's going to be another opportunity,  
15 in addition to these meetings, for people from around  
16 the Great Lakes on a periodic basis to have input and  
17 to make recommendations on how we proceed with the  
18 resources that are committed to the carp fight.

19           Let me just give you a little bit of  
20 information about the key area of most of the  
21 discussion, which is on the south side of Chicago. And  
22 I just want to point out a few key things there.

23           You'll see on the right hand is Lake Michigan  
24 and in the center -- that red dot in the center is  
25 really Navy Pier and downtown Chicago. There are



1 multiple ways that water from Lake Michigan is being  
2 pumped and moved into the Chicago River. Over a  
3 hundred years ago that river was redesigned to flow not  
4 into Lake Michigan but the other way so that Chicago  
5 could get their wastewater and stormwater out of the  
6 downtown area. So that is what's called the Ship  
7 Canal, which runs then down towards the center of that  
8 map and it runs parallel to the Des Plaines River and  
9 very close in proximity to it.

10           The star in the middle is where the electric  
11 barriers are located. And you hear a lot of discussion  
12 about the barriers. And I have a few things to say  
13 about them. That is a key -- key point, where we have  
14 focused the effort to stop the carp. Below that star  
15 is where we have a concentration of Asian carp. They  
16 have made their way up the Illinois River, and they are  
17 pretty thick in that area just below the electrical  
18 barriers.

19           So I want to just talk about a couple of  
20 things that have been accomplished. There's now a  
21 third electrical barrier functioning at that point,  
22 just turned on in the last few weeks. And that is  
23 giving us additional assurance that we have a redundant  
24 and more significant barrier there.

25           Also, there's a new fish barrier fence in

1 that area. If you start at the star and look up towards  
2 the red dot, that's the Des Plaines River running  
3 parallel to the Ship Canal.

4           There's a new 13-mile fence that is going to  
5 give us protection during flood stage so that carp who  
6 are going up the river wouldn't get -- might possibly  
7 get past the barrier and over into the Ship Canal and  
8 out to the lake.

9           So then, again, that's a -- a new safeguard  
10 that's been completed by the Corps. It was identified  
11 just early last year as something that had to be dealt  
12 with. They awarded that contract. That project came  
13 in under budget and ahead of schedule. So I want to  
14 compliment the Corps for taking aggressive action.  
15 They are capable of moving quickly sometimes.

16           Also, in my home state, in Indiana, you  
17 probably heard that again last summer it was identified  
18 that there's a new risk from the waters -- the  
19 headwaters of the Wabash River, where they share a  
20 floodplain with the Maumee that flows straight down  
21 into Lake Erie. And this historically has been an area  
22 that's had water on it and a wetland area.

23           And once they really looked at how many --  
24 how often it floods and how close the carp are, just a  
25 little over 20 miles away, in a pretty concentrated

1 number that are established there, this became an  
2 immediate concern. Once again, the State of Indiana  
3 moved very quickly, and they installed a fence to stop  
4 any adult carp from swimming across that wetland area.  
5 So Mike Saffran will talk about the long-term follow-up  
6 through on that. We have another temporary guard to  
7 keep carp from moving into Lake Erie, which has been  
8 very important to all of our friends on the Lake Erie  
9 side.

10           That study, which came out of Fort Wayne was  
11 -- the most significant risk area, also looked at over  
12 30 other possible connections across the Continental  
13 Divide. You'll hear more about that in a few minutes.  
14 But that's a significant, quick turnaround project  
15 again by the Corps of Engineers. It was accomplished  
16 in just a few months, and it has given us the  
17 information to identify some other places that needed  
18 immediate attention.

19           Also, in the area of the ship canal, there's  
20 been ongoing effort to remove fish. We've got  
21 commercial fisherman in there taking nets around to  
22 make sure that we do not have any carp. We have  
23 biologists on electroshock boats that are shocking and  
24 identifying fish. This past fall, October to December,  
25 over 10,000 fish were shocked and identified by those

1 biologists, and there were no live carp.

2               So we do not find evidence of a significant  
3 population above the barrier, between the barrier and  
4 Lake Michigan, with some of the best biologists who  
5 could be out there looking for them and not finding any  
6 right now.

7               We are continuing to do eDNA sampling, and  
8 there are ongoing tests of water samples. Those will  
9 continue again as soon as the weather breaks.

10              We'll be back out there in March. And that  
11 will be a very -- very diligent effort to continue to  
12 watch the water samples to see that we do not have an  
13 increase -- increasing number of carp traces in those  
14 water samples. If we do, we have to make a response  
15 mechanism. In the past a Rotenone action creating a  
16 fish kill has been used twice, and that would - - would  
17 still probably be the likely scenario if we found the  
18 concentration of carp above the variable.

19              There are several research and development  
20 projects that are hopeful for the future to help us  
21 identify techniques that could be used for carp  
22 management. And that would include looking at the  
23 reproductive systems on carp and seeing if we can  
24 develop any interference, possibly something that would  
25 interfere with the digestive system, testing hydro guns

1 and sonic underwater wave action as a possible way to  
2 deter carp, herd carp into an area where they could be  
3 netted or exterminated and each of those science and  
4 biology professionals are working on to try to perfect  
5 as soon as possible so that we can hopefully use those  
6 in the long- term management strategy.

7           Also, there is a stepped-up concern about  
8 bait and the fact that carp minnows are virtually  
9 identical to shiners, and we're very concerned that  
10 humans could transport through a bait bucket,  
11 unsuspectingly or possibly even if they knew and didn't  
12 care, bringing carp minnows into any of our waters. So  
13 that is another area that we've started in Illinois. We  
14 have a very significant effort there with Illinois  
15 DNR.

16           They've looked at all their bait shops in  
17 that part of the state south of Chicago. We have no  
18 carp minnows there. We have no eDNA in the bait shops.

19           But as was brought to our attention in  
20 Wisconsin, it's something that we all need to work on,  
21 and, certainly, here in Michigan that will be another  
22 factor that we want to make sure that we're not -- not  
23 going to have a problem with imported bait.

24           The other thing I want to mention is  
25 commercial fishing. Below the barrier, I mentioned we

1 have a significant population of fish. Several hundred  
2 thousand pounds of Asian carp were removed by  
3 commercial fisherman this last fall.

4           The goal for 2011 is to get a million pounds  
5 of Asian carp out of the Illinois River to take some of  
6 the mathematical pressure off of that barrier area. And  
7 there are efforts by the State of Illinois to develop  
8 some markets for those fish. They're working with fish  
9 processors and export people to try to get some of them  
10 exported, and other folks are looking at getting them  
11 to restaurants and supermarkets.

12           So there could be a developing market.

13           It's a white fish like our good lake fish. It  
14 is -- it is not like the common carp. It is a high  
15 protein fish that does have a potential as a -- as food  
16 and also, of course, other uses; fertilizer, fish oil,  
17 things like that.

18           So using -- using the commercial industry to  
19 reduce the numbers is a part of the strategy;  
20 certainly, we need that in our rivers, as I mentioned  
21 earlier. And I think that's going to be part of the  
22 long-term effort to remove as many of the Asian carp as  
23 possible.

24           This is a view of the barriers, and I just  
25 wanted you to see that, you know, they are in a -- this

1 is -- this is -- basically gives you an idea of the  
2 size, 130 feet wide, of the electric barrier for each  
3 one, 2A and 2B.

4           There's two volts per inch on a vibrating  
5 electric pattern in the ship canal. And that is the  
6 wall that is holding the carp in the Illinois River. I  
7 just wanted you to understand how they work. And if  
8 you have questions later, Colonel Quarles is an expert.  
9 When he gets here, he'll be able to talk to you more  
10 about that.

11           The Coast Guard's been very helpful working  
12 with the shipping industry. We do have significant  
13 barge traffic. There's a fair amount of shipping from  
14 New Orleans all the way up into the Chicago area that  
15 passes through the ship canal. So that's another part  
16 of the complication of the study. I just wanted to  
17 mention it. It is working with all of those industry  
18 people that have products and raw materials that they  
19 are currently shipping by barge through this area.

20           And those pass through the electrical  
21 barriers basically every day on barge -- barge traffic.

22           That really gets me to just -- ready for a  
23 conclusion and get on with the rest of the discussion  
24 here.

25           I think that you can see that the study we're

1 talking about today is really the heart of the effort  
2 to find the long- term solution. I just wanted to  
3 share with you that there are many other efforts to try  
4 to stop the Asian carp.

5 I think we have a coordinated, unprecedented  
6 and pretty well funded effort to do that in the Great  
7 Lakes. And we have strong barriers up in the ship  
8 canals that are working.

9 We're proactively monitoring and sampling the  
10 area between the barriers in Lake Michigan, to be very  
11 vigilant and make sure that we do not have a population  
12 of carp there that could move on out into the lake. And  
13 we're going to be doing eDNA sampling around the rest  
14 of the Great Lakes to make sure that carp that might  
15 have moved out in previous years are not congregating  
16 in any of our waters. So there is sampling occurring  
17 in Michigan, around Lake Erie, in Indiana in many  
18 locations to make sure that in our spawning areas and  
19 in our key tributaries that we do not have a population  
20 of carp that could become established and be a problem  
21 that got beyond those barriers.

22 We are committed to protecting the ecosystem.

23 We are working together as a team, and we  
24 certainly need the State of Michigan on that team. We  
25 appreciate their help so far. I did want to mention



1 that we now have a deputy Asian carp director, who's  
2 with us here today. Jim Bredin has worked for the  
3 State of Illinois for over 25 years with Great Lakes  
4 issues. For the last few weeks he's been a full-time  
5 partner with me, working for the office in the White  
6 House. And so Michigan has a player very much in the  
7 middle of this fight, and he's a good one. I'm very  
8 proud to have Jim on this team.

9           So with that I will turn it over to the Corps  
10 of Engineers team. Dave Wethington is the project  
11 manager and certainly the guy that will be guiding us  
12 on this path as we go forward to find a permanent  
13 solution of stopping the transfer of invasive species.  
14 Thank you very much.

15           MR. WETHINGTON: Good afternoon, everyone. My  
16 name is Dave Wethington. I'm a project manager with  
17 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I'd like to thank  
18 all of you for coming out here this afternoon. It's  
19 kind of impressive to me while I've been on this tour.  
20 We started in Chicago.

21           We had a few people show up. We came to  
22 Buffalo. We had just about as many people in Buffalo  
23 show up as we did in Chicago, which actually said a lot  
24 to me, you know, that the message is finally starting  
25 to get out. To see everyone's faces here today is

1 really -- it's rewarding to me as a project manager to  
2 see the interest in this project and the fact that  
3 everyone is coming out to raise their voice and have an  
4 opinion on how the Corps of Engineers will implement  
5 this study.

6 I'd like to thank Mr. Goss also for giving an  
7 overview on what's -- what's happening with the Asian  
8 carp.

9 Really, the Interbasin Study or GLMRIS, as  
10 you call it, is much bigger than just the issue of  
11 carp. We are looking at all potential aquatic nuisance  
12 species and how to prevent the transfer of these  
13 aquatic nuisance species between the Great Lakes and  
14 Mississippi River Basins.

15 Now, before I go into the details of my  
16 presentation, I'm going to maybe give a very brief  
17 Civics 101 lesson to the crowd, and I appreciate you  
18 indulging me if you already know -- know the answers  
19 here. But for the Corps of Engineers to do any kind of  
20 work, we need two things -- the two A's. We need  
21 authority, and we need appropriations or basically  
22 funding.

23 And so in 2007 we were given the authority to  
24 do this project. It was awarded in 2007. It was  
25 awarded as the Water Resources Development Act.

1           And that was passed, I believe it was, in  
2 November of 2007. And it told us to look at what  
3 options and technologies are available to prevent the  
4 spread of aquatic nuisance species between the Great  
5 Lakes and Mississippi River Basins. We didn't receive  
6 funding to begin the study until June of 2009. So June  
7 of 2009 is when I got involved and we started building  
8 our team -- team of folks who are now working toward  
9 solving this very difficult problem.

10           A couple of things I want to talk to you  
11 about at the very beginning -- a couple of issues have  
12 come up as we have gone to these meetings.

13           These are kind of like lessons learned that I  
14 want to share right up front. Number one, we will be  
15 looking at hydrologic separation as part of this study.  
16 That's been something that the public and all of our  
17 stakeholders have been very interested in. There's  
18 even other studies going on looking at specifically  
19 hydrologic separation. And that is an alternative that  
20 the Corps of Engineers will include as part of the  
21 study.

22           We've also heard a lot of discussion about  
23 our use of the words "reduce the risk." And yet the  
24 idea behind reducing the risk is not to minimize or go  
25 against what the intent of Congress was.

1           We are still looking at all potential options  
2 and technologies to prevent the spread of aquatic  
3 nuisance species between the Great Lakes and  
4 Mississippi River basins. The idea of using the risk  
5 reduction was perhaps there was a technology or an  
6 option that by itself could not completely prevent,  
7 however, when used in combination with other potential  
8 technologies or options in combination could prevent or  
9 eventually prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance  
10 species between the basins.

11           We also must recognize that as human beings  
12 Mother Nature may always win.

13           We have very -- you know, very important  
14 lessons learned from tragedies such as Hurricane  
15 Katrina, where we've taken the words "flood control" to  
16 "flood risk management." So recognizing -- recognizing  
17 these issues, we -- we use the words "reduce the risk,"  
18 but we don't want to diminish the intent of what this  
19 project will do, what the study will look at or  
20 diminish the intent of what was authorized by Congress.

21           Finally, this study is 100 percent federally  
22 funded, which means we do not have a non-federal  
23 sponsor, so the implementation of this study is  
24 basically on the -- on the tab of the federal  
25 government. I want to spend a little bit of time

1 talking to you about the project area. You're familiar  
2 with, I'm sure, the Great Lakes Basin.

3 Michigan is centered right in the middle  
4 (indicating), and it's kind of that brown color.

5 And basically all water that falls within  
6 that basin drains into the Great Lakes. Directly below  
7 it, in kind of that green/gray color, is the upper  
8 Mississippi River Basin, which includes the Ohio River.  
9 All water there drains toward the Mississippi River.  
10 There is a dotted line in between the two basins. That  
11 is the focus of our study area. That is the basin  
12 boundary between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi  
13 River Basins. It's nearly 1500 miles in length. And  
14 because of its length, it has a very complex nature of  
15 -- the terrain is very flat. And so there are many  
16 difficulties posed in addressing potential hydrologic  
17 connections between the two basins.

18 You'll also notice we've shaded another area  
19 in kind of a gray color -- light gray color. And  
20 that's the lower Mississippi River Basin. The reason  
21 we've done that is we recognize that there are aquatic  
22 nuisance species that will transfer or can transfer or  
23 have transferred between these two basins and  
24 potentially cause adverse impacts to waterway users  
25 throughout those portions of the United States. For

1 example, the zebra mussel came from the Great Lakes  
2 transfer through the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal,  
3 and now it's beginning to impact rivers and streams and  
4 waterways throughout the country.

5           The scope of the Interbasin Study, as you  
6 could see from the previous map, is very large. What  
7 we are including in this study specifically is aquatic  
8 connections, and we're looking at all manners of  
9 creatures that move, survive, live through these  
10 aquatic connections. Those included swimmers like  
11 fish, just like Asian carp, floaters.

12           So we're looking at any kind of plant species  
13 that may populate the interbasin and become invasive in  
14 one or the other and hitchhikers -- you know,  
15 hitchhikers like quagga mussels or zebra mussels. We  
16 are looking at that boundary line, that dotted line we  
17 saw on the previous map between the Great Lakes and  
18 Mississippi River Basin, which overall the general  
19 study area includes portions of 31 U.S. states.

20           The scope that the study does not cover  
21 unfortunately - - one thing that Mr. Goss mentioned --  
22 is the transfer of bait. That's human transport. And  
23 so it's really outside the scope of our study to  
24 address a problem like that. And so we're looking at  
25 other methods outside the scope of the Interbasin

1 Study, outside of GLMRIS, to address those concerns.

2 We also, unfortunately, are not able to  
3 address invaders coming in through the St. Lawrence  
4 Seaway or Atlantic Slope, because our authority -- the  
5 intent of Congress specifically tells us to look at the  
6 interbasin between the Great Lakes and Mississippi  
7 River Basins.

8 We will be looking at all options and  
9 technologies available to prevent the transfer of  
10 aquatic nuisance species between basins, and we will  
11 look at hydrologic separation. We'll do all types of  
12 regional economic modeling, risk based decision making,  
13 and we will end up with an environmental impact  
14 statement and feasibility document.

15 Because this project is so large in scope,  
16 we've really tried to find the most efficient way to  
17 conduct the study. What we've done is we've broken it  
18 down into two focus areas. Focus area one is -- really  
19 looks at that continuous connection, that one pathway  
20 that always has water in it that has the most commerce  
21 and is really the greatest concern with a lot of state  
22 stakeholders because of Asian carp in the Chicago area  
23 waterways.

24 The second are any other waterways that may  
25 exist between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River

1 Basins along that 1500 -- nearly 1500 mile border that  
2 I showed a couple slides ago.

3 Basically, those kind of pathways were  
4 developed through draining ditches or -- and Mr. Goss  
5 mentioned previously and Mike Saffran will speak to in  
6 a couple minutes -- during high rainfall events, when  
7 you have two waterways that are very close to each  
8 other on either side of the basin and then, when they  
9 flood, the waters actually mix and will allow a  
10 transfer of species between those basins.

11 The Corps of Engineers itself has organized  
12 for success by involving a wide variety of different  
13 districts and divisions. We're reaching out just --  
14 it's not a Chicago study. It's a divisionwide study  
15 incorporating two different divisions, the Mississippi  
16 Valley Division as well as the Ohio Great Lakes -- Ohio  
17 River and Great Lakes Division. We're also reaching  
18 out beyond the Corps of Engineers. As you can see, by  
19 Mr. Goss being here today and some of the -- his  
20 remarks earlier, we are reaching out to the federal  
21 family, to local state agencies, local governments.  
22 And we are reaching out to those organizations to build  
23 what we're calling an executive steering committee.

24 What we've looked for is representatives of  
25 agencies, such as the U.S. Geological Survey, the EPA,



1 the Fish and Wildlife Service, state Departments of  
2 Natural Resources, to basically form a group, an  
3 advisor group that meets maybe biannually, maybe  
4 quarterly to comment on how we are implementing the  
5 study. It will also help - - it will help shape --  
6 guide the focus of the study. It'll also give us an  
7 idea of where we can get resources. The Corps of  
8 Engineers may be good at building things, but there may  
9 be other organizations that have expertise in other  
10 places; Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.

11 Geological Survey, et cetera.

12 We're also here to get input from you, and we  
13 want to keep you engaged. When March 31st comes and  
14 goes, that will be the end of us. You will have the  
15 opportunity to provide input into this process during  
16 regular stakeholder meetings, during these regular  
17 executive steering committee meetings. Every once in  
18 awhile we will end up having a public component to  
19 these, where the members of the ESC will get together,  
20 provide a presentation such as this and allow you, the  
21 public, to comment on how the study is progressing.

22 Another very important thing that I like is,  
23 you know, the third and last quote, "Cycling out of  
24 interim products and reports." We've come under some  
25 criticism, and Mr. Goss recognizes that, you know,

1 sometimes we can act quickly. And we've come under some  
2 criticism that it's going to be 2015 until we get this  
3 final product out here.

4 But I want to stand here and tell you today  
5 it's not going to be 2015 before you see anything from  
6 us. A good example is what Mike will talk about in a  
7 few minutes. The preliminary other pathways that  
8 identify what those connections are between the two  
9 basins, that was new information. We didn't know that.  
10 And so we were able to use that information to  
11 implement a temporary mitigation technique. Again,  
12 Mike will talk a little bit more about that.

13 We're also going to use information we  
14 collect.

15 For example, such as, "What are the aquatic  
16 nuisance species out there?" "What is the potential  
17 controls technology that could be used to address those  
18 species and cycle out the interim product and interim  
19 reports so that everyone is aware of what the Corps of  
20 Engineers is doing toward addressing this very issue?"  
21 We want to adapt to evolving -- new and evolving  
22 information is appropriate, and we obviously must apply  
23 -- or must abide by all legal and regulatory guidance.

24 So GLMRIS is very -- can be simply broken  
25 down into three -- three objectives. Number one, find

1 out what are those pathways. We know the one. "What  
2 are the other ones where we can have transfer of  
3 species between the basins?" Number two, "What are the  
4 potential aquatic nuisance species?" You know, we've  
5 already had the issues with the round Goby, the zebra  
6 mussel, the quagga mussel and the current issues with  
7 the Asian carp. But looking five years down the road,  
8 ten years down the road, what exists out there right  
9 now that may be the next issue and what can we do right  
10 now, what can we do today to make sure that is not a  
11 problem in the future? So once we've identified what -  
12 - those pathways and once we've identified what is  
13 going to be traversing through those pathways, we can  
14 really get to the heart of our authority to look at how  
15 to prevent the transfer through the aquatic pathways.

16 I'll speak a couple minutes about the focus  
17 area one, and then I'll turn it over to Mike to talk  
18 for a few minutes about focus area two. So focus area  
19 one is the Chicago Land Area Waterway System. The map  
20 on your right basically lists - - it's a depiction of  
21 the Chicago area.

22 And you'll see the numbers 1 through 5 along  
23 the Chicago shoreline. 1 through 5 are the points  
24 where the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins have  
25 the opportunity to mix.

1           At points 1, 2 and 3 there are control  
2 structures. So whether they're locks and dams or water  
3 -- other types of water control structures that can  
4 basically -- could be used to block transfer of aquatic  
5 nuisance species, but it's important to note that 4 and  
6 5, which are located in Indiana are completely  
7 unrestricted, which means that there is no blockage to  
8 flow to the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal.

9           All these points drain into one single choke  
10 point, which is that Ship and Sanitary Canal.

11           And the number 7 you see on the board that's  
12 kind of a yellow hexagon is where the fish barrier --  
13 electric barrier that Mr. Goss spoke to is located. The  
14 reason it's located there is because all five of those  
15 pathways drain into one -- one stream, one canal that  
16 basically acts as a choke point for the spread of  
17 aquatic nuisance species through the basin.

18           On the left-hand side is the methodology that  
19 we will use to implement the study. It's kind of - -  
20 it's a road map. It's a guideline. Number one, specify  
21 problems and opportunities. Well, we've got a bunch of  
22 smart people working together, figuring out what are  
23 the problems, what are the issues here, and we're also  
24 here talking to you. We want to hear from you what are  
25 the issues, what are the problems, the opportunities.

1           Inventory forecast conditions -- well, we  
2 have to figure out what are the uses for the waterways.  
3 You've heard a lot about navigation being, you know,  
4 the primary issue in Chicago, and it's a key thing, but  
5 it's not the only issue. The Chicago Land Area  
6 Waterways are used for many, many uses, including  
7 recreation, water supply, water discharge. About 70 to  
8 80 percent of the total volume of flow of the Chicago  
9 River is made up of municipal wastewater discharge.

10           It's also used -- the Chicago area waterway  
11 system is also very critical for flood mismanagement in  
12 the Chicago area.

13           During significant rainfalls we open up the  
14 lock gates at point number 2 on the map there and allow  
15 water to backflow so it will flow away from both --  
16 flow into Lake Michigan as well and toward the  
17 Mississippi River to alleviate potential flooding of  
18 the downtown area.

19           Downtown flooding, if we would not be able to  
20 open up those gates, would basically allow significant  
21 over- bank flooding in the Chicago Land area as well as  
22 allow a number of sewers to back up and basically flood  
23 throughout Chicago.

24           There are approximately 7 million people that  
25 may be affected by substation backups.

1 I'm about to turn it over to Mr. Saffran and  
2 talk a bit about Focus Area 2. But before I get to  
3 that, we're joined by Colonel Quarles?

4 COLONEL QUARLES: Good day.

5 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you, sir, for coming.

6 Glad you could make it, and we'll let you say  
7 a few words in a few minutes.

8 COLONEL QUARLES: Okay.

9 MR. WETHINGTON: Right now I want to spend a  
10 moment to turn it over to Mike Saffran, who is the  
11 other --

12 Other Pathway Project manager, who will talk  
13 to you a little bit more about some of the work that  
14 he's done here.

15 MR. SAFFRAN: Thank you, Dave. It's a  
16 pleasure to be here this afternoon. And as it's been  
17 described, there's a lot known about the Chicago  
18 Sanitary and Ship Canal and the relative risk of ANS  
19 transfer through that aquatic pathway when the award of  
20 2007 was passed. There were three little words at the  
21 end of that authorization paragraph that they've showed  
22 that said "Other Aquatic Pathways." Very little was  
23 known at the time of the authorization about where  
24 other aquatic pathways existed or whether or not there  
25 was any real risk of aquatic nuisance species' transfer

1 across those pathways.

2               So we were tasked last summer, the first of  
3 July time frame, to within 60 days produce a report - -  
4 draft a report that identified all the potentially  
5 significant aquatic pathways that either exist or may  
6 form across the basin divide and to conduct a  
7 preliminary risk characterization of those pathways to  
8 assess what is the likelihood and potential  
9 consequences of species transfer via each pathway that  
10 was identified. The results of that study, which we  
11 did complete very quickly, is that we identified a  
12 total of 36 locations along that 1500-mile-long divide.  
13 A lot of these locations were -- there was a lot of  
14 uncertainty, I guess you can say, in collecting the  
15 available data and doing an analysis of that data  
16 relative to the -- to the very flat topography that  
17 generally exists along the basin to that. Again,  
18 that's been briefly discussed.

19               To address those certain certainties, we  
20 really -- we formed a team that included the best  
21 experts from the Corps of Engineers, the hydrology and  
22 hydraulic experts, as well as engaging the USGS, Fish  
23 and Wildlife Service, NOAA, all of the best federal  
24 experts and then the state DNR's in each state to help  
25 us do this very challenging task. The result of the

1 collaboration of all those folks was the determination  
2 that there were 18 of the locations that really posed a  
3 significant risk, and there was one of those 18 that  
4 really -- I won't say dwarfed but was much more  
5 significant than the other locations. And that was at  
6 the Eagle Marsh in Fort Wayne.

7           At the Eagle Marsh in Fort Wayne you've got  
8 two watersheds, the -- well, you have two rivers in  
9           Fort Wayne, the St. Mary's and the St.  
10 Joseph's, that come together and form the Maumee River,  
11 which drains into Lake Erie. When you have a heavy  
12 rainfall event in that basin, water flows across the  
13 basin divide through ditches -- urban ditches that  
14 basically are in Fort Wayne into the Eagle Marsh and  
15 then backflow into the -- into the Wabash River Basin.  
16 The water -- the connection forms from the largest  
17 storm that you'd expect to occur in any given year, so  
18 one year -- the largest event you'd expect to occur in  
19 one year initiates flow from the Maumee River  
20 Basin into the Wabash River Basin. Fortunately there we  
21 had a 2009 flood insurance study that gave us very  
22 good, clear information, but it indicated that, from a  
23 10-year event, a 10 percent return -- annual return  
24 frequency storm that the depth of water across the  
25 basin that -- that was 4-1/2 feet. That, in conjunction



1 with the fact, as John's already explained, a  
2 significant population of Asian carp in the Wabash  
3 River about 25 miles or so to the -- to the west really  
4 set off the alarm bells for us.

5           And so we convened a meeting near the end of  
6 July with -- on the site with all of the interested  
7 parties; agencies, local, federal, state; and  
8 brainstormed, "What can we do about this?" And we came  
9 up with, number one, we really need something right  
10 now. And a barrier similar to the one that was used to  
11 separate the Des Plaines River from the Chicago  
12 Sanitary Ship Canal was selected as something that  
13 could be done right away. And the Indiana DNR stepped  
14 up, took the lead and basically within less than 60  
15 days of that meeting had a fence in place that is a  
16 substantial barrier to carp migration across that  
17 pathway.

18           Right now the Corps of Engineers is  
19 completing a focused feasibility study for a long-term  
20 fix for that location. That report is scheduled to be  
21 completed this year, in 2011. And then, last but not  
22 least, we are going back to all of the other - - all 18  
23 locations this year and completing a risk  
24 characterization report to clearly define what level of  
25 risks are associated with each individual pathway. And,

1 again, that's being coordinated with all the state  
2 agencies and the other federal agencies.

3 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you, Mike. So I'll  
4 spend just a couple minutes. I won't read to you all  
5 these. But as I mentioned at the beginning of the  
6 presentation, we received funding to begin this work in  
7 June of 2009. And so on the left- hand side is kind of  
8 just an outline of things we've done. We've put  
9 together a project management plan, which is available  
10 on our website. The website will be shown at the very  
11 end for you. It's a very lengthy document.

12 We're very proud of it. But it really goes  
13 into a lot of detail about what the Interbasin Study  
14 will accomplish. Right now we are going through this  
15 public scoping -- the public scoping effort in order to  
16 get your input into the study.

17 Simultaneously, we have been accomplishing a  
18 lot of things, such as what Mike was describing at  
19 Eagle Marsh in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

20 There's also, as I described previously with  
21 regard to putting together that list of what is aquatic  
22 nuisance species, there's a white paper that a team of  
23 researchers has just finished putting together and is  
24 currently in review.

25 They've identified about 154 species among

1 both basins, but really a targeted list of about 38 or  
2 40, I believe, that have potential to be invasive from  
3 one basin to the other.

4           So I just wanted to kind of bring the slide  
5 in to show you that, while we're planning, while we're,  
6 you know, following up -- following our processes, we  
7 also are trying to implement them at the same time. We  
8 are implementing them at the same time. This is a  
9 slide that talks to -- speaks to the time line for the  
10 project. And you'll notice there's a little asterisk  
11 at the very top there, and it says "best case  
12 scenario." And there's a lot of questions, a lot of  
13 raised eyebrows that seem to say, "Is this really the  
14 best case scenario?"

15           And I want to bring you back again to what  
16 our intent is in terms of producing interim files.

17           You'll notice there's a couple time lines.

18           There's the other pathway focus that Mike and  
19 his team are looking at. We're really getting to those  
20 critical points where along the barrier -- I'm sorry --  
21 along the boundary where there's potential for  
22 interbasin transfer to occur, and we're also looking  
23 very specifically at the Chicago Land area. I  
24 mentioned earlier on the slide how we have to identify  
25 what those waterway uses are. Once those uses have been

1 identified, once the flood risk use has been identified  
2 and once the -- I don't know -- the water supply or  
3 water discharge or recreation or navigation use have  
4 been identified, we have to see what kind of impacts  
5 will be had to those uses if we were to implement some  
6 kind of aquatic nuisance species control. And that's  
7 really what we're doing here, is we're trying to  
8 implement some control, whether it's, you know,  
9 barriers or a hydrologic separation of basins; what  
10 kind of impact will be felt to the waterway users when  
11 we -- when we implement those aquatic nuisance species  
12 controls.

13 I mentioned -- I would also want to touch  
14 very briefly on this. There's that star where the  
15 first time that we'll have a draft plan for the public  
16 to review. That is anticipated at the very end of  
17 2014. I spoke just a little bit earlier that there are  
18 some of the interim products and updates that we hope  
19 to provide, looking at inventory of potential aquatic  
20 control technologies, those species that may be  
21 transferring between the basins, looking at navigation  
22 surveys and evaluating; really, what are the financial,  
23 economic, environmental uses of both basins.

24 How can you help? Well, being here today  
25 helps us. We are basically looking for your input.

1           We're looking for help from other federal  
2 agencies, from other governmental agencies, from non-  
3 governmental organizations toward the implementation of  
4 this project. I'm asked a lot if this will help speed  
5 up the time line. I'm not sure if it will help speed  
6 up the time line, necessarily, as we've already  
7 established a very aggressive time line. But it will  
8 bring to bear information that will help us make  
9 decisions quicker and implement -- and spin out those  
10 interim products as we've described today.

11           I mentioned we've been on tour. We're about  
12 halfway through here in Traverse City, hitting a bunch  
13 of the -- the other locations. And like I said, it's  
14 been a real -- it's been a real pleasure meeting  
15 everyone and hearing the response we've gotten for this  
16 study. Finally, although I'm sure you'll remember  
17 every single thing I said here this afternoon, if you  
18 have any other additional questions, by all means --  
19 the study team is always available. And we do have a  
20 website. That website is GLMRIS.anl.gov.

21           If you go to the Chicago District Corps of  
22 Engineers website, you'll see that little gray button  
23 that's on the -- it's not the business card. I've got  
24 -- if you'll notice the posters outside have the same  
25 little logo on them.

1                   We're trying to do a little bit of brand  
2 recognition.

3                   So when you see that GLMRIS logo, you know  
4 that this is what we're talking about. We're also  
5 trying to employ the most technologically advanced  
6 social media efforts as possible.

7                   You can follow me or you can follow the study  
8 on Twitter, get regular input on Facebook. And by all  
9 means, I'd encourage anyone to go to Facebook, you  
10 know, 'cause it's an open forum.

11                  You can post comments and see what other  
12 folks are thinking about the Interbasin Study. With  
13 that I'd like to thank you very much for your time and  
14 attention, for allowing me to say a few words this  
15 afternoon, and look forward to hearing your comments.

16                  COLONEL QUARLES: Thank you very much. Ladies  
17 and gentlemen, it's really a pleasure for me to be here  
18 today.

19                  And let me tell you, it was not easy getting  
20 here. I've been to Iraq three times, and now I find  
21 myself having gone through mine fields, an IED attack,  
22 and I'm limping now here, trying to battle fish. So  
23 I'm not sure what that means.

24                  But I think it's time for us to stop talking.

25                  We're here to hear your comments. And I

1 thought it important that I did make my way to hear  
2 your comments. To me, everything I've done in the  
3 military -- I've served more than 30 years now.

4 Every challenge we faced I've been part of a  
5 team. So it's really good to help Mr. Goss here, sir,  
6 --

7 MR. GOSS: Yeah.

8 COLONEL QUARLES: -- to work with our  
9 federal, state and local partners, because what we are  
10 undertaking is a challenge. But if we all work within  
11 our corps competencies, we all work together, to me  
12 teaming is how we best meet any challenge. And so  
13 we're here today to hear your comments. There's been a  
14 lot said about the Great Lakes and Mississippi River  
15 Basins Interbasin Study. So we have developed -- and I  
16 want to thank David and his team for coming up with our  
17 project management plan that lays out the study -- the  
18 study path we're going to take.

19 But just like when we went to Iraq, we want  
20 to make sure that that path is prudent. And we do so  
21 by hearing your comments. So, again, I'm Colonel Vince  
22 Quarles. I command the Chicago District. It's my team  
23 along with, of course, the regional team that will help  
24 get -- further this course. Ladies and gentlemen,  
25 thank you very much.

1           MR. BLUHM: Thank you, Colonel. Well, folks,  
2 if you look around the room, we've got a little over  
3 150 people sitting in the seats here, and I want to  
4 make sure we value your time as we go into this  
5 portion, the most important part for us, the comment  
6 period. Before we begin that, I want to note that the  
7 study website is an excellent source of information now  
8 and as we continue on. So if you think of anything,  
9 you run into anybody that would like more information,  
10 obviously, I would point them that way first to help  
11 get some good facts, good information about what we  
12 have now and what we're going to be working on.  
13 Interested persons can subscribe to a study e-mail as  
14 well that's on our project website. The Corps will use  
15 the GLMRIS e-mail list to distribute any updates on  
16 such things as documents that have been added to the  
17 website, any opportunities for public involvement and  
18 any other important news or events.

19           The GLMRIS project website address is found  
20 on our brochure and the written comment form as well as  
21 the little business card that Dave just showed you.  
22 Another way to stay current obviously are the social  
23 media aspects or the new styles; if you're highly  
24 technical into the new age stuff, you can definitely  
25 check that out as well. And that information is also



1 located on this slide as well as the business card that  
2 you got.

3           Okay. We're now moving into the oral comment  
4 period. Those of you who indicated on your registration  
5 form that you'd like to make a brief 3-minute formal  
6 statement or ask any questions will have an opportunity  
7 to do so. If a person wants to ask a question in  
8 addition to making a comment, we just ask that you  
9 manage your time to allow for that comment question and  
10 any type of response we can provide. Our Corps panel  
11 is here. They'll try their best to answer any questions  
12 that indeed are answerable.

13           And, again, in order for everybody to have  
14 the opportunity to speak and be heard, it will be asked  
15 that you abide to our 3-minute time limit.

16           After everyone has had an opportunity to  
17 address the panel and, if there's any time that  
18 permits, those of you who have additional comments or  
19 questions will be given that opportunity to reenter the  
20 comment queue and ask any additional questions.

21           If time does not allow us to go back and  
22 address the panel for a second time, please note that  
23 you can enter any remaining comments on a written  
24 comment form or in the back of the room on our  
25 computers that are set up for your convenience. All

1 forms of comments received during the scoping period  
2 are weighted equally.

3           So whether you stand in front of the group  
4 today with the microphone in front of you, fill out the  
5 white sheet of paper, mail in something or use the  
6 computer, all those forms are weighted the exact same  
7 way.

8           I'm going to show you a visual indicator here  
9 as well. As we go into this, I want to make sure we  
10 give a chance for everybody speaking to see where  
11 they're at. And we've found that this visual cue here  
12 works for any of the statements that we're getting from  
13 the presenters. I will start this once you begin your  
14 comment. This green box will go for two minutes, and  
15 at the end of two minutes it'll change to yellow and  
16 then update every 15 seconds giving you a visual  
17 indicator of how much time has elapsed since you  
18 started talking. At the end of your three minutes, the  
19 light box will turn to red, and I'll ask you at that  
20 time to make any concluding statements that you may  
21 have. We do feel that this procedure is the most fair  
22 and will give an equal opportunity for everyone to be  
23 heard.

24           Also, I'd like to mention that we have a  
25 stenographer with us. The stenographer is located just

1 to the side. She'll be recording all of our comments  
2 and questions in this period. When you come to the  
3 microphone to make your comment and/or ask questions,  
4 I'd ask that you state your name and, if you wouldn't  
5 mind spelling your last name, that would be most  
6 helpful, any organization or affiliation that you may  
7 represent and then lastly a zip code for some  
8 demographic information. We'd ask that you speak in  
9 the microphone, make sure it's positioned so everybody  
10 can hear you and speak slowly. Thank you.

11 Okay. And then to start, I'd like to ask the  
12 Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette to come to the  
13 microphone. Is Bill with us?

14 MR. SCHUETTE: You bet.

15 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Let's make sure that  
16 microphone is on, first.

17 MR. SCHUETTE: Thank you very much.

18 MR. BLUHM: There you go. Go ahead.

19 MR. SCHUETTE: Well, thank you very much.

20 Colonel, we really appreciate you being here  
21 and your service to our country here in the United  
22 States and in Iraq. Thank you, John Goss, for your  
23 presence and the Army Corps of Engineers being here. My  
24 name is Bill Schuette. I'm the attorney general of the  
25 State of Michigan.

1           Schuette is not easy. That's S-c-h-u-e-t-t-  
2 e.

3           And I am here as the attorney general of the  
4 State of Michigan to observe, to listen and to make a  
5 few comments about the threat that the Asian carp pose  
6 to the State of Michigan and the Great Lakes as a  
7 whole.

8           Now, this is a Great Lakes state. If you  
9 look out, you see the bay. And this is a special  
10 place, this Michigan, folks, that all of us here from  
11 the State of Michigan feel. It's a special place. And  
12 all of us here in the state have a special  
13 responsibility, and every generation has a big  
14 responsibility of being good stewards for the rivers  
15 and the lakes and the lands of the State of Michigan.  
16 We have a duty to do that.

17           Now, we've seen the Asian carp move up the  
18 Mississippi River, and you've seen those videos where  
19 towns that used to have walleye tournaments now have  
20 these tournaments where they try to take a baseball bat  
21 and whack the Asian carp.

22           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Been there, done that.

23           MR. SCHUETTE: And he's been there, done  
24 that.

25           You know, for some it might appear funny. I

1 don't think it is. I don't think it is at all, 'cause  
2 those towns don't have walleye tournaments anymore;  
3 they have Asian carp. And the fact that we've seen  
4 environmental DNA in areas past the barrier to the  
5 Chicago Canal I think is a huge problem for the State  
6 of Michigan and the Great Lakes as a whole. And that  
7 eDNA -- that environmental DNA past the barriers, to  
8 me, shows that the Asian carp pose a clear and present  
9 danger to the Great Lakes state. I think it poses a  
10 clear and present danger to the ecology of Michigan,  
11 the whole environmental issues of the watershed of our  
12 state. I think the Asian carp pose a clear and present  
13 danger to the economy of our state, the 7 million  
14 dollar boating, tourism, fishing industry, lots of  
15 jobs. So it's all about the ecology of Michigan. It's  
16 all about the economy of our state. The Asian carp  
17 pose, in my opinion, a clear and present danger, and  
18 the presence of environmental DNA shows to me that the  
19 Asian carp are, knock knock, knocking on Michigan's  
20 door.

21               Now, what to do? There's a lawsuit going on  
22 that I and the attorney general previous to me are  
23 trying to close the barriers of the existing shipping  
24 area and the Chicago area waterway system. And then,  
25 secondly, due to this eDNA, we need to, in my opinion,

1 build a permanent ecological barrier, a permanent  
2 ecological separation between the two waterway systems,  
3 the Mississippi River Basin and the Great Lakes.

4           And some reputable organizations, the NRDC  
5 and the Great Lakes Commission, have talked about a  
6 study of 18 months in length. And I think all of us  
7 here, at least I for one, would say we need to work  
8 together to shorten that period of time. 2015, in my  
9 opinion, is unacceptable to get a study completed,  
10 because if we're not careful, we'll have studies and  
11 surveys, it'll be 2015, the studies and surveys won't  
12 be done and we won't be able to implement the proper  
13 measures and we'll have an infiltration of the Asian  
14 carp in the Great Lakes.

15           There's an area here in Traverse City called  
16 the Open Space. Every year we have the Cherry  
17 Festival. And there's lots of open fest- -- or lots of  
18 open spaces. There are lots of festivals up and down  
19 the Great Lakes. So it doesn't matter whether it's  
20 Traverse City or someplace else.

21           What we don't want to have in the Open Space  
22 at the Cherry Festival is to see sailboats coming by  
23 kicking up the Asian carp. That would be a disaster  
24 for our state. So my whole point is we need to be  
25 proactive, not reactive. And we need to work together.

1 But our mindset, in my opinion, needs to be urgency.  
2 Our mindset needs to be we need to do it now, and we  
3 need to shorten the studies, because 2015 is  
4 unacceptable. And I think that's nuts, in my opinion.

5 I think we need to have an Apollo moment. If  
6 we can send a man to the moon, we ought to be able to  
7 stop a fish migrating through the rivers to the Great  
8 Lakes. So I would say that we have to work together.  
9 You'd think we ought to be able to work together to  
10 solve this problem. It would seem to me that -- I know  
11 we must to solve this problem because of the clear and  
12 present danger the Asian carp present. So that's my  
13 point of view as attorney general of a state of 10  
14 million people. I appreciate your hearing me out. I  
15 know there will be lots of folks with just as much  
16 passion, maybe just as much impatience, as I have. And  
17 I appreciate you would welcome mine and theirs, and I  
18 look forward to working with you gentlemen. Thank you  
19 very much, ladies and gentlemen.

20 MR. BLUHM: Well, that kind of kicks us off.

21 And with that, we'll start our formal comment  
22 period. We'll now hear from those who registered and  
23 preregistered to speak from our project website and  
24 indicated on their yellow registration form that they'd  
25 like to make oral comments and statements. For those

1 of you that preregistered on the website, I'd like to  
2 ask you to come to the microphone colored with blue,  
3 which is off to this side over here (indicating). And  
4 when you're ready, I will start calling off those  
5 names.

6 If you did not preregister on the project  
7 website but registered today, we've got a yellow line  
8 on this side.

9 And I'll also be calling up those as well. So  
10 we'll start with the preregistered. I've got Mr. David  
11 Voyt, Sr.; Fred Truschke and Peter Bentley -- are the  
12 ones for the yellow line here that registered today.  
13 And for preregistered on the blue line I've got Robert  
14 Stegmier, Tom Matych --

15 MR. MATYCH: Matych (pronouncing).

16 MR. BLUHM: Matych (pronouncing). Okay.

17 Thank you. And Ed Land- --

18 MR. LANDMICHl: Landmichl (pronouncing).

19 MR. BLUHM: -- Landmichl (pronouncing). Very  
20 good. Those will be the first three. And I just want  
21 to mention that, again, with the stenographer here, I'd  
22 ask that you help us with your name as I'm not very  
23 good at names sometimes and help us with that by  
24 spelling your last name, too, if you could, especially  
25 if you feel its spelling is a little difficult to pick



1 up. When you're ready, if you wouldn't mind starting,  
2 that is fine.

3 MR. STEGMIER: Amen, Attorney General. You  
4 said it all, proactive, urgency. What was the other?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right now.

6 MR. STEGMIER: Well, I'm not sure that was  
7 true.

8 And let me see. Yeah, I'm here. You ready  
9 to go? My name is Robert Stegmier. I live in  
10 Rockford, Michigan, about 140 miles straight south of  
11 here and about 30 miles from the shore of Lake  
12 Michigan, Grand Haven, Muskegon. Then you come up the  
13 coast.

14 I'm going to name a few rivers that are  
15 famous for steelhead, rainbow trout, brown trout,  
16 walleye and pike: the Grand River, the Muskegon River,  
17 the White River, Pentwater River, Pere Marquette River,  
18 Big and Little Manistee River -- I'll get there --  
19 Platte River and right out of our back door here, the  
20 Boardman River. Many of those have groundwater basins  
21 where bluegills, perch, bass live and, heaven forbid,  
22 Asian carp ever.

23 Okay. I'm going to get there. You ready  
24 now? My name is Robert Stegmier, S-t-e-g-m-i-e-r. I'm  
25 with the Izaak Walton League of America, a conservation

1 organization founded in Chicago in 1922 to clean up our  
2 rivers, which were pollution -- sanitary pollution  
3 sewers. I want to say we were very instrumental in  
4 developing the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and Elk  
5 Refuge in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. I'm aware that some  
6 of you panel have met some of our fellow Isaak Walton  
7 League Great Lakes committees, George Guyant in  
8 Milwaukee, Jill Crafton and Dave Zentner in Duluth. And  
9 thanks very much to listening attentively to what they  
10 had to say.

11 I'll add one point to what they said and  
12 probably you're going to -- excuse me -- you're going  
13 to hear here today. I want you to consider improving  
14 our arsenal of the river deterrents of the travel of  
15 the transient Asian carp -- is the disbursement of  
16 chlorine through -- I'll get it right here -- through  
17 tubes -- I don't have -- diffuser tubes. We've heard  
18 recently -- we've learned recently that fish do not  
19 like chlorine. It doesn't kill them, but they turn the  
20 other way.

21 Now, a little more personal. Their points of  
22 concern are my mutual concern -- their concern are my  
23 mutual concerns, too. I believe those same concerns  
24 are shared by everyone here. And if you wonder why  
25 there's 150 here in Michigan, when you take another

1 look at that water basin of the Great Lakes, Michigan  
2 is surrounded. We're going to lose the majority of  
3 that 7 billion dollars a year fishery if the Asian carp  
4 get here. But today my major concern for speaking, you  
5 need to be proactive. Everything I heard was -- "I'm  
6 afraid" was reactive and still is reactive. I think the  
7 hydrological separation is becoming reactive as opposed  
8 to proactive. I'm talking about my personal fishing  
9 where I fish the Muskegon River, the Grand River, the  
10 Pere Marquette River.

11 MR. BLUHM: Your 3 minutes are up. Please  
12 make your concluding statement.

13 MR. STEGMIER: Oh, concluding statement. My  
14 charge is to you folks, Corps of Engineers, when you're  
15 back in Chicago -- and it can't be too soon to satisfy  
16 me -- get rolling 24/7 to determine how and where to  
17 start the complete hydrological separation of the  
18 Chicago -- or the Mississippi River from Lake Erie and  
19 Lake Michigan. Thank you.

20 MR. BLUHM: When you're ready, go ahead, sir.

21 MR. MATYCH: Tom Matych, M-a-t-y-c-h, Twin  
22 Lake, Michigan. I'm a member of the Muskegon  
23 Conservation Club.

24 We already have a massive invasive species  
25 problem. It's about to get worse with invasion of the

1 Asian carp. To be successful, any plan, anything has  
2 to have a beginning, middle and, most importantly, an  
3 end. I suggest we change the name of the Asian carp,  
4 the plan, to Asian carp eradication plan, our goal.  
5 Control is never ending. Thus you never -- you're  
6 always stuck in the middle. Eradication is an end, and  
7 we should all be working towards that end.

8           If it is possible for an invasive species to  
9 wipe out or eradicate native species, then it is  
10 possible for our native species to wipe them out back.

11           There is something wrong when someone keeps  
12 saying, "We've never done this," "We've never do that,"  
13 over and over again. I submit we've never had a giant  
14 flying carp problem, either.

15           There's also something wrong when somebody  
16 keeps saying, "It won't work," over and over again,  
17 especially when it's been done before elsewhere.

18           After many years of study, common carp  
19 control experts concluded, "After reductions, stocking  
20 of predator species is essential to control numbers of  
21 young carp."

22           Also, "In areas where young -- where carp  
23 have not reached the nuisance level, a dense predator  
24 base should be maintained to provide a high level of  
25 predation on young carp." This is where we are at now.

1 This would be the proactive part, having them in place  
2 before the carp get past your study.

3           Since Asian carp spawn three times or more a  
4 year, then it's three times more essential that we have  
5 predators in place and maintain dense levels. According  
6 to studies, the best predator seems to be a panfish  
7 type, one that eats eggs, fry and juvenile size Asian  
8 carp and can survive in warm water areas, backwaters,  
9 swamp, et cetera, which are the spawning/nursery areas  
10 of Asian carp.

11           Our native perch fit this role perfectly, and  
12 with their wide mouth gape can feed further into the  
13 Asian carp life cycle, depending on the size, most of  
14 the carp's first year or be a predator longer than,  
15 say, a bluegill with a smaller mouth. As a bonus,  
16 perch also eat zebra and quagga mussels, gobies, spiny  
17 fleas and most of the current invasive species we have  
18 now.

19           So by maintaining a high native predator  
20 level to attack the Asian carp, we are also attacking  
21 our other invasive species problem at the same time.  
22 Perch also are natural prey for our other predators,  
23 walleye, pike, muskie, that would also eat Asian carp  
24 but target larger ones that might get past the perch  
25 and restore our natural ecosystem, which we are also

1 supposed to be trying to do. What nature planned is  
2 always best.

3           There is no downside to a high native fish  
4 population. We're supposed to be working toward that  
5 goal, anyway. It's all downside with a high invasive  
6 species population, worse if it's topped off with the  
7 Asian carp.

8           Stocking is a common tool used to restore  
9 native species. Saginaw Bay/Huron walleye population  
10 was restored with stocking; Saginaw Bay Recovery Plan,  
11 MDNR. The MDNR is currently trying to restore ciscos  
12 with a stocking program.

13           The S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie, Save Our Native  
14 Species Group, stocks two million perch annually in  
15 Lake Erie. Maryland is restoring its perch population  
16 through stocking. Many other examples. So it's not  
17 like it hasn't been done before.

18           Recruitment or surviving the spawn attempt to  
19 adult is being intercepted by invasive species.

20           So native fish populations struggle to  
21 survive.

22           Just cutting the perch limit to 20 or less,  
23 close it during the spawn, costs nothing, and is long-  
24 term, prudent protection of the population.

25           Slot limits on walleyes, only one over 23

1 inches, protects a core spawning group of large female  
2 prime spawners, maintains high predator base, also  
3 costs nothing. In short, a little self control on our  
4 part goes a long way. Just because we can keep fish  
5 doesn't mean we should.

6 Safe spawning and nursery zones can be also  
7 be created real easy.

8 We have an invasive -- we have invasive  
9 species die of old age and native fish not living long  
10 enough to learn how to swim. And we have to reverse  
11 that, and we've got to reverse that now.

12 That's proactive. I can put together groups  
13 starting tomorrow, and we can do this. And it does not  
14 interfere with any part of the Asian carp plans or  
15 studies you have in place, just in case it doesn't work  
16 out. Thank you.

17 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Thank you. Next Mr. Land-  
18 -- is it -michl (pronouncing)?

19 MR. LANDMICHL: Landmichl (pronouncing).

20 MR. BLUHM: Landmichl (pronouncing).

21 MR. LANDMICHL: Okay. I've been into saving  
22 the Great Lakes over 20 years. I sat on the Michigan  
23 Board of Directors for many years. I'm from Chicago.  
24 I banned the gill nets with Bill Carr in Indiana. I  
25 banned the gill nets in Illinois, and I banned the gill

1 nets in Wisconsin. I have moved and moved and moved,  
2 put out a million and a half handouts in Indiana to  
3 stop 20 commercial fisherman. And I'm going to tell  
4 you I started on the barrier.

5           Everybody's got to look on their computer and  
6 look up the Illinois study for the Asian carp, and  
7 you'll find they are very frightened very easily. Go  
8 down to Bath, Illinois. You'll see them jumping out of  
9 the water. They frighten very easily. And yet the  
10 Corps of Environmental Engineers and the Coast Guard  
11 and everybody else will not tow the barges and the  
12 pushers through the half a mile of electric fence area,  
13 electric barrier.

14           I started in 2000 at the goby barrier, which  
15 was barrier one. I went over and I measured barrier  
16 2A. It's 300 feet too far downstream, about a thousand  
17 foot walk, and came and walked it. The local police  
18 called -- called the Homeland Security on me, and I  
19 told them, "Arrest me. I need the publicity." The  
20 policeman told me, "You'll never go to jail for saying  
21 that, because of your attitude." And they didn't do  
22 nothing. The barrier one went in with rusty steel  
23 cable. I should have went in with -- I went to meeting  
24 upon meeting.

25           It should have went in with railroad rails,



1 steel rail. The barrier sat in 42 feet of water, very  
2 deep. They had to take -- take some of the barrier out  
3 to pull out -- how could they put six 5 by 5 iron  
4 electrodes in the water with ten cars and a 40- foot  
5 semi in the main area of barrier two, because a  
6 policeman -- they thought the policeman threw his wife  
7 in the trunk of a car. So it was dead of winter, and I  
8 went there.

9           They didn't find her, but they had to take  
10 the cars out. We're talking 42 feet of water; ten cars  
11 and a 40-foot box trailer. Where is the Corps working?  
12 Are they working to keep the carp and the boats in the  
13 river or what? I've been at this for years and years  
14 now. I'm tired of it, tired of driving all over going  
15 to meetings everyplace.

16           I did everything I could, and I'm here now  
17 telling you what I did. And everybody in the Chicago  
18 area knows me, and in Indiana and Lower Michigan. I  
19 have complained and complained about these Asian carp,  
20 and nobody's done nothing with the Corps. We've wasted  
21 and wasted and wasted months.

22           And then they -- you look at the -- at the  
23 size of the barrier at -- you know, the illustration  
24 they had up there.

25           It's 300 feet off, 300 feet too far

1 downstream.

2 300 feet?

3 Why? That was put in before anything was  
4 done, electrodes, anything. They measured it 300 feet  
5 off. Then they wasted a week -- a week building on --  
6 maybe a month building a mat for a million dollars. And  
7 a whole year went on before they had the mat done for  
8 the electrical sparks in the water. I only live 10  
9 miles from there. I don't live 300 miles, like coming  
10 up here; 300 miles coming up here. I only have to go  
11 10 miles. I don't know where the Corps' head is.

12 I'm a Korean veteran. I went to meetings in  
13 Indiana in 1984, passed out a million and a half sheets  
14 of paper. I complained about Toxic Island, millions of  
15 yards of waste in a 40-foot rock -- a 40-acre rock pile  
16 in East Chicago, Indiana; all the waste out of the ship  
17 channel.

18 Nothing was done, but I dumped five gallons  
19 on the Corps' desk at the meeting. It was very  
20 important, because the city of East Chicago shot my car  
21 full of holes. And I called the police, and they said,  
22 "It never happened here."

23 I am very involved in the environ- -- in the  
24 environment.

25 MR. BLUHM: Three minutes is up.

1 MR. LANDMICHL: Everybody wants our lake kept  
2 clean. Thank you.

3 MR. BLUHM: Our next three speakers will be  
4 Mark Smith, Gary Keyes and Brandon Fewins. Is Mr.  
5 Smith ready?

6 Okay. You're all set.

7 MR. SMITH: Right. Thank you all -- thank  
8 you all for having this meeting and doing all these  
9 road shows. The basin --

10 MR. BLUHM: Can I just interrupt you for a  
11 second?

12 Can I get you to do your name and  
13 affiliation, zip code for use?

14 MR. SMITH: Sure. Mark Smith with the  
15 National Wildlife Federation. And it's 48104.

16 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

17 MR. SMITH: Again, thank you for being here.  
18 We really appreciate the opportunity to express our  
19 concerns.

20 In the sake of time -- I've already spoken in  
21 Chicago. But one of the things I really wanted to  
22 address was obviously -- really underlining the urgency  
23 here. I understand the Corps was given authority in  
24 2007, funded in 2009 to begin the study. Well, it's  
25 2011, and we're just starting the study. So a lot of

1 the frustrations we have is because what did it take in  
2 two years to actually get this starting to go?  
3 Completion in 2015? The carp is still swimming. And  
4 when the study is done in 2015, we still have  
5 construction; that is, even deemed the option to begin.  
6 So we're even further years out. So I think that's why  
7 the public is frustrated when you have a study that's  
8 being done right now by the Great Lakes Commission and  
9 the Great Lakes Cities initiative that's looking at how  
10 you separate Lake Michigan from the Mississippi River  
11 and that will be done in 13 months and cost 2 million  
12 dollars.

13           The Corps -- your estimates are -- for this  
14 whole study is 25 million dollars and five years. The  
15 Chicago portion is just -- is 15 million dollars. The  
16 Great Lakes Commission study is 2 million dollars. I  
17 mean, there's something wrong here. So I would ask you  
18 formally to play your role. I know you're listening to  
19 the Great Lakes Commission. I know you've been in  
20 meetings. But I would really strongly advise you to  
21 actually become an actual formal advisor to the state  
22 corps or panel, participate in every meeting so that  
23 when their study is done you have been in that meeting  
24 -- in those meetings from day one so you can actually  
25 hit the ground running simultaneously with the release

1 of their study.

2           The other part I want to mention now is --  
3 and I really appreciate Mr. Saffran's efforts here on  
4 the identification of the 18 other pathways.

5           That took three months to do; right? That's  
6 amazing. That's great. And I think that is an example  
7 of how we can move fast. Why has that not taken five  
8 years and 15 million dollars?

9           So, again, we're here to help. We want to  
10 make sure the Corps is really working hard to get this  
11 study done. But the end of the day is -- this is not --  
12 this could be turning into, you know, what happened in  
13 Boston and what it did.

14           And we don't want that to happen. Our Great  
15 Lakes are too important for this to become this massive  
16 study that doesn't even answer the question of  
17 separation. So thank you for your time and I  
18 appreciate you guys doing this.

19           MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Next we have Mr.  
20 Keyes.

21           MR. KEYES: My name is Gary Keyes, K-e-y-e-s,  
22 49621, Cedar, Michigan. I'm trying to represent the  
23 average fisherman. The average fisherman in the State  
24 of Michigan is very frustrated, very angry and feels  
25 very left out.

1           That's a really sad moment in my life to have  
2 to say all my neighbors, all my friends feel like we  
3 don't know what's going on. The media doesn't report  
4 what you're doing very well. They do -- they're very  
5 good at reporting what the attorney general is doing,  
6 and they do support the lawsuit.

7           Mostly, I know, because I lived in New  
8 Orleans and I have black mold in my lungs because of  
9 Katrina, and I helped -- I lived in New Orleans for  
10 over 10 years. I helped build what collapsed. And we  
11 talked about the flying buttresses that could have gone  
12 to the side, the dead men.

13           We talked about -- I actually hung the  
14 drywall in the Corps of Engineers building in New  
15 Orleans, which we call the "gray elephant building,"  
16 like a series of gray elephants.

17           We also talked about the fact that Louisiana  
18 is losing a football of land an hour because of the  
19 fact that the Corps of Engineers did not communicate  
20 with the people of Louisiana, build better levies and  
21 did not let the water go into the marshes. All right.

22           The problem has been the Corps of Engineers  
23 has consistently kept to themselves, done their work,  
24 not communicated with the people. The average  
25 fisherman feels totally left out of all -- everything,

1 just -- we're lost.

2 We're angry. We're lost. And we want it  
3 done yesterday.

4 We don't want it done in 2015. We want it  
5 done yesterday.

6 Okay. I spent eight years of my life  
7 changing what's called "the police noise enforcement  
8 code" of the City of Traverse City. The reason was is  
9 because I couldn't sleep because of the fans on an  
10 adjacent shopping center roof. The low beam  
11 frequencies went into my home.

12 Elephants communicate two miles away. Whales  
13 communicate two miles away with low frequencies.

14 High frequencies combined with low  
15 frequencies, if you point them in two directions, can  
16 cause you to go deaf.

17 Your lack of or use of any kind of change of  
18 frequency -- if I want a skunk underneath my house to  
19 leave, I'll put a radio down there and I'll have  
20 static. The skunk will leave. When I was a kid, my  
21 grandfather used to say, "Gary, quit kicking the bottom  
22 of the aluminum boat.

23 You'll scare away the fish." I mean, think  
24 of it. Okay. If you took underwater microphones and  
25 you put high frequencies to the point like a dog

1 whistle and you put extremely low v- frequencies  
2 (indicating) and you mix the two together under the  
3 water at such different points, there's no fish going  
4 to go near that place. There's not a single living  
5 thing -- I can put something together for you with the  
6 University of Michigan, with anybody who knows about  
7 frequencies, because I studied this. I went in front  
8 of the city commission. I played frequencies. A  
9 mosquito keeps you from sleeping. It doesn't have a  
10 large decibel. It has frequencies. So I'm very glad  
11 that the attorney general is here. I'm glad you're  
12 here.

13 I'm glad you're listening.

14 But please begin tomorrow to do something  
15 underwater with noise, with high frequencies and low v-  
16 frequencies to stop these fish. Thank you very much.

17 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Next Mr. Fewins followed  
18 by John McNabb and then following him Jay YoungFlesh.

19 MR. FEWINS: Brandon Fewins. Fewins is  
20 spelled F-e-w-i-n-s. I'm the Northern Michigan  
21 Regional manager for U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow. And  
22 for those of us here in Michigan, the Great Lakes  
23 defines us. It's our way of life.

24 It's who we are. For those of us in the room  
25 we're all well aware of the dangers and challenges that



1 invasive species pose to our state. Senator Stabenow  
2 asked me to attend here today's hearing on her behalf,  
3 to address the imminent concern, not only to her but to  
4 the people of the State of Michigan, and that's the  
5 threat of Asian carp. She's been spearheading this  
6 issue working hand in hand with Congressman Dave Camp,  
7 introducing legislation, rising up and speaking with  
8 one voice to the administration. And she's going to  
9 continue to do so. She's hosted hearings out in DC,  
10 along with field teams here in the state. And this is  
11 one of her top priorities.

12           It's already been mentioned, the impact it  
13 could have on our boating industry, on our fishing  
14 industry. And it's becoming an emergency that's  
15 turning into a crisis situation. We need urgent  
16 action, not only from the administration but from the  
17 Corps of Engineers. First of all, we need to shut down  
18 the Chicago Locks immediately while we pursue short-  
19 term and long- term solutions. But that's not going to  
20 solve the problem. What's going to solve the problem is  
21 to create a permanent separation between Great Lakes  
22 Basin and the Mississippi River Basin.

23           Ecological separation will help stop the  
24 spread of Asian carp, it will help stop the spread of  
25 other invasive species. Thank you.

1 MR. BLUHM: Next we'll hear from Mr. McNabb  
2 followed by Mr. YoungFlesh and then Sharon Wise.

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

4 MR. McNABB: My name is John McNabb, M-c-N-a-  
5 b-b.

6 And I want to thank you for the opportunity  
7 to speak to such an influential panel and group that's  
8 gathered here today on the subject that's very near and  
9 dear to my heart. I'm not a specialist, by any means,  
10 but, because of a background as an industrial gas  
11 specialist, I have worked with virtually every fish  
12 hatchery in the State of Michigan, private, state run  
13 and federal. Also, because of a deep and abiding love  
14 for our Great Lakes and a sincere belief that they are  
15 one of the greatest natural resources of the United  
16 States, I thank you for hearing my viewpoint.

17 The world needs fresh water, and we have it.  
18 So I'm going to tell you a little story. On a hot  
19 August day in 1957, Ralph and Clarice McNabb gathered  
20 their five children for a picnic on West End Beach of  
21 the West Arm of Grand Traverse Bay. As I heard my  
22 brothers and sisters laughing, splashing and playing, I  
23 let my mother know that it was time and she strolled  
24 across the street to what's now the Traverse City Elks  
25 Club. Back in those days it was the osteopathic

1 hospital. And I was born. Over the years, all of my  
2 brothers and sisters have become lifeguards and  
3 swimming instructors on the beaches of Traverse City.  
4 The shores and the bays of Lake Michigan were my  
5 childhood paradise.

6           In the 1960's at the age of 6 or 7, I knew  
7 what "invasive species" were and can still remember the  
8 smell of the alewife die-offs along the beaches and the  
9 devastation of our forests from Dutch Elm disease. By  
10 1965 our family home was on a hill across from what is  
11 now Meijer's, and Kids Creek was my playground. I  
12 remember the lake-run salmon and steelhead and brown  
13 trout that virtually destroyed that stream for the  
14 brook trout we used to catch in the Kids Creek Derby  
15 every year.

16           In 1971 my family moved to Cleveland, Ohio,  
17 not long after the last time the Cuyahoga River caught  
18 on fire and burned. And I learned what pollution was  
19 all about while shooting rats as they ran across the  
20 waters of a friend's family cottage on Lake Erie. Time  
21 and luck and six years in the military have allowed me  
22 to live all over the country and travel all over the  
23 world. I've lived in Hawaii, Florida, Alabama, New  
24 York, Texas and Ohio. But more importantly, I've lived  
25 in Traverse City for 16 years, in the Sleeping Bear

1 Dunes Wilderness for eight years and Charlevoix,  
2 Michigan, for the last ten years. I'm a fisherman,  
3 scuba diver, a recreational boater and a Petoskey stone  
4 fanatic. Few people spend more time on or in that lake  
5 than I have the privilege to do.

6 In the last 15 years I've witnessed the zebra  
7 and quagga mussel invasions, noted the disappearance of  
8 the diporeia, the invasion of gobies and become  
9 painfully aware of the dramatic changes in the  
10 fisheries. Along our shorelines I've noted clouds of  
11 green sludge on the beaches from Pyramid Point to  
12 Christmas Cove to Harbor Springs. The rocks are coated  
13 with a sludge that you can't even scrape off, and  
14 Phragmites grasses are beginning to clog our shores and  
15 Emerald Ash Borers again devastate our forests.

16 Evolutionary changes are happening at jet  
17 speed instead of in geological time. Studies I've read  
18 put the annual cost of invasive species at over \$140  
19 billion dollars a year.

20 And now you tell us that a voracious,  
21 seemingly unstoppable species that averages three to  
22 ten pounds is on its way here. You tell us that it  
23 will destroy our fisheries and boating as we may know  
24 it. I commend you for your study, but the point should  
25 be simple. No further study should be needed. You've

1 never stopped an invasive species yet. Stop this one.

2 Be proactive. For once in my lifetime stop it before

3 it gets here.

4 Winston Churchill said it best, "You can

5 always count on Americans to do the right thing after

6 they've exhausted all other possibilities." Don't bail

7 out another bank until you bail out and protect our

8 natural resources and these Great Lakes. What we have

9 is incredibly precious.

10 To watch it destroyed is not just wrong, it's

11 a crime against future generations, and it's

12 unforgivable.

13 Remember: The world needs fresh water, and

14 we have it.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. BLUHM: Our eighth speaker, Mr.

17 YoungFlesh followed by Ms. Wise and then Mike Ripley.

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

19 MR. YOUNGFLESH: First of all I'd like to

20 thank you all for coming. We appreciate your presence

21 here. My name is Jay Youngflesh. And my zip code --

22 Youngflesh is spelled Y-o-u-n-g- f-l-e- s-h; zip code

23 49684. I'm here today as fishery chairman for the

24 Michigan United Conservation Club, and I would like to

25 read the following.

1               "The Michigan United Conservation Club  
2 supports the permanent hydrological separation of the  
3 Mississippi waterways from the Great Lakes. We  
4 understand there's a study underway that would help the  
5 City of Chicago identify the best way to accomplish  
6 this with the least impact. It is critical to not only  
7 stopping the Asian carp but to stop all invasive  
8 species into the Great Lakes as well as halting the  
9 same out of the Great Lakes into other waterways. The  
10 MUCC urges you to aggressively pursue any and all  
11 interim measures that may help protect the lakes from  
12 the carp, whether these measures be lock closure,  
13 rotenone poisoning, increased monitoring in waterways  
14 near the canal and other tributaries where the carp  
15 currently are located and a commitment to rapid  
16 response if the carp is ever found in the Great Lakes  
17 before they can establish a breeding population. MUCC  
18 also expects our federal and state leaders to take  
19 immediate aggressive actions that will preserve our  
20 sport fishing heritage in the 7 billion dollar Great  
21 Lakes sport fishery. MUCC applauds Attorney General  
22 Schuette's commitment to live up to this expectation by  
23 continuing Michigan's legal front to protect the Great  
24 Lakes and our outdoor heritage."

25               In closing I'd like to quote Patty Birkholz,

1 the director of Governor Rick Snyder's Office of the  
2 Great Lakes. "The imminent invasion by the Asian carp  
3 through the Chicago area waterways is one of the most  
4 significant threats ever to the Great Lakes." Thank  
5 you.

6 MR. BLUHM: Next Ms. Wise followed by Mr.  
7 Ripley and then Cheryl Mendoza.

8 MS. WISE: Thank you. My name is Sharon  
9 Wise, W--i-s-e, some name to live up to. I happen to  
10 be the Director of Community Relations on behalf of  
11 Congressman Dave Camp. And he asked me to present this  
12 statement to you today.

13 Congressman Camp would like to thank the  
14 Corps for holding this meeting. He is appreciative of  
15 the Corps' effort in the fight against invasive species  
16 and their efforts to keep an open line of communication  
17 with the public. The congressman would also like to  
18 thank our state officials who have been an integral  
19 part of the fight against invasive species and  
20 especially Asian carp.

21 Mr. Camp would also like to thank Attorney  
22 General Bill Schuette, who has vowed to continue the  
23 battle in court. Also, Governor Rick Snyder will be a  
24 strong partner in defending the Great Lakes, and  
25 members of his administration from the Office of the

1 Great Lakes, who I believe are here today, will be very  
2 helpful.

3           Clearly, cooperation between federal, state  
4 and regional authorities is essential. And Mr. Camp  
5 will continue to work closely with state officials on  
6 this issue.

7           As many of us here know, Congressman Camp has  
8 been a longtime supporter of efforts to prevent the  
9 spread of invasive species in the Great Lakes and was  
10 proud to support the creation of this study, which is  
11 essential in the long-term health of the Great Lakes  
12 ecosystem. However, since that legislation's passage,  
13 we have discovered that the threat of the Asian carp  
14 establishing viable populations in the Great Lakes is  
15 much greater than previously thought.

16           The discovery of a live Asian carp in Lake  
17 Calumet and the presence of eDNA past the electric  
18 dispersal barriers out by Chicago have highlighted the  
19 urgency of completing this study and preventing the  
20 transfer of invasive species between the Great Lakes  
21 and the Mississippi River Basin.

22           After the discovery of the carp in June,  
23 Senator Debbie Stabenow and Congressman Camp introduced  
24 legislation, the Permanent Prevention of Asian Carp  
25 Act, that would refocus this study on a plan for the



1 permanent hydrological separation of the two watersheds  
2 and shorten the time frame of the study to 18 months.  
3 This bill has received broad support from the public  
4 and industry and environmental groups. Permanent  
5 hydrological separation is viewed by many as the only  
6 sure means of preventing Asian carp and other invasive  
7 species from transferring between the two watersheds.  
8 While it would be a great challenge to complete the  
9 study in the shortened time frame, the congressman  
10 feels that quick and decisive action is necessary to  
11 protect the Great Lakes ecosystem and the 7-1/2 billion  
12 dollar industry it supports from being devastated by  
13 Asian carp.

14               Since the Congress convened earlier this  
15 month, Congressman's Camp's legislation will need to be  
16 reintroduced. He is currently in the process of  
17 reviewing it with the hopes of making any necessary  
18 changes and reintroducing it in the coming weeks. Thank  
19 you again for the opportunity to provide Congressman  
20 Camp's input on this very important public meeting.

21               MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Next Mr. Ripley  
22 followed by Ms. Mendoza and then following up Thomas  
23 Kelly. When you're ready -- you might want to tip that  
24 up a little bit.

25               There you go.

1                   MR. RIPLEY: Good afternoon. My name is Mike  
2 Ripley, R-i-p-l-e-y. I'm with the Intertribal  
3 Fisheries and Assessment Program up in Sault Ste.  
4 Marie, Michigan. And I'm representing the Chippewa  
5 Ottawa Resource Authority, or CORA.

6                   CORA is comprised of Indian tribes in  
7 Michigan.

8                   The ancestors signed the Treaty of 1836 with  
9 the federal government. And in that treaty the  
10 ancestors understood that the United States Government  
11 would protect the resources for the tribes forever. I  
12 want to remind the Corps of that responsibility -- that  
13 trust responsibility.

14                  Aquatic nuisance species is one of our most  
15 important environmental issues for the tribes.

16                  It's devastated the tribal fisheries. It  
17 impinges on the rights of -- the treaty rights to fish  
18 in the lakes. And especially the sea lamprey, which is  
19 costing millions of dollars.

20                  And the sea lamprey was prevented from  
21 entering the Great Lakes through a natural geographic  
22 barrier, the Niagara Falls, which was breached in the  
23 1800's for navigation purposes. We have -- the Army  
24 Corps has the opportunity right now to prevent a  
25 similar invasion of Asian carp.

1                   And so we ask that the GLMRIS Study really  
2 focus on the Chicago waterways area, especially that  
3 that be moved ahead so that -- as others have said it's  
4 urgent that we do this now to prevent an invasion. And  
5 for our elected officials I just want to remind you  
6 that the Lazy Act is not working. Otherwise, the Asian  
7 carp would never have been imported by fish farmers in  
8 Arkansas in the first place. We need comprehensive  
9 federal legislation for aquatic nuisance species  
10 including the issue of ballast water. Thank you for  
11 listening today.

12                  MR. BLUHM: Okay. Ms. Mendoza. Following  
13 her Mr. Kelly and then Eric Johnson. When you're  
14 ready, go ahead.

15                  MS. MENDOZA: Thank you. My name is Cheryl  
16 Mendoza, M-e-n-d-o-z-a. Zip code is 49456. And I'm  
17 here representing an organization called Freshwater  
18 Future.

19                  Thank you for this opportunity today, first  
20 of all, to provide these comments.

21                  Freshwater Future is the only watershed-wide  
22 organization dedicated solely to supporting the needs  
23 of community-based groups and advocate working to  
24 protect and restore resources. We have a network of  
25 over 2,000 grassroots groups and advocates around the

1 Great Lakes region and have given out over one million  
2 dollars in grants to support their local needs. And  
3 I'm here today to emphasize the urgency of keeping the  
4 Asian carp and other invasive species out of the Great  
5 Lakes and how GLMRIS must be narrowed to be able to be  
6 a meaningful tool to safeguard our Great Lakes.

7 GLMRIS identifies the added objective of risk  
8 reduction. And it's important to note that that's not  
9 what Congress authorized. It's not a credible strategy  
10 to achieve prevention.

11 Research here would divert resources from  
12 determining how to achieve prevention. It's been  
13 discussed that GLMRIS Study risk reduction and case  
14 prevention is not possible, but I disagree. For  
15 example, the intent of the Endangered Species Act for  
16 federal entities is to conserve endangered and  
17 threatened species, not to try and conserve. And while  
18 we might not always be successful in preventing the --  
19 or preventing species from becoming extinct, it is what  
20 we strive for. And in the same way, while it's unknown  
21 if full prevention is possible, we must strive for it.  
22 It's our Great Lakes -- it's our world class resource  
23 and it's our way of life. We realize the most  
24 effective solution will likely be the most costly, and  
25 for full protection of our Great Lakes this is probably

1 going to be a congressional budgetary decision.

2           However, I want to stress that this is a  
3 decision for Congress to make. And by adding  
4 additional study objectives not authorized by Congress,  
5 you're stepping away from prevention, or in other  
6 words, how to slow down the eventual instead of  
7 stopping the threat. It appears you're making a  
8 decision that prevention will not be possible before we  
9 fully try. Our best chance to protect the Great akes  
10 is for GLMRIS to focus on what Congress authorized, and  
11 that's solely prevention, and let them decide if it's a  
12 feasible option. As you're listening to my comments  
13 today, the Asian carp are swimming by our Great Lakes.  
14 And we're very alarmed that the Chicago portion of the  
15 study is not expected to be completed until mid 2015,  
16 nearly five years from now. And we ask you to  
17 acknowledge the urgency of finding a permanent  
18 solution, condense the time line and produce final  
19 results for the Chicago portion in 18 months.

20           Because it is such an urgent matter that  
21 threatens the ecosystem of the largest fresh surface  
22 water system on the planet, many others have been and  
23 are stepping in to help, and we encourage you to  
24 investigate those resources and utilize them to the  
25 fullest. They may assist if not fulfill many of your

1 research needs in the area of risk assessment,  
2 wastewater transportation and economic analysis.

3 They include risk assessment for the U.S.

4 Fisheries and Wildlife Service, Fisheries and  
5 Oceans Canada. And most importantly, right now going  
6 on is the study by the Great Lakes Commission and Great  
7 Lakes -- and St. Lawrence Cities initiative that we  
8 encourage you to participate in. They will be  
9 conducting an elite-tier -- with an elite-tier private  
10 engineering firm on economic analysis. And that should  
11 be completed by January of 2012. The Corps should  
12 engage themselves and use this analysis for the  
13 identification of the best ways to achieve physical  
14 separation in the Chicago waterway system rather than  
15 rewriting their own.

16 So we encourage you to step on board with  
17 that process. And, lastly, I just to note that there  
18 is tremendous public support out there. You have  
19 support from all over the region. And just in 90 days,  
20 this past summer, in partnership with seven other  
21 organizations, we were able to collect over 12,000  
22 postcards from just our membership alone urging  
23 President Obama to quickly separate the Great Lakes and  
24 the Mississippi River system. And we had spontaneous  
25 folks popping up all over the region with that same

1 message. So it is unanimous, it's loud and it's clear,  
2 and we hope that you're listening to that. Thank you.

3 MR. BLUHM: Next we'll hear from Mr. Kelly  
4 followed by Mr. Johnson and then following him Tom  
5 Mair.

6 MR. KELLY: Good afternoon. It's Tom Kelly,  
7 K- e-l-l-y, 49682. I usually give my zip code as the  
8 Great Lakes, but I know that doesn't fit in the box.  
9 I'm the Executive Director of the Inland Seas  
10 Educational Association in Suttons Bay just up the road  
11 here. Most of the -- except for the first comment  
12 here, the rest of these things here are my own opinion.  
13 Part of our philosophy of our organization is to  
14 educate people they have to make up their own minds,  
15 and I continue to do that. Right now I think we have a  
16 unique opportunity that's not often presented to us to  
17 solve an ecological problem before it gets here. We  
18 have a small window of time. We don't know how long  
19 that window is, but if it closes if the Asian carp get  
20 into the Great Lakes, we're going to have a very  
21 difficult time explaining to our grandchildren how we  
22 let this happen.

23 So I guess I would give you the philosophy of  
24 Inland Seas, which is protect the Great Lakes and we  
25 can save it through education, and we're thinking about

1 the values -- protecting the values of what we have out  
2 here for our grandchildren and the seven generations to  
3 come and beyond. So it's not just what's expedient  
4 now. We have to think of the long term.

5 Ecological separation should be our goal. I  
6 think we should include in this study all options to  
7 continue navigation through technology such as marine  
8 railways, boat lifts, powered dollies and other means  
9 that are in operation in other parts of the world and  
10 actually within our own region, so we can separate the  
11 two watersheds but continue to have commerce.

12 And I'm a professional mariner and also a  
13 recreational boater. I've been from Chicago to Mobile.  
14 So I've been through there. And I think that can  
15 continue but still separate the watersheds. We want to  
16 also think about closing the pathways for transport and  
17 the sale of live Asian carp including bait fish. I  
18 know that's not part of this study, but I think it's  
19 our responsibility to make sure that somebody is doing  
20 that. But it is not part of this study.

21 Also, I think it's very important to push  
22 back the Asian carp barrier -- or not the barrier, but  
23 draw the line in the sand further down the river so  
24 that the electric barrier is not the first line of  
25 defense but the second or third.



1           So let's think about can we push back the  
2 barrier down, say, to Lockport, and so we've go some  
3 more buffer there.

4           And we can include education. I'm an  
5 educator. So I think it's very important that we educate  
6 people.

7           We're doing that here today. I would suggest  
8 we might try to develop a web-accessible time line  
9 visual model on the web that shows the hydrological  
10 functioning of the Chicago area waterways, including  
11 storm water flood situations, lake level variations,  
12 navigational sewage. This is a very complex system  
13 there, and we're not going to get the political support  
14 to do this job unless the public understands the issues  
15 and the challenges and gives the political will to make  
16 it happen. Thank you very much.

17           MR. BLUHM: We'll next hear from Mr. Johnson  
18 followed by Mr. Mair and then Mark Breederland.

19           When you're ready, go ahead.

20           MR. JOHNSON: All right. Erik Johnson,  
21 49643, Interlochen. Letting these Asian carp get into  
22 the Great Lakes is going to wreck our ecosystem and  
23 cause the loss of many jobs, as we've been talking  
24 about. You know, this isn't all about a bunch of  
25 worried fisherman. It's jobs. I work for a company

1 that has a bunch of gas stations.

2           We have 800 employees, and we sell gas to  
3 hundreds of different places, to marinas and gas  
4 stations. And people come up north to go fishing and  
5 buy our gas. Now, if the fishing is no good anymore,  
6 they're not going to come up north, they're not going  
7 to buy our gas and they're not going to support the gas  
8 stations and stores in Northern Michigan. Those stores  
9 will then be looking at foreclosure, and the employees  
10 will be fired. That's all part of the loss of jobs.

11           This is an emergency. This is not a bunch of  
12 fisherman worried about their fishing. This is an  
13 economic emergency in Michigan and all eight Great  
14 Lakes states. All this debate and political posturing  
15 and studies are really -- they're nice, but they're not  
16 going to get us anywhere. What we need is to have some  
17 action that stops the Asian carp now. I'm really  
18 disgusted with our government's inability to make  
19 something happen to effectively deal with this threat.  
20 We've tried a judicial solution a couple of times, and  
21 that didn't work. Congress is debating legislation.  
22 We have studies going on, which are nice. They're going  
23 to take four years. While all this fiddling is going  
24 on, the carp are swimming upstream.

25           Now, Mr. Goss, I hope you take this message

1 to our president. This is directed to him. This is an  
2 emergency, and we're out of time. You know, we talked  
3 about looking for a long- term solution. Well, a long-  
4 term permanent solution is simple, close the channels  
5 in the Chicago area.

6           You know, the Wabash River's solution  
7 happened pretty fast, and that was pretty quick. So I  
8 think it reverts to the real problem, which is the  
9 channel in Chicago. President Obama must issue an  
10 executive order "permanently close all the canals now."  
11 He can use some of the stimulus funding, for which I'm  
12 being taxed, to recompense the Chicago area and create  
13 an overland trucking industry there. This is a no-  
14 brainer.

15           We just had an oil spill in the Gulf which  
16 threatened commercial fishing and tourism. And the  
17 White House was all over that. Now we have one here in  
18 the Great Lakes area and it's even worse, because in a  
19 few years the oil spill is going to be gone and that  
20 won't be an issue anymore. We're talking about a  
21 permanent disaster here in the Great Lakes. If these  
22 fish get into our Great Lakes because this presidential  
23 administration had failed to close off the canals in  
24 time -- I mean right now -- I propose the fish  
25 thereafter be called Obama carp and memorialize this

1 administration that wrecked the Great Lakes ecosystem  
2 and our tourist economy. Thank you.

3 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Next we'll hear from  
4 Mr.

5 Mair followed by Mr. Breederland and then  
6 following him David Voyt, Sr. We might have to pull  
7 that microphone up a little bit.

8 MR. MAIR: Hello. My name is Tom Mair. I  
9 live in Traverse City about five blocks from the lake.  
10 And the zip code is 49684. I can be reached at  
11 traversegreen@yahoo.com.

12 Going back to last September on the bridge,  
13 when the Labor Day walk is taking place, I spoke to  
14 Jennifer Granholm as the exiting governor. And she  
15 told me, quite frankly, that the only way this is going  
16 to happen, that we're going to block the carp from  
17 entering the lake is for the president to declare that  
18 it's going to happen and that smaller groups down the  
19 chain of command probably will not be successful,  
20 according to Jennifer Granholm.

21 So my concern is actually to have a little  
22 more dialog. I'm glad you're here, by the way. I know  
23 you've traveled quite a ways and you're busy people.  
24 And Traverse City is a little bit out of the way on the  
25 map. But I'd like to know exactly where the DNA was

1 found. There are people here in Traverse City that  
2 think it was found in Lake Michigan. And I don't  
3 believe that's true. It may have been found in the  
4 Chicago River, but I also thought that Lake Calumet was  
5 actually blocked by the electricity and that there  
6 wasn't a direct flow from Lake Calumet into Lake  
7 Michigan. Can you answer that? Where was the DNA  
8 found?

9 COLONEL QUARLES:: We began using the eDNA  
10 tool below the barrier where there's a known population  
11 of Asian carp and dwarf, using this tool and other  
12 tools to identify where are the leading edge. And,  
13 again, we view eDNA as one tool in a box. You asked me  
14 where was the eDNA found.

15 Since we began using the tool in 2009, as you  
16 know, it's a picture of the waterway system that was --  
17 it was found, you know, coming from the lock 4 of  
18 Brandon Road area up in -- 76 miles was in the CAWS and  
19 it was found along two branches. If you come --  
20 continue straight up the canal, you hit the Chicago  
21 lock. So eDNA was found in traces up to Chicago lock.  
22 If you do a right on the Cal Sag, then you get to Lake  
23 Calumet. And that is -- Lake Calumet is a little bit  
24 above O'Brien Lock and Dam, about three or four miles.  
25 So does that answer your question?

1 MR. MAIR: So Lake Calumet is protected by  
2 the electricity or it's not?

3 COLONEL QUARLES:: No. I mean, right now  
4 Lake Calumet is north of the electrical barriers.

5 MR. MAIR: Okay.

6 COLONEL QUARLES:: The electrical barriers  
7 are about 33 miles from Chicago Lock downstream.

8 MR. MAIR: How far from Lake Michigan was  
9 that place that the eDNA was found, how many miles?

10 COLONEL QUARLES:: The closest the eDNA was  
11 found, if you were to go on the other side of O'Brien,  
12 it was right in the harbor, Lake Calumet Harbor. Okay.  
13 So it wasn't like out in the lake itself. The sample  
14 was pulled from the edge -- the entrance to the lake.  
15 And there was some acute -- positive samples found  
16 right there.

17 MR. MAIR: Okay. The other thing, I saw a  
18 video on UTube. And I know there's a lot of videos of  
19 flying fish, but this one was a CNN piece. And it  
20 showed a map with states colored in red -- lots of red  
21 splotches. It showed a very expansive migration of the  
22 -- the Asian carp.

23 It didn't mention which species, but I would  
24 like to be able to see a map like that, because it  
25 showed a lot more going on than what we're hearing

1 about, in the Mississippi River and Lake Calumet.

2 COLONEL QUARLES: Right; right.

3 MR. MAIR: -- and on and on about the threat  
4 to Lake Michigan, because all along Lake -- along the  
5 Mississippi River it looks like the threat is very  
6 large.

7 In fact, it's not even a threat anymore.

8 They're there

9 COLONEL QUARLES: Okay. And --

10 MR. MAIR: -- covering a few states.

11 COLONEL QUARLES: What I want you to do is go  
12 to either Asiancarp.org or my Chicago to -- web page.  
13 You will see a map and you will see locations of where  
14 eDNA was found, and you do not see the abundance of  
15 Asian carp in the upper reaches of the Chicago area  
16 waterway system.

17 You know, where fish are jumping out at is  
18 further downstream.

19 MR. MAIR: Right.

20 COLONEL QUARLES: Okay. And so we may be  
21 able to do a better job of identifying, you know, where  
22 do you have the large populations versus some other  
23 populations. And I will defer comment later.

24 MR. MAIR: When you showed a slide --

25 (Off the record interruption)

1 MR. BLUHM: Excuse me. Can we let the  
2 gentleman finish his comment, please?

3 MR. MAIR: Yeah, I think he may be right. A  
4 spread map of some kind that showed how it was  
5 spreading that they either found eDNA or they found  
6 fish over a varied multi-state area. And some of those  
7 states that I saw on the map weren't included in the  
8 slide you had, but you showed states that were on  
9 board. So I just wanted to point that out. Thank you.

10 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Next, Mr. Breederland  
11 followed by Mr. Vogt and then Fred Truschke. Go ahead  
12 when you're ready, sir.

13 MR. BREEDERLAND: Hello. My name is Mark  
14 Breederland, B-r-e-e-d-e-r-l-a-n-d. 49684 is my zip  
15 code.

16 I'm employed with the Michigan Sea Grant  
17 Extension Program.

18 My family and I reside here in Elmwood  
19 Township, Traverse City, Michigan. In my over 20 years  
20 of working directly on Great Lakes issues, much of it  
21 with invasives, I've not really seen such a galvanizing  
22 issue from all ends of the citizens' spectrum as  
23 dealing with the issue of Asian carp.

24 The following comments do not reflect any  
25 official Sea Grant policy but rather come as my



1 personal and professional opinion. Thank you for this  
2 opportunity to comment.

3 First, I want to say how important the Great  
4 Lakes are to the citizens of Michigan. The Grand  
5 Traverse Bay here forms the basis for our wonderful  
6 quality of life in this region.

7 Similarly, this is true across all of our  
8 State of Michigan, whether or not you live in one of  
9 our 41 coastal counties in the state or one of our  
10 inland counties, which have the wonderful rivers, which  
11 are particularly at risk, which drain to the -- to the  
12 lakes.

13 Michigan has been hit very hard economically  
14 and ecologically with the introduction and impacts of  
15 species like lamprey, round goby and dracaena mussels  
16 without a chance to stop them. Of note, of these  
17 invasives only the lamprey have been able to be even  
18 managed. And, of course, it's only because of  
19 continued diligence and annual resources in the  
20 neighborhood of 15 million dollars a year that the  
21 lamprey populations have been able to be suppressed,  
22 and protects our multi-billion dollar annual fishery.

23 The impact from the carps may well exceed the  
24 lamprey, and they have a more difficult biological life  
25 cycle than lamprey to even begin to look at biological

1 management. Second, though the federal and state  
2 governments acted extremely slowly in the 1990's and  
3 2000's on the Asian carp issue, as they continued to  
4 swim up the rivers, there's still a chance to stop or  
5 slow down the carps in the Great Lakes. Needed to stop  
6 the invasion is keeping the fish numbers low, urgent  
7 and timely completion of the GLMRIS Study, particularly  
8 in the greater Chicago area, and immediate -- immediate  
9 implementation of the needed actions that could  
10 actually be built and constructed to address the  
11 complete ecological separation of the Mississippi and  
12 the Great Lakes.

13 And I am thankful for the eDNA tool, which is  
14 a valid biological early warning system. And I do urge  
15 continued development and use of that tool.

16 It may be useful in even other species. Maybe  
17 we'll be dealing with snakeheads in the future.

18 The greater Chicago area has a very old  
19 infrastructure with very complex storm water needs, I'm  
20 sure, with the system as is. This study needs to find  
21 some way to do effective ecological separation of the  
22 Great Lakes from the Mississippi. And let me stress  
23 the purpose of getting needed resources needs to be  
24 focused on preventing carps and other species from  
25 coming directly to the Great Lakes, not really on

1 fixing all of Chicago's old infrastructure issues.

2           Finally, I feel like there must be a more  
3 effective and expeditious way to actually get the A-  
4 word that was mentioned earlier, the congressional  
5 appropriations, into the responsible federal agencies,  
6 not just an authorizing instrument, not just trying for  
7 earmarks. Perhaps the Corps needs to stop doing  
8 something else it is already in the midst of doing and  
9 hit the pause button, perhaps, and find an  
10 administrative way to deal with this urgent threat,  
11 complete the key parts of this study and actually build  
12 and maintain this ecological separation, which is  
13 sorely needed to protect the Great Lakes economy and  
14 ecology. So thank you very much.

15           MR. BLUHM: Okay. Next, Mr. Vogt, Sr.

16           Following, Mr. Truschke and then Pete  
17 Bentley.

18           MR. VOGT: Hello. My name is David Vogt, Sr.

19           I'm from Paw Paw, Michigan, 49079. When did  
20 the Asian carp start swimming our way? What year was  
21 it? Can anybody answer that, here, on the panel?

22           MR. WETHINGTON: Mid 70's.

23           COLONEL QUARLES: Mid/late 70's.

24           MR. VOGT: In the late 70's? So from the  
25 late 70's, days, months, years, decades Asian carp have

1 been swimming towards the Great Lakes. Fix it now.  
2 Somebody's had plenty of time. Why have you elected  
3 officials, past and present, waited? Many of us that  
4 are here have been to many meetings over the years.  
5 Seal the Chicago and O'Brien Locks immediately. Why  
6 not get around to fixing the ballast water problem in  
7 the Great Lakes?

8 I hope everybody knows Eddie Landmichl. He's  
9 in that green shirt there. I've known him 40 years.  
10 For at least 30 years he's fought for us for our water,  
11 ballast water, fishing, Asian carp. Unbelievable. You  
12 can thank him. I don't think anybody here is  
13 dedicated. He should be in the Freshwater Hall of  
14 Fame. He's been mentioned that he be in that. He's  
15 spent much of his life trying to protect our natural  
16 resources.

17 We can't blame you all on the panel that we  
18 have up here. You need to do these things now if  
19 you're going to address them here at this meeting. You  
20 can start saying, "Well, let's see. Before I got  
21 married, the Asian carp -- no, let's see. Maybe my  
22 grandchildren weren't born quite yet, and now they're  
23 16 and 17 years old and the Asian carp is still  
24 swimming this way." Somewhere down the line somebody  
25 should have done something. You proud people right

1 there, elected officials that can do something, need to  
2 do it now. Closing the Chicago and O'Brien Locks are -  
3 - that's a pretty important thing to do. Our past  
4 Attorney General Cox, the number one man, I believe  
5 that he is one of the elected officials that started in  
6 Michigan to protect our Great Lakes, protect Lake  
7 Michigan.

8 Eddie Landmichl banned the gill net in  
9 Indiana and Illinois; he, John Handle (phonetic) and  
10 Jack Betis (phonetic). But Eddie Landmichl led them. We  
11 owe Eddie Landmichl. Thank you.

12 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Next we'll hear from  
13 Mr.

14 Bentley followed by -- I'm sorry. I skipped  
15 Mr. Truschke and then Mr. Bentley and then  
16 Moses Balcom.

17 Sorry about that. Is Mr. Truschke here? I  
18 thought that was him leaving. So I guess you are --  
19 you're a mind reader, then, I guess.

20 MR. BENTLEY: Can everybody see that? My  
21 name is Bentley, B-e-n- --

22 (Off the record interruption)

23 MR. BENTLEY: 486- --

24 (Off the record interruption)

25 MR. BENTLEY: This headline says "Feds Oppose

1 Closure of the Locks." So I think we can have all the  
2 studies, five-year study, ten-year study; it all comes  
3 down to Mr. Goss. Does he really believe that this  
4 administration wants to close the locks? We all know  
5 that the general opinion is that the locks will stop  
6 the fish.

7               Something may come later. But if we close  
8 the locks now, it'll give us time to come up with all  
9 the reasons we need.

10              So my question is for Mr. Goss. Do you think  
11 this administration is willing to close the locks?

12              MR. GOSS: I believe you know the answer to  
13 that.

14              MR. BENTLEY: Is it "no"?

15              MR. GOSS: You do know the answer to that.

16              That's why we are continuing this very  
17 comprehensive evaluation of what's --

18              MR. BENTLEY: So we're going to get nowhere  
19 at least for two more years?

20              MR. GOSS: You are asking for an immediate  
21 action that has already been determined will not take  
22 place.

23              MR. BENTLEY: It has been determined by  
24 lawyers.

25              We've had scientists and Corps of Engineers

1 and boaters and shippers, they all have their opinion.  
2 But it came down to - - it went to court. It ended up  
3 in court, and the lawyers, one side or the other --, it  
4 has been decided by lawyers not to close the locks.  
5 That doesn't seem right to me. That puts all these  
6 guys' studies to waste. You know, what are they doing  
7 it for? They just have to get the right lawyer.

8 We don't need a five- year study. Is that --  
9 is that where it's at now? It's in the hands of the  
10 lawyers; it's in the courts.

11 MR. GOSS: That's correct. On that decision.

12 We have many other actions to keep the carp  
13 out of the lakes.

14 That's what I tried to describe at the  
15 beginning of the meeting. And I think we're doing a  
16 reasonable job of using every tool that we have to stop  
17 the Asian carp. The permanent solution is what this  
18 project is about, the permanent solution.

19 MR. BENTLEY: Well, I'd like to take the word  
20 "management" out of it. We don't want to manage the  
21 carp.

22 We want to stop them. It would seem sensible  
23 to me to close the locks, and then you could spend the  
24 next 20 years figuring out how to manage them, but we  
25 would keep them out.

1           Once they get in, we could just shut down  
2 this study. Once they're in, which could happen this  
3 summer, what -- you know, it just seems like it's all a  
4 waste.

5           MR. GOSS: I appreciate --

6           MR. BENTLEY: If they get in -- if they get  
7 in, it's over.

8           MR. GOSS: I agree with you that we have to  
9 stop them before they become established, and we are  
10 determined to do that. We are aggressively pursuing  
11 that with all of these projects.

12           MR. BENTLEY: But not with the favor of the  
13 president? I mean, he doesn't -- his attitude is "let's  
14 not do it"?

15           MR. GOSS: The president personally has not  
16 made a statement on that. The attorneys for the  
17 Department of Justice have those decisions for the  
18 federal government.

19           MR. BENTLEY: That's all I have.

20           MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Next, Mr. Balcom,  
21 followed by Gabe Schneider and then following him, Ray  
22 Antel. You can go to whichever microphone is easiest  
23 for you.

24                       (Off the record interruption)

25           MR. BALCOM: Gentlemen, thank you for your



1 time.

2 We appreciate you coming to the greatest city  
3 on the Great Lakes, which is called Traverse City.

4 And, Colonel, I'm standing up here with a  
5 broken back and you're standing up with a lame foot.

6 So we are both cripples. But we're going to  
7 go ahead.

8 I have been told by McNabb, commercial  
9 fishermen out of Muskegon, that they have already seen  
10 Asian carp up the Muskegon River. This is not new.  
11 What can we do about the Asian carp that are locked in  
12 between the weirs that you have up? Are you trying to  
13 eliminate them or you're just blocking them in there?  
14 Are you trying to exterminate those that are in between  
15 the locks -- your weirs? You are? And what process  
16 are you using? Poisons? I don't need an answer right  
17 now, sir.

18 COLONEL QUARLES: Okay.

19 MR. BALCOM: What will -- effect will this  
20 have on land values of the Great Lakes? Are we going  
21 to have beachfront like we mentioned earlier; the  
22 alewives coming back onto the -- onto the shores like  
23 we've had years ago?

24 The lakefront properties just went downhill.

25 Will we have die-offs like we did in the

1 past?

2                   What future controls are we contemplating for  
3 the Asian carp? Are we going to, like, sterilize the  
4 females, the eggs or going to do something of that  
5 sort? Will private citizens - - there's private  
6 citizens here. You keep mentioning local governments.

7                   Local governments don't know beans about the  
8 water. And I'm honest about that, because they will  
9 consult me lots of times. I've been doing this for 50  
10 years. I was one of the original divers on the  
11 Mackinac Bridge while you guys were still in diapers. I  
12 had a hard hat. And you mentioned you were a scuba  
13 diver. I was one of the (inaudible) scuba divers in  
14 Michigan.

15                  Oh, boy. It's hell to get old.

16                  You mentioned federal money. Quit mentioning  
17 federal money. It's our money. We're federal.

18                  We're the money that's paying this. We're  
19 the people -- we are federal. Gentlemen, thank you,  
20 and come again, but on a different basis.

21                  MR. BLUHM: Okay. Next, Mr. Schneider,  
22 followed by Mr. Antel and then Todd Stachnik.

23                  MR. SCHNEIDER: Good afternoon, gentlemen. My  
24 name is Gabe Schneider, Schneider, 49684. I'm the  
25 regional representative for U.S. Senator Carl Levin.

1 And I'd like to make the following public comment on  
2 the senator's behalf.

3 First off, Colonel Quarles and Lieutenant  
4 Colonel DesRosier, Mr. Goss, and the rest of the Army  
5 Corps of Engineers staff, thank you very much for  
6 coming to Traverse City today. The senator appreciates  
7 your presence here.

8 Senator Levin has repeatedly urged the Army  
9 Corps of Engineers and other agencies to take effective  
10 actions to prevent the Asian carp from entering the  
11 Great Lakes. Last year he sponsored legislation that  
12 would direct the Corps to specifically speed up the  
13 hydrologic separation study portion of the project.  
14 He's also been pushing the Army Corps to fully fund  
15 this project. Senator Levin was also successful in  
16 getting legislation signed into law that would prohibit  
17 live bighead carp from being sold in interstate  
18 commerce. Senator Levin will continue to urge the Corps  
19 to take meaningful actions to stop the spread of carp,  
20 including hydrologic separations. The 7 million dollar  
21 Great Lakes fishing industry is too important for our  
22 economy and our jobs to do anything less. Thank you  
23 very much.

24 MR. BLUHM: Next Mr. Antel followed by Mr.  
25 Stachnik and then Ray Matuzak. When you're

1 ready, go ahead.

2 MR. ANTEL: My name is Ray Antel. I live in  
3 Beulah, Michigan 49617. My last name is spelled A-n-t-  
4 e-l.

5 I have a lot of appreciation for you being  
6 here.

7 It's extremely disturbing that the government  
8 is opposed to making this block between the two water  
9 basins. And a lot of my answers -- a lot of my  
10 questions have been answered in this forum. And one of  
11 the things that disturbs me is the magnitude of what's  
12 potentially taking place. We're talking about the  
13 Rocky Mountains, the Appalachian Mountains, up to the  
14 St.

15 Lawrence River, to the Atlantic Tidal Basin,  
16 in both directions. And the one comment that I would -  
17 - a couple of things I'd like to ask -- or one thing  
18 I'd like to ask is that we have electrical barriers.  
19 Periodically around here we have electrical failures.  
20 And hopefully, there's some kind of a backup system.

21 COLONEL QUARLES: Just like the generators in  
22 Iraq, sir. We have generators out there.

23 MR. ANTEL: And the energy to keep them  
24 going?

25 The other thing I was going to mention is

1 that it disturbs me that we don't have either federal  
2 jurisdiction or state jurisdiction to evaluate exotic  
3 species coming into the United States, where they can  
4 have potential harm and if there's studies to be done  
5 to do that. And then, finally, my last statement is,  
6 if anyone in the world had a desire to wreak mischief  
7 on the United States, they certainly would have access  
8 through our forests/water boundaries.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Next we'll have Mr.  
11 Stachnik, followed by Mr. Matuzak and then  
12 following him I've just got the name of Roy. So go  
13 ahead.

14 MR. STACHNIK: Thank you. Again, I want to  
15 thank everyone for being here today. It's Stachnik  
16 (pronouncing).

17 It's Polish. And I live on the second -- on  
18 the left- hand, right here where I -- it's Maple City,  
19 Michigan 49664. So

20 I'm duly -- S-t-a-c-h-n-i-k. A couple  
21 things: Mr. Bentley stole my thunder. Where's Mr.  
22 Bentley? I was on the team, and we were really good in  
23 basketball. And what my coach taught me was KISS,  
24 "keep it simple, stupid." This seems like a real good  
25 idea. And could I get everybody's hands who think we

1 should close the Chicago and O'Brien Locks as a first  
2 wave? I think that's pretty much everybody who's not  
3 employed by the federal government. So could you put  
4 that down and say, I know there's issues, I know  
5 there's lawyers, but go hire some more. Are we on the  
6 side to close them, or are we on the side to keep them  
7 open or which side is it?

8           It just seems like a real logical first step.  
9 And I'm very -- I've lived within the Sleeping Bear  
10 Dunes National Lakeshore all my life. I have seen the  
11 word "management plan" 20 times. I go to every meeting  
12 for the National Lakeshore. We've had -- this is the  
13 third one we're working on in the last 10 years, and it  
14 only started 15 years ago. I love it. It's like a  
15 glacier. Nothing gets done too quickly, so things  
16 don't really get screwed up too quickly. This one  
17 seems like a real good way to start and let you do your  
18 management plan. So that's my point.

19           Thank you, Mr. Bentley. Good luck. I hope  
20 you win.

21           MR. BLUHM: Okay. Next -- we're almost to  
22 the end. I've got three on my list yet. Ryan Matuzak,  
23 I believe, then followed by Roy, and then last on my  
24 list Howard Walker.

25           MR. MATUZAK: Thanks for coming. My name is

1 Ryan Matuzak. I'm from the Grand Traverse Area Sport  
2 Fishing Association.

3 MR. BLUHM: Can you spell your last name?

4 MR. MATUZAK: M-a-t-u-z-a-k. Out here is  
5 where we do some of our finest work with our families,  
6 our friends.

7 We would like you to understand that this  
8 group of over 500 members, I have, has no faith in you.  
9 We don't believe that you care. We don't believe that  
10 you're doing enough. I've heard a lot of people say  
11 that there is no sense of urgency, and that is exactly  
12 what we believe. I had a fairly decent statement  
13 earlier, but I think I'm going to make a few comments  
14 in regards to some of the commentary I've heard.

15 There's been some pretty great things, and  
16 there's been a few things that were questionable.

17 I heard you comment early on in the -- in the  
18 presentation about "pretty well funded." "Pretty well  
19 funded" is not good enough for us.

20 "Pretty well funded" is weak, and it's a poor  
21 choice of words for you to use in front of a group of  
22 people who would like to think that you're doing a  
23 pretty good job, which you're not. Funded?

24 What is the funding? How much money do you  
25 have? What is "pretty well funded"? We don't really

1 know what "pretty well funded" is. We've heard  
2 different numbers.

3 But for a country who has put people on the  
4 moon and done all kinds of fantastic things -- and  
5 we've got a gentleman ready for war right up on this  
6 panel, and we can't stop an invasion right in our own  
7 country. And we already know where the path is. You  
8 don't have to figure out where they're coming from in  
9 that particular spot.

10 You know that Chicago's got a problem. We'd  
11 like to see a response. We'd like to see some very,  
12 very aggressive activities, actions, a physical  
13 barrier. Who do you work for? Do you work for the  
14 people of this country, or do you work for Chicago?

15 Because the last time we took a look at this  
16 subject, it was basically Chicago versus all the other  
17 states and provinces involved in this.

18 And that's pretty -- pretty much a common  
19 sense view as far as I'm concerned. It doesn't take a  
20 lot to figure it out.

21 And the last thing is the political  
22 connection here. It's pretty hard for all of us to not  
23 see some form of political connection whether that's  
24 correct or not. And I hope it's not. But as  
25 representatives of the federal government, we're asking



1 you to put this aside and do what's right and do it now  
2 and don't wait any longer. And we thank you for coming  
3 up here and listening to us.

4 COLONEL QUARLES: I just want to respond to  
5 one point you had. Sir, I work for the United States.  
6 I am an Army soldier. For the last three years I've  
7 served this nation. I'm not political. I'm a soldier,  
8 sir. I serve the people of this great country of ours.

9 MR. MATUZAK: I do respect what you have to  
10 say and what you've done for this country. I'm not  
11 degrading you in any way, shape or form.

12 However, when we come in here and we're  
13 talking about we've been to Iraq and we're ready to  
14 fight, I want to see some fight.

15 COLONEL QUARLES: I'll show you in a minute.

16 MR. MATUZAK: I want to see some real stuff  
17 from this panel. Thank you, sir.

18 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Next -- all I've got is  
19 the first name, Roy. Is Roy here? I can't tell if  
20 this was one that started and then backed out or not.  
21 So there was a person named Roy. I've got Howard  
22 Walker. Is Mr. Walker ready? Okay. And then I just  
23 got another name added to the list.

24 [REDACTED] will be next.

25 MR. WALKER: My name is Howard Walker, and I

1 am the -- you can spell that; right? And I'm the state  
2 senator for this district. And the district runs from  
3 Traverse City up to Sault Ste. Marie. We've got the  
4 northern tip of the Lower Peninsula and the eastern tip  
5 of the Upper Peninsula in our district, arguably the  
6 most shoreline of any senator in the state, arguably  
7 the most beautiful and most valuable district in the  
8 United States. But it only goes to show how important  
9 this Asian carp invasive species are to this area.

10 First of all, I want to thank you for coming  
11 up and holding this hearing/conference for us in  
12 Traverse City. I think you can tell how important this  
13 issue is to us and our economy.

14 The first speaker was the attorney general.

15 He introduced -- or excuse me. He has filed  
16 a lawsuit, being proactive in order to get people off  
17 dead center and create the separation that we need.  
18 Today in the Michigan Senate I introduced a resolution  
19 supporting that lawsuit to indicate the legislative  
20 will of the state senate. Just as an indication of how  
21 much support we have, we probably have over a majority  
22 of senate members as cosponsors on this, both  
23 Republican and Democrat. It's not a political issue.

24 It's a Michigan issue.

25 Okay. So we have, as you can see, a

1 tremendous amount of support. And the people are  
2 behind you. They just want you to do this. They want  
3 you to take action now.

4 And that's why I'm here talking, too. I  
5 think it would be -- it's going to be bad for all of  
6 us, but, you know, you folks are doing this now and a  
7 lot of you are still in the middle of your careers. You  
8 don't want the Asian carp coming into the Great Lakes  
9 and being part of your legacy.

10 Okay? So it's real important that we take  
11 action now. And I like the analogy of a war.

12 That was a good comment. And seeing as how,  
13 you know, the Army Corps of Engineers is fighting this  
14 war, I think it's real important to get going now. So  
15 with that, I appreciate your work on this. You know  
16 how important it is. And we look forward to some  
17 action. Thanks.

18 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Okay. Next, [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED] When you're ready, go ahead.

20 [REDACTED]: Thanks a lot. I missed your  
21 program. I'm going to stay for the second one.

22 MR. BLUHM: Can I have you start with your  
23 name and --

24 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED]

25 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

1                   [REDACTED]     So what I'm asking you may have  
2 covered in your presentation, but I'm going to ask it,  
3 anyway. And this was brought about, oh, two or three  
4 years ago, when we knew about the Asian carp coming in  
5 through the Chicago River, through the docks -- or  
6 locks -- the locks -- excuse me. And my question is  
7 why wasn't it closed then? Who's holding this up?  
8 Senator Stabenow was kind enough to send me a letter  
9 saying this presentation's happening today.

10                   That's why I'm here. But who is -- who is  
11 holding this whole thing up? It's got to be politics,  
12 like somebody else mentioned before.

13                   And I just want to know the names of these  
14 individuals and why they're holding it up.

15                   MR. BLUHM: Is that all your statement?

16                   [REDACTED]: I might have more.

17                   MR. BLUHM: Okay.

18                   MR. GOSS: The lawsuit is proceeding, and  
19 therefore no federal employees can comment on the  
20 lawsuit. So you have to ask your question to the  
21 Department of Justice. I'm sorry that I cannot speak  
22 to it.

23                   [REDACTED]: I understand, but three years,  
24 maybe more, this has been happening. And I've seen  
25 enough videos on Utube where a small boat goes down a

1 river and there's thousands of fish jumping out at it.  
2 And it's pretty darn scary what's going to happen to  
3 our Great Lakes because of somebody's neglect. And I  
4 don't know who it is. And you can't comment on it. But  
5 it sure isn't right. And that's all I'm going to say.  
6 Thank you.

7 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. Just give  
8 me one second here. I'm going to -- yeah. What I'd  
9 like to ask at this point, we've heard from all the  
10 people that have registered and asked if they could  
11 make comments for us.

12 And with that now I'll open the floor to any  
13 additional comments, questions, if you'd mind.

14 Please again use the microphone, start with  
15 your name and then ask any questions or comments that  
16 you have.

17 MR. KEYES: I just have one question. Gary  
18 Keyes, 49621. And I'll give you this. This seems --  
19 this seems very, very simple to me.

20 Since these fish jump out of the water at the  
21 noise of a boat going by, why is it that you totally  
22 ignored any possible abatement using strategic -- in  
23 other words, I worked with a guy that was in the Navy  
24 who was a retired admiral, and he worked in submarines.  
25 Okay?

1           And his job was to abate the noise in the  
2 submarines so people could sleep. Pretty simple. But  
3 he taught me that if I took a frequency series of  
4 microphones and without creating high decibels that I  
5 could have, based upon a motion detector, a guy opening  
6 the back door of a shopping center, I could almost  
7 drive him deaf and knock him down and make him run the  
8 other way using frequencies but still being within the  
9 noise pollution code of the City of Traverse City. And  
10 he was teaching me these things.

11           Okay? Now, my thought -- and I've studied  
12 this for years and years and years, which is why I  
13 helped write the noise pollution code for the City of

14           Traverse City. My thought is this: Why  
15 wouldn't you first initially put a series of  
16 strategically oriented underwater microphones -- or  
17 underwater speakers pointing at whatever area to drive  
18 the fish away and make them jump out of the water like  
19 heck? That's just a question.

20           COLONEL QUARLES: Okay. I work with the Navy  
21 just a little bit, too. And let me tell you the idea  
22 you have we already thought of. And you talk about  
23 action. We have studied the technology in terms of  
24 noise, light -- you know, sound, light and bubbles. So  
25 if you go to my website and you look at efficacy

1 reports, look at wind call, Efficacy Report 3, and you  
2 will find this technology and a recommendation that  
3 we've ordered through our headquarters such a  
4 technology already done.

5 MR. KEYES: Okay. But please contact  
6 Professor Eric Zwerling of Rutgers University National  
7 Noise Abatement Center; Professor Zwerling of Rutgers  
8 University National Noise Abatement Center.

9 COLONEL QUARLES: Okay. Now, just -- you  
10 know, we completed the study. It's been reported to  
11 our headquarters. But everything can we do requires the  
12 authority to implement and then the appropriations. So  
13 we've done the work of the - - the tool, and now the  
14 report is there for consideration.

15 MR. KEYES: But what I'm saying is let's say  
16 we have a flood. Okay? We have a flood. Now we bring  
17 in a bunch of air boats. Okay. What we do is we drop  
18 a bunch of speakers in the water during the flood and  
19 drive the fish away so the fish don't go past the  
20 flooded area. Okay?

21 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Very good. Next, I see a  
22 hand here and then over there. So go ahead, sir.

23 MR. MATYCH: Tom Matych, Matych, Twin Lake,  
24 Michigan 49457. First, I would like to say I wasn't  
25 trying to cut that guy off earlier. He was asking

1 questions about the USSG map and he was trying to  
2 explain the other map.

3 MR. BLUHM: I got it.

4 MR. MATYCH: And they weren't communicating.  
5 So I was just trying to shorten this up, because we're  
6 confusing each other.

7 MR. BLUHM: Right.

8 MR. MATYCH: But there is -- I have had  
9 several reports of funny looking fish in Muskegon Lake,  
10 two reports of them caught upriver below Croton.

11 One guy in the Boston Bay Marina watched a  
12 giant one -- he said he could put a softball in its  
13 mouth and it had weird eyes -- feeding for about an  
14 hour and a half next to his sailboat. And I showed him  
15 the watch list from the fish and wildlife, and he  
16 identified a big head carp.

17 And one thing people have to understand is  
18 silver carps fly. And I've been there -- I've been  
19 almost killed by one. It knocked me -- it knocked me  
20 to my knees. It might have killed a lesser man, but it  
21 probably seriously could have killed a small child as  
22 hard as I got hit. But please understand the big head  
23 carp don't jump.

24 They could be swimming out here right now.  
25 And they don't bite a hook as well. And if you look at



1 most of the infestations -- I'm just making an educated  
2 guess -- about 90-some percent of the first ones found  
3 is the big head carp. I don't know if it's 'cause  
4 they're bigger and they go after more food or range out  
5 first, who knows. But studies I've read and the  
6 different things they very well could be out here right  
7 now, and you wouldn't see it. So just so you know.

8 But, yeah, there's been -- weird sightings.

9 There was two sightings of two fish feeding  
10 behind a log cabin on North Branch of the Muskegon  
11 River, above the surface, and I've seen them do that,  
12 you know, because they eat that fibrous algae that  
13 comes off the logs. Anything else will get behind --  
14 they get out of the current. But I just wanted to say  
15 I wasn't trying to cut that guy off. It's just they  
16 weren't on the same page. And thank you for all your  
17 effort. And I can make you look good.

18 Give me my permits; I'll make you look good.

19 COLONEL QUARLES: I hear you.

20 MR. BLUHM: Okay. One right here and then a  
21 question right there. So go ahead when you're ready.

22 MS. BAUMANN: My name is Cheryl Baumann, and  
23 I think I have that spelled right. I listened to you,  
24 sir, the man in the military, saying that you produced  
25 some reports and they're on somebody's desk and you're

1 waiting for approval to implement some of these things.

2 Is that correct?

3 COLONEL QUARLES: Yes.

4 MS. BAUMANN: I'm wondering what desk -- I  
5 mean, are they from the United States as well? Do they  
6 realize how important this is?

7 COLONEL QUARLES: Yes.

8 MS. BAUMANN: Like with you?

9 COLONEL QUARLES: Yes.

10 MS. BAUMANN: So my question is what's taking  
11 them so long for implementation of at least something.  
12 Try it; if it doesn't work, then go on to something  
13 else. But it's like it's a stagnant thing, and  
14 meanwhile they're coming into Michigan. They're going  
15 to go from Michigan to the next lake, and before you  
16 know it, all your funding, all your time, all your  
17 money spent will be for nothing.

18 COLONEL QUARLES: Well, I hope you stay long  
19 enough for us to at least have a chance to tell you  
20 about what we are doing now as we pursue the GLMRIS  
21 Study.

22 MS. BAUMANN: Okay.

23 COLONEL QUARLES: So we can speak to at least  
24 of the things that -- we recognize the sense of urgency  
25 that's needed. I don't want to take away from others.

1 So I just hope you stay long enough so I get a chance  
2 to talk.

3 MS. BAUMANN: Okay. And one more thing:  
4 Until something is implemented, whatever, why can't the  
5 locks be closed? Nobody tells you why they can't be  
6 closed?

7 COLONEL QUARLES: As Mr. Goss has already  
8 said, I can't speak to a pending lawsuit.

9 MS. BAUMANN: Oh.

10 COLONEL QUARLES: But what I can tell you, if  
11 you look within some of the Corps -- as I mentioned,  
12 just go to our site, Efficacy Report 3. We did do --  
13 and we have published a report that speaks to the  
14 efficacy of using existing structures within the  
15 waterway. And within that report you will see the --  
16 not just the Corps of Engineers.

17 We partner with other agencies that  
18 understand fish behavior, and we came up with at least  
19 the benefit you may get by using existing structures  
20 such as locks. And we've already started using locks  
21 like the O'Brien. Last year we were able to go in --  
22 the state DNR asked us to use the lock so they could  
23 use rotenone. So there's some things that I want you  
24 to know. If you look within that report, you will see  
25 the actions that we're taking now, not tomorrow, to use

1 all the tools in the box -- that are in the box to  
2 address the Asian carp situation.

3 MS. BAUMANN: Okay. One more thing. In your  
4 opinion, what has to be done to end this mess?

5 COLONEL QUARLES: In my opinion, the things  
6 that need to be done is what's happening right now.

7 We need to bring all of these agencies  
8 together.

9 I'm an engineer. I understand structures.  
10 You have other agencies. Their core competencies are  
11 fish behavior. Mr. Goss -- we have a framework now  
12 that are better at integrating the agencies' core  
13 competencies so that we have -- we have multiple  
14 agencies. We're out in the public making sure that we  
15 are using you as a resource as we combat the problem.  
16 So by us all working together; the local, the state,  
17 the national level; for a common goal, that is how we  
18 best can address the problem.

19 MS. BAUMANN: Okay. So closing the locks  
20 doesn't answer the problem of --

21 COLONEL QUARLES: I cannot speak to that one  
22 thing, though. I really wish I could, but I can't.

23 MS. BAUMANN: Okay. Thank you.

24 MR. BLUHM: All right. Next, I saw a hand  
25 here and then back here. Just watching the time, it's

1 4:52. I want to make sure we're mindful of everybody's  
2 time. So go ahead. Thank you.

3 MS. WILLIAMS: My name is Nancy Williams. I'm  
4 an educator and citizen. And zip code 49346. I have  
5 brought a couple of students with me today.

6 And my purpose in doing that was to see how  
7 this process works. These are students who are  
8 interested in science. And part of what I wanted them  
9 to see was the give and take, the disagreement that can  
10 be done in a civilized manner. And I appreciate so  
11 much what everyone here in the audience as well as  
12 everyone up there is doing and has done to try to  
13 protect.

14 I think we're really all on the same side.

15 But one of the things that I really wanted to  
16 impress on these students is the constraints that we  
17 all have to live within. And so my question is could  
18 you briefly address for us - - this goes so much more  
19 beyond what any of us as an individual can say. I  
20 mean, I've been a Michiganiaan my whole life. I love  
21 Michigan. I hate the idea of these carp coming in and  
22 destroying what we hold so dear. But at the same time  
23 what I want to hear from you is just a brief  
24 description of all of the other constraints beyond the  
25 political, beyond the lawyers, the things that have to

1 be taken into consideration in a project this huge.

2 I know that there are different groups vying  
3 and the reason that the lawsuit and the things that are  
4 happening in Chicago are happening.

5 Everyone has a purpose, but all of us have to  
6 work within constraints. So if you could just briefly  
7 speak a little bit to that, I really want them to  
8 understand that as well as the rest of it.

9 COLONEL QUARLES: Yes, ma'am. From the point  
10 of view of the Corps of Engineers, the one thing that  
11 we must do that others do not have to do, we have to  
12 make sure that we present not only an engineer's  
13 solution, we must do so considering the full impacts of  
14 any alternative that we recommend. And so you look at  
15 the constraint; the waterway's only so big, how water  
16 will flow downhill, it will go somewhere. So we must  
17 understand the waterway system as it is and then model  
18 future conditions for any alternative we recommend. We  
19 will study separation. Not only will we look at how we  
20 would separate. We must then present the impacts of  
21 that separation at different locations. And so we will  
22 run a series of different models that show, if you  
23 separate here, what will be the impacts, if you  
24 separate here, what will be the impacts.

25 We must also look and say, "What other

1 alternatives are there?" and then, "What's the impacts  
2 of those?" And then we will then weigh or analyze them  
3 for not just hydrology. We will look at navigational  
4 impacts and do all those things -- will lead then to an  
5 engineer's solution, with the full consideration of  
6 impacts.

7           And what I want your students to understand  
8 is that is what we must do by law. We must come up  
9 with an -- with an engineer's solution that is reviewed  
10 by other agencies or other engineers to make sure it's  
11 sound and meet our laws and our policies. Another  
12 thing I want to do is --

13           I was so happy I saw them here today. I  
14 would like them to take away one of my (inaudible).

15           And all this is is serving our nation.

16           MR. BLUHM: Okay. A hand back here, and then  
17 I see one -- well, actually -- so let's go right here,  
18 then.

19           MR. LOWE: Good afternoon. My name is Scott  
20 Lowe, L-o-w-e. And I'm a lifelong resident of the  
21 Great Lakes.

22           I've been -- grew up in Marquette and lived  
23 here in Traverse City for the last 25 years. And I  
24 just wanted to, number one, thank you for coming up. I  
25 know that it's your job, but I see you make the effort.

1 The observation I wanted to make is I know and everyone  
2 else here knows, and I think you all know, that the  
3 solution here to close the locks. And just by watching  
4 your response to that and kind of -- I don't want to  
5 say hide behind the lawsuit, but I think you guys are  
6 all embarrassed that you have to make that your  
7 response.

8 COLONEL QUARLES: No, I mean, right now I'm  
9 doing a study that does not have a predetermined  
10 alternative. We will use the process, make sure that  
11 we understand the condition and then offer a solution.  
12 We will not have a predetermined solution.

13 MR. LOWE: Well, it's been predetermined, I  
14 think, by everybody here and everybody that's been  
15 paying attention to this thing the one tool that isn't  
16 in your toolbox and the one tool that could solve the  
17 problem you can't talk about, unfortunately.

18 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

19 MR. GOSS: And I'll just respond that we are  
20 noting the comments of everyone, and we will be sharing  
21 those with all the people on our team from each of  
22 these meetings. So, yes, we hear you. Sorry, cannot  
23 comment on that specific question. But we're talking  
24 about the whole picture and just trying to help educate  
25 everybody on how many different, you know, ways this



1 has to be analyzed and come up with the right permanent  
2 solution. So that's the directive to the Corps of  
3 Engineers, to come up with the appropriate, long-term  
4 separation to stop all invasive species from moving  
5 from the rivers to the lakes, from the lakes to the  
6 rivers. And that is a complex project.

7 There's no silver bullet for that solution.

8 MR. BLUHM: I've got a couple hands over  
9 here.

10 I'd like to see at this point in time --  
11 we've only got a couple minutes left for the first  
12 session. How many other people would like to say  
13 something in this session yet? Can I see a show of  
14 hands? Okay. I've got a gentleman here in the blue  
15 that hasn't been up yet. So can I start with you?

16 And then I've got two in the front row here.

17 MR. SMITS: My name is Jan Smits, S-m-i-t-s.

18 I've been a lifetime resident of this area. I  
19 have property on the -- in the Lake Saint Clare area. I  
20 think I have a super solution to all your problems.  
21 Just stop right now. Start all over again, and you  
22 bring in some brains and come up with a simple  
23 solution. And I think all those millions and millions  
24 and millions of dollars that you've spent, so help me,  
25 you can get a company with a quick solution to the

1 whole thing. So good luck. Thank you.

2 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. And then let's take  
3 this question here. And then we'll go to you next,  
4 sir. Thank you.

5 (Off the record interruption)

6 MR. BLUHM: Go ahead.

7 MS. BAUMANN: Okay. I just have another kind  
8 of comment that I need to share. I'm not --

9 MR. BLUHM: Could we get your name again?

10 MS. BAUMANN: I'm Cheryl Baumann. I'm not  
11 going to debate whether or not you're working as hard  
12 as you could or you're not working as hard as you  
13 could. That seems to be beside the point at this  
14 point. My feeling is we -- we're going to be spending  
15 a lot of money. We're probably not going to get  
16 anything done soon. And this is a messy issue, just  
17 reeks of big government, and I feel sorry for us all.  
18 Thank you.

19 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Okay. Well, it's --  
20 oh, go ahead.

21 MS. BUSHEY: Betty Bushey, 49684. I'm  
22 curious.

23 The meetings that you've already been to, are  
24 you getting these kinds of comments at those meetings  
25 that you have already been to? I'm just curious. You

1 said you were taking our questions and our concerns  
2 back to the people that you work with, back to your  
3 team. And it seems like we've had a lot of concern  
4 here.

5 This is the biggest meeting that you've been  
6 to so far. So what have you heard prior to this?

7 MR. WETHINGTON: Sure. And I'll be more than  
8 happy to answer that. And I don't want to spend a  
9 whole lot of time on it, because I also want to -- all  
10 right. A couple things that we have heard really are  
11 an urge to address hydrologic separation, which is the  
12 good news story, because that is what we intend to do  
13 with the study. But we have heard that -- the common  
14 theme is that the Corps of Engineers was taking too  
15 long. And what I hope we've done in going through kind  
16 of my presentation and the other presentations is  
17 outline what we need to do.

18 But Colonel Quarles said in terms of how we  
19 are -- and another person earlier today said, you know,  
20 "don't call it the federal money, it's our money." And  
21 we are stewards of the taxpayers' dollars, so we must  
22 remain unbiased in how we move forward and how we  
23 present these potential options or technologies. So  
24 although other private agencies may be able to  
25 predetermine a solution, such as hydrologic separation,

1 and that may be the solution advocated among certain  
2 interests, there are probably other folks -- or there  
3 may be other folks who are just as passionate about  
4 some other livelihood and who would say hydrologic  
5 separation is not the issue, "it's this."

6 And so we, as the Corps of Engineers of the  
7 federal government, must remain unbiased in our ability  
8 to look at all the potential solutions, the control  
9 technologies that could be implemented toward  
10 addressing this. So, you know, we've heard about  
11 hydrologic separation.

12 We've heard about the speed. And we've heard  
13 about -- oh, the other thing was the question I just  
14 spoke to earlier in my presentation -- was the risk  
15 reduction versus 100 percent prevention.

16 And I do want to put on the record again we  
17 are looking at methods, options, control technologies  
18 that will prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance  
19 species. The idea of risk reduction was to make sure  
20 we incorporate or we include a wide variety of  
21 potential technologies that they by themselves may not  
22 provide 100 percent prevention but will lead us --  
23 potentially help guide us toward that final prevention  
24 solution. Thank you.

25 MR. BLUHM: Okay. What I'd like to say at

1 this point is, if you look around the room -- we've  
2 been going at this for several hours now. We started  
3 with a crowd well in excess of 150, and we've whittled  
4 you down a little bit.

5 We've heard from some 25 people, some more  
6 than once. And we've had a great discussion. I'd like  
7 to ask if it's okay with everybody here that we adjourn  
8 this meeting, continue our discussions in the hallway  
9 with any of the Corps members or the members of the  
10 public yourselves and note that we're going to start  
11 the identical presentation again here at 5:30 sharp.  
12 And we'll make sure that we continue this discussion  
13 with that. So if -- if that's agreeable with  
14 everybody, I'd like to take this time to adjourn the  
15 meeting at 5:05 and let you know that we'll be starting  
16 again in 25 minutes. If you have any additional  
17 materials you need, please retrieve any from the back.

18 (Off the record at 5:05 p.m.)

19 (Beginning of second session at 5:41  
20 p.m.)

21 MR. BLUHM: Good evening, ladies and  
22 gentlemen and welcome to our meeting for the Great  
23 Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study, otherwise  
24 known as the GLMRIS Study. This is our NEPA Public  
25 Scoping Meeting. My name is Kevin Bluhm. I'll be the

1 moderator for tonight's session and are -- welcome that  
2 you all are here with us here this evening. Before we  
3 begin, just some logistical things. If you've got a  
4 cell phone with you, I'd ask if you could put that into  
5 a silent or turn-it-off mode. That would be nice to  
6 help with our continuity for the meeting.

7           And if you're not familiar with the facility,  
8 restrooms are located just out the hallway and down the  
9 corridor. Feel to excuse yourself at any time if you  
10 need to leave for any personal reasons. When you  
11 arrived -- we have a packet of materials that we want  
12 to make sure we leave you with, and I'll go through  
13 those right now.

14           The green half sheet is an agenda, and then  
15 we've got some background material. We've run out of  
16 the thick background packet. If you want more  
17 background material, we can ask that either, A, you  
18 leave your name with us and an address so we can mail  
19 that to you. Otherwise, all of this information is  
20 also on our website as well, and you'll learn more  
21 about that in the actual presentation.

22           The half sheet of white paper is the  
23 important piece for this phase of the study. This is  
24 our common sheet, and this is a tool that you can use  
25 to either work on tonight or take with you throughout

1 our comment period.

2           It's designed to give information as well as  
3 room to write comments on the center and on the back  
4 flap, that you have for us during our comment period.  
5 Keep that in mind as we go along.

6           If you would like to make a statement to the  
7 crowd and to the panel tonight, the yellow form is the  
8 tool to use for that. We ask that you fill that out  
9 and leave that with the registration table out front.  
10 We've also got a purple-colored sheet that has  
11 frequently asked questions on it. I can answer a few  
12 questions that you may have for us.

13           The salmon-colored sheet of paper here talks  
14 about other pathways, other efforts that are going on,  
15 and you'll hear more about that as well in our  
16 presentation. The blue sheet of paper is a device to  
17 help if you want to submit a packet of materials or any  
18 type of printed material for us.

19           If you can accompany any materials you're  
20 submitting, this will help make sure that we have  
21 proper documentation for that.

22           And then, lastly, the packet here shows all  
23 the slides that we're going to be going through.

24           Our slide presentation is going to take just  
25 about an hour to go through all the different slides

1 and information that we have.

2           And for any of you that are going to speak  
3 with us tonight, if you preregistered on the project  
4 website to give an oral comment but have not checked in  
5 yet at our registration table, we'd ask that you go to  
6 the lobby and check in. And if you want to make an  
7 oral comment but have not registered on the website or  
8 have not registered yet, there's still time to do that.  
9 You can either go to the lobby or wait until we open  
10 the floor and make your comments then.

11           Our GLMRIS team has organized this public  
12 meeting to accomplish two goals. Our first goal is to  
13 present information about the study, and the second,  
14 the most important part of our meeting, is to solicit  
15 your comments on the significant issues that should be  
16 included in GLMRIS and on the insignificant issues that  
17 can be eliminated from further study. The Corps is  
18 hosting 12 public meetings throughout the study area in  
19 an effort to provide opportunities for those interested  
20 in the study and to learn more about the study and  
21 then, also, to prevent -- or to provide your oral  
22 comments. Please note that, because this is a NEPA  
23 Scoping Public Meeting, our period for comments closes  
24 on March the 31st, 2011. So we've got a little bit of  
25 time, but make sure that we understand that March 31st



1 is the deadline for all comments.

2           As indicated in the agenda, this public  
3 meeting is organized in two sessions. We had an  
4 identical session that started this afternoon at 2:00  
5 o'clock and then this session now starting at 5:30. Our  
6 staff will be available after the meeting for any  
7 comments or questions that you have if you'd like to  
8 off line. And feel free either at the front of meeting  
9 room here or out in the lobby to talk with them.

10           Just please note any informal conversations  
11 you have with the staff or panelists will not be  
12 recorded as part of the comment period or part of the  
13 hearing. So if what you have to say is important  
14 enough to you, we would encourage that you take the  
15 time to either write those comments down, use one of  
16 the computers in the back or to use the microphone  
17 during the session so that those can be added as part  
18 of the NEPA documentation.

19           At this time I'm going to introduce the  
20 panelists, if I find where my sheet went. I hid it.  
21 Okay. And right to my right-hand side here, Mr. John  
22 Goss. He's the Asian carp director on the White House  
23 Council of Environmental Quality. Sitting next to him,  
24 Colonel Vincent Quarles, Commander -- Commander of the  
25 Chicago District U.S. Corps of Engineers.

1           Third on the table here, Dave Wethington. He  
2 is our project manager for the GLMRIS effort. And last  
3 on the table, Mr. Mike Saffran. He's the Other  
4 Pathways Project manager. And you'll hear more about  
5 that. And then, also, we are in the Detroit District  
6 area for the Corps of Engineers and want to note that  
7 our hosting district -- from the Detroit District,  
8 Lieutenant Commander Mike DeRosier is the commander  
9 here. And thank you for allowing us --

10           MR. DeROSIER: Thanks for all attending  
11 tonight.

12           MR. BLUHM: I appreciate the beautiful  
13 setting and the light snowfall we had makes it very,  
14 very picturesque.

15           And I was told that this happens -- what? --  
16 for a couple months up here or six months -- five  
17 months -- okay -- five months. Okay. So quite a long  
18 time. Well, it is very, very scenic and beautiful.  
19 I'll tell you, when I flew in here, I was just amazed  
20 and stunned at the sheer beauty.

21           So, again, my name is Kevin Bluhm. I'm the  
22 moderator for the meeting. And I'm from the St.

23           Paul District Office.

24           And I'm just enjoying the chance to do these  
25 meetings and the chance to see and hear from all you

1 folks. With that said, I'm going to turn the floor  
2 over to Mr. Goss and talk a little bit about the Asian  
3 carp control update. Mr. Goss?

4 MR. GOSS: Thanks all of you for coming out  
5 on a winter evening to share your thinking and your  
6 feelings about some very serious challenges that we're  
7 facing here in the Great Lakes. We certainly know that  
8 there's an urgent need to deal with the Asian carp. If  
9 that doesn't come through in all of our comments, I  
10 want to start out by saying we know that it's very  
11 important to the people in this community and State of  
12 Michigan and around the Great Lakes that we come up  
13 with a way to permanently stop Asian carp from getting  
14 into the Great Lakes before they get established. And  
15 it is a unique opportunity that we have to stop an  
16 invasive species before it gets established. With most  
17 of them we've been chasing them and had very -- very  
18 limited success in dealing with them once they're  
19 established. So we do understand that.

20 I just want to give you just a little  
21 background on the status of the Asian carp situation  
22 and then the other team members here from the Corps of  
23 Engineers are going to explain to you how we're moving  
24 forward to come up with a permanent solution to making  
25 sure that we find a way to stop invasive species --

1 aquatic invasive species from moving from the lakes to  
2 the rivers, from the rivers to the lakes.

3 I am the coordinator of the resources, and my  
4 position is I'm the Asian carp Director for White House  
5 Council on Environmental Quality So this issue has  
6 risen up to the level of White House attention.

7 I was hired last fall to put together a  
8 coordinated effort. There have been good efforts from  
9 the agencies in the past. But to do an even better job  
10 and to reach out to all of the groups that have an  
11 interest in this issue and make sure that the  
12 communication is good, make sure that we are listening  
13 to people like yourselves who have come out tonight.  
14 Most recently I came from the Indiana Wildlife  
15 Federation. So for the past five years I've been  
16 working on Great Lakes issues from that point of view  
17 as an advocate for Great Lakes Restoration, Great Lakes  
18 Compact, funding the carp barrier and so forth. So I  
19 have been active myself.

20 Prior to that, I was the Indiana Director of  
21 the Department of Natural Resources. So I have worked  
22 with fisheries biologists and water specialists in  
23 Indiana and have some background on that. And I'm also  
24 a fisherman. So I personally am very concerned about  
25 what's happening with Asian carp in our rivers. We

1 already have a significant population of Asian carp  
2 that have moved up the Mississippi and its tributaries,  
3 the Ohio River system. In Indiana, if you're familiar  
4 with the State of Indiana at all, we have established  
5 carp populations all the way up to Fort Wayne and the  
6 Wabash River and two-thirds the way up the White River,  
7 which is our other major system on the southern and  
8 central part of the state. So my favorite fishing  
9 streams are already threatened by the carp population,  
10 and this is a serious problem.

11           The solutions -- the management tools that  
12 we're developing with this project hopefully will help  
13 us push that population back in our river systems and  
14 be able to protect our native fish populations in the  
15 future. So there's a large investment here coming up  
16 with those solutions.

17           I'm sure most of you've seen the videos and  
18 the pictures of silver carp jumping. Certainly, that  
19 grabbed the attention across the country this past  
20 year. We do have -- we do have a window of opportunity  
21 because of this crazy fish. This has -- this has  
22 really gotten a lot more people than just the people  
23 who live near the lakes or just the people who  
24 typically worry about invasive species. It's pretty  
25 much coffee shop conversation, that, "Wow, something

1 needs to be done to stop these crazy Asian carp."

2           So I'm here to say the Obama administration  
3 is taking it seriously. We have an aggressive and  
4 unprecedented and coordinated effort to put together an  
5 approach that will defeat the Asian carp. We haven't  
6 had great luck with other species, as I mentioned  
7 earlier, and we're still spending large amounts of  
8 money, up to 15 million dollars a year to try to manage  
9 the sea lamprey population in the Great Lakes. We do  
10 not want to repeat that. These Asian carp are very  
11 voracious eaters and prolific breeders, and they are  
12 capable of crowding out our native fish populations if  
13 they get here. We know that they are serious.

14           So about a year ago the federal agencies  
15 involved put together an organized effort, which is  
16 called the Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework. And  
17 it's my job to execute this strategy. The commitment  
18 originally was 78 million dollars. And this structure  
19 now is a combination of federal agencies, which you can  
20 see listed on the left-hand side of that center block.  
21 Certainly, the Army Corps of Engineers is a very key  
22 player with their -- their responsibilities for  
23 navigation and for some of the significant water bodies  
24 that they're with.

25           Also, the EPA is very much in the middle of

1 it with the Great Lakes Restoration funding, the  
2 U.S.

3 Geological Survey. Scientists are helping  
4 with research and development. The Coast Guard is  
5 doing a great job of helping us manage both commercial  
6 and recreational boating in the Chicago area. And this  
7 is -- this is now a great, well- coordinated effort.

8 Last fall Governor Granholm and other  
9 governors requested -- suggested that the states be  
10 added to this team. So now we have each state also  
11 with representatives on this management team, including  
12 Michigan, and that is a significant improvement. From  
13 my -- I'm a retired public employee in Indiana, and I  
14 think a lot of the DNR people all across the Great  
15 Lakes. And I think adding them to this team has really  
16 increased the expertise level and given us a lot more  
17 clout in each state, because we're using the expertise  
18 that we have there.

19 There's also a way that other organizations  
20 that are not on that management committee can be  
21 involved. We're calling this the Technical and Policy  
22 Group. And if any of your organizations would like to  
23 be connected with that, you can speak to us later. But  
24 this is, again, going to be an ongoing communication  
25 form for input from academics and other organizations

1 that are very much involved in this issue.

2 I want to give you just a little bit of  
3 background about the key area that we'll be referring  
4 to a lot in the rest of the presentation. This is in  
5 Chicago. And if you look in the center of the blue  
6 area there on the right, you'll see a red dot. So  
7 that's your first point of reference. That is Navy  
8 Pier and the lock that is at the mouth of the Chicago  
9 River right there next to the Navy Pier. And then  
10 working back from that, you can see the Chicago River  
11 going north and the Chicago River going south and then  
12 heading down where it actually becomes then the Chicago  
13 Ship Canal and the connection with the Indiana streams  
14 of the Little Cal and the Grand Calumet.

15 In that area in the center the Des Plaines  
16 River runs parallel. And, really, you could throw a  
17 rock from the Des Plaines to the Chicago Ship Canal  
18 most of the distance down through there.

19 And one of the things that's been improved in  
20 the situation, just in the last few months, is we now  
21 have a fish barrier for 13 miles of that area, where  
22 they're parallel, because that area is above the  
23 electrical barriers. So that is an area now that we  
24 will not have flood waters carry Asian carp from the  
25 Des Plaines River, where they are established, over



1 into the Ship Canal and getting out into the lake.

2 So I want to thank the Corps of Engineers for  
3 moving swiftly on that. They identified the problem,  
4 put the funding together, completed the project ahead  
5 of schedule and under budget by a couple million bucks.  
6 So that's these guys right here (indicating). That's  
7 these guys right here.

8 The electrical barrier is the other thing  
9 that I know you've heard about in the past. From my  
10 days in Indiana government, we were all convinced we  
11 needed an electrical barrier to keep the gobies from  
12 coming out of the lake and getting the river systems.  
13 So originally the electrical barrier was designed to  
14 keep lake species out of the rest of our rivers. That  
15 barrier was a lower power one.

16 Now we have three barriers. There are two  
17 more highly powered electrical barriers that create  
18 electrical fields that fish cannot swim through.

19 They are shocked and they float back. So that  
20 is the main point where we're holding the Asian carp  
21 down the Illinois River.

22 Now, south of that those other dots going on  
23 down on the Illinois River is where we have an  
24 established and thriving population of Asian carp. So  
25 one of the other focuses is to reduce that population.

1 We're going to do questions later. See the -- see the  
2 star. Okay. So down river from the star -- so down  
3 toward the bottom. Okay.

4 So we have a third electrical barrier that's  
5 just been completed and turned on. So we have a  
6 redundant electrical blockage in the Ship Canal.

7 And you have questions later, Colonel Quarles  
8 has built that barrier, and he can tell you everything  
9 about it. Also, we have some very aggressive  
10 monitoring going on between the barriers, the star, and  
11 Lake Michigan. And by monitoring, I'm including water  
12 sampling every week, 120 samples, that go to the lab to  
13 check for traces of Asian carp.

14 Also electrofishing, if you're familiar at  
15 all with how DNR does an assessment of the fish  
16 population in a given lake or given stream, they put  
17 electrodes in the water. It temporarily stuns the  
18 fish. They pull it up.

19 They net them. They identify them, size them  
20 and so forth.

21 This fall in that area between the barrier  
22 and Lake Michigan 10,000 fish have been electroshocked,  
23 netted and identified by these professional biologists,  
24 and there has not been one Asian carp in those fish  
25 that have been shocked and brought to the surface. So

1 we do not believe we have an established Asian carp  
2 population in the area between the barriers and the  
3 Great Lakes. We are not finding them.

4 Another area that got some immediate  
5 attention this year -- and Mike Saffran will give you  
6 the details, but it's in my home state of Indiana.

7 Excuse me. In the Wabash River the  
8 established carp population is up to the Roush  
9 Reservoir Dam. And that's a high dam, and they're not  
10 going to cross that. But there's a tribu- -- a small  
11 tributary.

12 The Little Wabash comes in there, and that  
13 goes up to Eagle Marsh, which is just south of the City  
14 of Fort Wayne. Eagle Marsh is a floodplain, wetland  
15 area, and water does move from the Wabash to the Maumee  
16 and from the Maumee to the Wabash through that  
17 floodplain. That was identified last summer, and very  
18 quickly the Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
19 determined that they needed to block Asian carp  
20 movement there, so they have constructed a fish fence  
21 also in that marsh to make sure they're not going to  
22 cross over and get into Lake Erie.

23 We know they're close again. We don't want  
24 them to go into Lake Erie, and so we've got a temporary  
25 block while we work on a permanent solution there.

1           But, once again, that was identified, the  
2 action was taken very quickly. So thanks to the Corps  
3 and Indiana DNR.

4           Likewise, across the basin there was a quick  
5 analysis last summer that identified other points where  
6 during flood stages there could be some water crossing  
7 between the lakes -- between the lakes and the rivers.  
8 So those spots are identified with the numbers. Again,  
9 Mike will talk about it in a minute. But I see this as  
10 a significant accomplishment this summer that that risk  
11 assessment was -- was completed. Now we're ready to do  
12 further analysis to determine if actions need to be  
13 taken at each of those locations.

14           Also, continuing to harvest Asian carp below  
15 the barrier, commercial fishing took out several  
16 hundred thousand pounds of commercial fish, Asian carp  
17 below the barrier area. The goal for 2011 is a million  
18 pounds. And Illinois is gearing up training and  
19 helping commercial fisherman get prepared to reduce  
20 that population even further in the Illinois River.

21           The next thing I want to mention is what  
22 we're doing moving forward. We need to do more  
23 research on the eDNA process. Right now we really just  
24 know that it's a trace. A trace means that so far we  
25 just don't know if it's one fish or one fish swimming

1 around in several areas, multiple fish or a  
2 concentration of fish, how recently they might have  
3 been there, is it a live fish, is it fish scales from  
4 dead fish.

5           There are a lot of question marks. So when  
6 you hear that there's been an eDNA finding, we really  
7 don't know exactly what that means. So we're going to  
8 put over a million bucks into further research projects  
9 this year to try to further define what eDNA means so  
10 that we can use it as an early warning system, early  
11 detection system, and we will be using that around the  
12 other areas of the Great Lakes. In the Michigan waters  
13 some tests have already been run. In your tributaries  
14 from Lake Michigan that -- those will go on this next  
15 year around Lake Erie. And in Indiana waters we're  
16 going to continue to use eDNA to make sure that they're  
17 not moving towards the lakes or getting established  
18 anywhere.

19           Also, there's going to be a new DNA lab  
20 established in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, with Fish and  
21 Wildlife Service. That will be fully outfitted. And  
22 we're going to have another focus there to base our  
23 research from.

24           I'm going to move quickly. I want to talk  
25 about just a few other projects on the research side.

1           Looking for ways to do reproductive  
2 interference, sea lamprey, after many years of research  
3 they came up with ways to reduce their reproduction.  
4 And certainly, that's one possible way that the carp  
5 population can be reduced.

6           Also looking at their digestive systems,  
7 anything that we might do to their food sources that  
8 would interrupt their food processing.

9           And working on a hydro gun, which has been  
10 used around electric power plants in the past to deter  
11 fish away from intakes for water treatment and for  
12 power plants. And they certainly do deter. And we  
13 think maybe we can use them to herd the carp in the  
14 Ship Canal and maybe move them towards NADS (phonetic),  
15 move them to areas where they can be eradicated. So  
16 that's a continuing research project. I already talked  
17 about the barrier. I just want you to see that they're  
18 in close proximity and it does show the width there,  
19 130 feet of electrical power on each of those, 2A and  
20 2B, that are the main -- main ways that we're keeping  
21 the carp out of the Ship Canal and moving north.

22           I think I'm going to cut it short and just  
23 wrap up. I just want to say in conclusion that we have  
24 barriers in place that are running, and I believe that  
25 they're strong at this point.

1           We're proactively addressing all the other  
2 possible pathways, which we're going to be talking  
3 about a little bit more. That's where the -- the study  
4 on what to do with those. And we're working in an  
5 unprecedented way as a team; the federal agencies, the  
6 state agencies, local communities; to make sure that we  
7 are using all the tools that we can, that we are moving  
8 as swiftly as we can if we get any new information and  
9 that we are determined to prevent the spread of Asian  
10 carp into the Great Lakes. We must protect our Great  
11 Lakes ecosystem, and we certainly must stop this newest  
12 invasive specie.

13           So thank you and look forward to interaction  
14 later with questions. So thank you.

15           COLONEL QUARLES: Mr. Goss, I want to -- I  
16 want to thank you for supporting all of our GLMRIS  
17 meetings. As I have the opportunity, ladies and  
18 gentlemen, to speak to you tonight, you know, it's  
19 really amazing to me that in each session we've had a  
20 young person. So, sir, I want to thank you for coming  
21 tonight. Because when I see you, I'm thinking back to  
22 when I had hair and my eyesight was a little bit  
23 better. I was 17 when I started wearing an Army  
24 uniform. I wasn't a colonel. I was a private. But I  
25 was proud to serve our nation. For 20 years I've

1 deployed to other countries. I did what the Army told  
2 me to do, to serve the best I could.

3 Now I have the opportunity to serve inside  
4 the United States of America. I've got a son that's 14  
5 and a daughter that's 8 years old. So what I do now --  
6 I could have retired a few years ago.

7 I serve right now for my kids. And I know  
8 some of you have sat through both sessions because  
9 you're passionate about this topic. So I'm not going  
10 to talk much. I really want to ensure that you  
11 understand what we're trying to accomplish with the  
12 Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins Interbasin  
13 Study. And then we want to open it up for your  
14 questions so that we can get down what's needed so we  
15 can do the best job we can with what Congress has  
16 authorized us to do.

17 I want to thank Mr. Goss. And, you know,  
18 when I took command two years ago, the federal  
19 government, the state agencies was all working within  
20 our range, but since taking command, we're now better  
21 organized so that we're coming together as a team and  
22 working within our Corps competencies using resources  
23 as efficiently as we can and all the things that you  
24 saw was in the framework. To me -- you can tell I'm  
25 not from the Great Lakes. I'm from Southern Virginia.



1 If I think about my daughter, half of her life has been  
2 spent here in the Great Lakes.

3 And so all of the actions that he spoke to,  
4 the fence -- why do we use fence instead of solid  
5 barriers to, as I say, seal the flank of the destroyer?  
6 Why? Because if I had to put barriers up, I would have  
7 flooded some other area against the law.

8 So to me it's low hanging fruit, to get  
9 something in place now that can help deter while we  
10 work on a harder solution.

11 GLMRIS is hard.

12 Everything that we look at for an alternative  
13 will have an impact. And I just want you to understand  
14 that tonight. We're not trying to be slow. Look at me.  
15 I've never been called slow, even with this -- this  
16 cast on my leg. But let's get over it. Okay. What  
17 are we authorized to do? This first slide states  
18 exactly what Congress has authorized us to do in blue.  
19 You can see the study is focused at the option  
20 "technologies" to prevent the spread not of all  
21 nuisances but aquatic nuisance species.

22 And we're going to focus on the Chicago  
23 Sanitary Ship Canal -- and I will refer to that major  
24 area as the CAWS -- and other aquatic pathways.

25 And then we want to highlight special

1 considerations that you see down below.

2 A lot of questions came up in the last  
3 session about hydraulic separation. We will, ladies  
4 and gentlemen, look at hydraulic separation as one of  
5 the alternatives within GLMRIS. I'm going to -- I'm  
6 going to finish up and then we'll give you a great --  
7 again an opportunity tonight.

8 We'll stay here as long as it was identified  
9 to answer questions. Also, you can see the other two  
10 bullets. And the good thing now from the federal  
11 government, at least the study is 100 percent thorough.

12 The shaded area you see in brown, the darker  
13 gray and a lighter gray, is the entire study area. We  
14 did the darker colors today to identify the main focus.  
15 And you're looking at over 17 different states, but we  
16 will reach out and look at again the basins between the  
17 Great Lakes and the Mississippi River. And later  
18 you'll see that in these NEPA Scoping meetings, we will  
19 go throughout this whole area to make sure that we're  
20 receiving comments from all those that live within the  
21 study area. This is not about Chicago District. You've  
22 already met Colonel DesRosier Lieutenant Commander or  
23 Lieutenant Colonel? Lieutenant Colonel DesRosier.

24 LIEUTENANT COLONEL DesROSIER: I want to  
25 thank you, sir. Never a lieutenant commander before.

1 COLONEL QUARLES: Okay. I'm glad to have Mr.  
2 O'Brien here. I'm here representing our  
3 commanding general - - Major General John Peabody  
4 (phonetic), because this is a regional effort. It's not  
5 about one single district.

6 And I'm glad to help Mr. Ernie Draut  
7 (phonetic), program manager at the division level. I'm  
8 glad to help my friends from the Mississippi River  
9 Division. And I say all this, because what I want you  
10 to know is the Corps of Engineers, we're using all of  
11 our expertise, not just one - - not just one division  
12 within this area. We're reaching out to all our  
13 resources to get at the study in the best way we can.  
14 Now, we're going to talk later about partners, because  
15 it's going to take more than the Corps of Engineers to  
16 get this done as efficiently as we can. What does the  
17 scope of this study include. And a little while ago  
18 someone asked me or at least made a statement, "Well,  
19 what have you been doing since 2009 when you first got  
20 the first money?" All right. What you're seeing now  
21 is what we've been doing.

22 Okay? We've looked at what is the scope of  
23 the study. And before we can turn it on, we want to  
24 share with you what we're looking at to define the  
25 problem and make sure that before we get too far in the

1 study that we know the problem and the solution will  
2 address the defined problem.

3 So it's to identify the pathways, locations  
4 and elements. We are talking about aquatic nuisance --  
5 aquatic connections, not the other things that you see  
6 in the pinkish color. We're talking about two basins,  
7 Great Lakes and Mississippi River.

8 Again, on the map before this, a portion of  
9 31 states, not the St. Lawrence Seaway or Canada.

10 And I won't read everything to you from the  
11 slide. But, again, we are looking at the options and  
12 technologies to prevent interbasin transfer.

13 Aggressive, our strategy for this study is  
14 not a typical path for a Corps study. We are -- we  
15 have stood up two different teams. In a minute you'll  
16 get to have -- Mr.

17 Wethington speak. He is our lead for the  
18 CAWS, the Chicago Area Waterway portion of the study.

19 And Mr. Mike Saffran is leading all the Other  
20 Pathways. So we're not waiting to look at a focus.  
21 We're working the main avenue of attack in all the  
22 supporting pathways that -- all at one time. Not only  
23 that, we would normally do our study, check it twice  
24 and then get it out.

25 But because we know the urgency and the

1 information that you require, we're looking at what  
2 products, what interim products can we share as we work  
3 toward the finish line.

4           We're not trying to start over again. So  
5 we're reaching out to agencies. The reports that are  
6 published that might inform us, we're looking hard at  
7 those reports to make sure that -- if they contain data  
8 points that we can use in GLMRIS. That's what we've  
9 been doing for the last year. We've been doing those  
10 literature reviews. And you'll see a slide of them in  
11 a minute of all the pieces we've been working on.

12           Right, Dave? We're not just talking about  
13 Asian carp. Again, it's all invasive species that  
14 could transfer by water. And then it's looking at the  
15 potential possible, ANS controls to prevent such  
16 transfers.

17           Okay. I want to shut up for a moment and ask  
18 Mr. Wethington if he would please speak to the  
19 CAWS.

20           MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you, sir. Again, my  
21 name is Dave Wethington. I'm the project manager for  
22 the overall Interbasin Study as well as the Focus Area  
23 I here in Chicago. And I want spend a couple minutes  
24 going over this slide with you to kind of point out  
25 just some things you may not be as familiar with if

1 you're not from the Chicago Land area. On the right-  
2 hand side you see a map of the CAWS, the Chicago Area  
3 Waterway System. And there are points numbered 1  
4 through 5. Those points are specific areas -- specific  
5 discharge points where the waters of the Great Lakes  
6 and the waters of the Mississippi River have a chance  
7 to mix. So if you look at -- if you can imagine it's  
8 like a fork, a fork with five prongs on it. They all  
9 flow into a single channel, which is the Chicago  
10 Shipping Sanitary Canal. And point number 7 is where we  
11 have the electric barrier.

12               So points 1, 2 and 3, it's important to note,  
13 have water control structures. And what do I mean by  
14 that?

15               Those are the locks, the dams that you hear  
16 about, and those are completely within the State of  
17 Illinois. When you look at points 4 and 5, those are  
18 completely uncontrolled points, which means that they  
19 do not have any type of water control structures and so  
20 waters flow freely from the Great Lakes Basin to the  
21 Mississippi River Basin along those two pathways.

22               On the left-hand side you basically see the -  
23 - kind of the path for it, the study map on how the  
24 Corps of Engineers wants to or will approach the study.  
25 Specifying problems and opportunities, that's what

1 we're here doing today. I mean, we've put some smart  
2 people together, and we thought, "Hey, this is the  
3 scope of the study. This is what is important - - what  
4 we think is important," but we're also here asking you  
5 what you feel is important to the scope of the study.

6           Beyond that we need to gather data to  
7 inventory the -- inventory and forecast conditions. And  
8 what does that mean? There are multiple uses for the  
9 waterways.

10           Something you hear a lot about is commerce,  
11 commercial navigation. But there are a multitude of  
12 other uses including but not limited to recreation,  
13 water supply, water discharge. The total volumetric  
14 flow of the Chicago River, about 70 to 80 percent of  
15 that flow is wastewater discharge from the Chicago Land  
16 area. Another very important use for the Chicago Area  
17 Waterway System is flood risk management.

18           It doesn't happen very often, maybe every  
19 couple years, every five years, but the Chicago Land  
20 area will receive enough rainfall that you need to  
21 basically open up the gates at point number 2 and allow  
22 the Chicago River to flow backwards into Lake Michigan  
23 as well as flowing toward the Mississippi River to  
24 alleviate severe flooding in the downtown area. You  
25 would get overbank flooding, and as the Chicago Area

1 sewer systems are all interconnected, you'd have some  
2 significant amount of sewer backup that would go into  
3 millions of homes throughout the downtown and  
4 widespread suburban area.

5           Once we figure out what all those potential  
6 impacts, those economic, environmental and social  
7 impacts, are, we have to evaluate if there's any kind  
8 of mitigation that may be necessary. So if you  
9 implement a control -- let's say you look at some sort  
10 of control technology and you have an adverse impact to  
11 a waterway use, a waterway use being commerce, water  
12 supply, water discharge, recreation.

13           How do you mitigate -- how do you  
14 appropriately tell the person or the user or the  
15 community how -- how do you basically impact it and how  
16 do you mitigate for that impact?

17           As Colonel Quarles and Mr. Goss mentioned  
18 previously, we are working this -- in very close  
19 collaboration with not only the federal family but the  
20 state, local, non-governmental organizations. Thank  
21 you for your time. I'll turn it back to Colonel  
22 Quarles.

23           COLONEL QUARLES: I think if we look here  
24 this is Chicago Lock and then O'Brien is actually point  
25 number 6.



1                   And that's about seven miles away from the  
2 actual waterfront.

3                   MR. WETHINGTON: Right.

4                   COLONEL QUARLES: Actually, Mr. Saffran,  
5 answer that, if you could, please, sir.

6                   MR. SAFFRAN: Yes. Thank you for all showing  
7 up tonight. It's my privilege to be able to work on  
8 this project and give you a brief explanation of what I  
9 have been working on, which is the Other Pathways part  
10 of the GLMRIS.

11                  When we started into the GLMRIS, there was a  
12 lot known about the risk associated with the Chicago  
13 Sanitary Ship Canal for the transfer of aquatic  
14 nuisance species. There's been a lot done to try to  
15 control and prevent the spread of species through that  
16 particular pathway. However, the other pathways,  
17 there's virtually nothing that we knew beforehand  
18 relative to the risks, where they were located or the  
19 risks that were associated with them.

20                  We started last summer a very intense effort  
21 to very rapidly identify the locations where other  
22 aquatic pathways can form along the almost 1500 mile  
23 divide there that separates the basins from upstate --  
24 or downstate New York all the way to upper Minnesota.  
25 That was the one thing to identify, where the pathways

1 were, and then to conduct a preliminary risk  
2 characterization to try to make sure that the  
3 significant investments that were being put into the  
4 Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal weren't going to be  
5 compromised by Asian carp or aquatic nuisance species  
6 outflanking us in another direction. We had a great  
7 need to get that done quickly.

8           And just as Dave alluded to, we went to the  
9 experts within eight different Corps districts as well  
10 as the USGS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and  
11 NOAA, the U.S. -- and then all the Departments of  
12 Natural Resources in each state.

13           And what we did was a very rapid assessment  
14 to collect available data and get the best experts to  
15 evaluate that data and assign relative risks to each  
16 location. We identified a total of 36 locations where  
17 there was potential for water to transfer across the  
18 basin divide. And of those 36 locations the experts  
19 determined that 18 of them posed a significant risk  
20 that required either a closer look or some immediate  
21 action.

22           There was only one location really that we  
23 noted that required some form of very quick action.

24           And that was at the Eagle Marsh location in  
25 Fort Wayne, which Mr. Goss has already described a

1 little bit. At that location you've got two rivers  
2 that come together in the Maumee River Basin, the St.  
3 Joe's and the St. Mary's. And they form the Maumee in  
4 downtown Fort Wayne.

5 When you have a heavy storm event in that  
6 basin, something that's equal to the largest storm  
7 you'd expect to occur in any given year, water back  
8 flows from that basin, across the basin divide into the  
9 Wabash River Basin.

10 We had a 2009 flood insurance study at that  
11 location, which also showed that, if you have a 10  
12 percent annual return frequency storm or the largest  
13 storm you'd expect to occur over any given 10-year  
14 period, that the depth of that flow across the divide  
15 is 4-1/2 feet. When you couple that with -- that  
16 condition or that circumstance with the fact that we  
17 have significant populations of Asian carp about 25  
18 miles below downstream in the Wabash River, that cite  
19 really jumped off the page as one that we really needed  
20 to do something quickly. We held a meeting with the --  
21 all of the interested federal partners, state partner,  
22 local government and non-government organizations in  
23 the area and at that meeting discussed the  
24 circumstances and developed a short-term -- a short-  
25 term remedy and a process toward getting towards a more

1 permanent remedy.

2           The short-term remedy, the Indiana DNR  
3 stepped up and took the lead, because they were most  
4 capable, most able to do it quickly. And that was to  
5 construct a fence basically across the barrier, a  
6 chainlink fence across the Eagle Marsh, and provide a  
7 barrier for adult Asian carp from being able to swim  
8 about the 20-mile length from where they had been  
9 spotted to that location the next time we have a  
10 significant rainfall event and the waterfowl is  
11 triggered across the divide.

12           It took less than 60 days from that meeting  
13 for the state to get that fence in place. So I think  
14 it shows that there are types of things, measures, that  
15 can be taken when you have the right people at the  
16 table and the sense of urgency that's required to  
17 address these issues.

18           The Corps of Engineers right now is also  
19 conducting and is in mid progress or mid- -- midway  
20 through the study to look at a permanent remedy for the  
21 aquatic pathway that exists across Eagle Marsh. We  
22 expect to have that study done -- completed by the end  
23 of the year.

24           We're also following up on the other 17  
25 locations and completing a risk characterization this

1 year to reduce a lot of the uncertainty that we had,  
2 because that 1500 mile long divide is across very flat  
3 topography. And there was a lot of uncertainty among  
4 the experts as to really what the level of risk is. So  
5 we're going forward and going to complete that report  
6 as well as this year, and we should have a very good  
7 understanding of what the scope of the Other Pathways  
8 means to the rest of the GLMRIS before the end of this  
9 year. Thanks.

10 COLONEL QUARLES: Thank you, Mike. Just a  
11 brief overview of what we've been able to do since we  
12 received appropriations in '09 to date. And, again,  
13 you can see multiple actions, not just focusing on the  
14 CAWS. That's what I spoke to earlier. What about the  
15 study time, 2015?

16 I knew I would be challenged on that tonight.

17 And I just want you to know, I challenged it.

18 See Dave? He smiled at that. He doesn't --  
19 he wasn't smiling. I mean the fish -- this study and  
20 the fish (inaudible) is not my largest project. My  
21 largest project in my district is building a reservoir  
22 that when we're done will hold 10 billion gallons of  
23 water. And that's what David was doing. And when I  
24 needed someone to lead this effort, he stepped up and  
25 took this on. And then he put together a time line,

1 not that takes too long. You've got to know, though,  
2 we do it -- he brought me another time line. And I did  
3 - - because I knew one day I'm coming to Traverse City.  
4 Okay. Seriously, we knew we would have to explain why  
5 does it take five years to do what we must do as the  
6 federal government. So I hope you all received one of  
7 these sheets. You can take a look at question number  
8 7. That's it. Why will it take to 2015?

9           Take a hard look at that because that -- when  
10 my engineers are talking to me about, you know,  
11 processes and "need to do that," that's like going back  
12 to college and vector spaces. I mean, talk to me in a  
13 way I can understood. And so the bottom line is we  
14 know every alternative we were going to recommend would  
15 have impacts.

16           And so we must get a base line of data to  
17 understand the current conditions that we're going to  
18 follow. If you look at these lights and can imagine  
19 the ceiling not being there?

20           Somebody had to think about it. What type of  
21 support is needed for that weight? We have to get the  
22 initial condition before we do anything.

23           We can use data as long as it's good data. So  
24 we reviewed what data was there, and then we saw what  
25 data we didn't need.

1           And right now we are awarding contracts to  
2 get all the data we don't have so that within the next  
3 12 months we will receive all that data and it will  
4 have base line conditions. We take that data, and then  
5 we can start forming the different models so that we  
6 can run through the different scenarios. That leads us  
7 to potential engineering solutions. There are other  
8 studies out there that's looking at the same things,  
9 but they do not have to take it to the next step.

10           And that is, as the federal government, we  
11 must thoroughly review the impacts, and we must do it  
12 in a way that they're understood before the decision  
13 makers make their decisions.

14           And so you look at the green line. Everything  
15 that we must fulfill is inside of the green line. And  
16 it includes the technical reviews of the alternatives  
17 we come up with and the time needed to meet the policy  
18 compliancies that we must. And while we're doing all  
19 that, we feel that we can spin out interim products  
20 that may help us in other agencies to still do things  
21 or be better informed. We want to do that, because we  
22 realize how important this challenge is.

23           Interim products -- I just want you to fully  
24 understand the type of things that, once we finish  
25 surveys, we better understand baseline conditions, but

1 we're talking about things that can stand along. It's  
2 data points that can better inform us, but by  
3 themselves they don't lead you to a solution. That's  
4 what we must add to the process.

5 Now, how can you help us? We do not know  
6 everything. If there's reports out that you think would  
7 benefit this effort, let us know.

8 We're reaching out to other agencies that we  
9 know have Corps competencies. We will -- we collect  
10 it. We've already had it. Whatever you got this is  
11 the study scope. Give us what you have. We've already  
12 done a fairly extensive literature review. But if  
13 there's other things that we could benefit from, then  
14 we need your help. We're already reaching out to other  
15 agencies and pulling it in. Right, Dave? Those things  
16 that they're telling us they're doing that could help  
17 inform GLMRIS. So you're part of one of the locations  
18 that we want to inform folks of the study's scope, how  
19 we're conducting the study and then do what we have to  
20 do right now, taking comments. It's a technological  
21 world now. And so with the Facebook, the web, if you  
22 want to get ahold of me, you can get ahold of me. Thank  
23 you very much, ladies and gentlemen.

24 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Thank you, sir. Well,  
25 that concludes part one of this evening's meeting.



1           And for those of you that were not here this  
2   afternoon, we had a very informative discussion, had a  
3   lot of dialog from folks, and that is the most  
4   important part of the reason why we're all here by the  
5   panel sitting here tonight.

6           Before we begin part two, I want to note that  
7   the study website is a very good source for study  
8   information.

9           And any interested persons can subscribe to  
10   the study's e-mail list through that project website.  
11   The Corps will use the GLMRIS e-mail list to distribute  
12   updates on such things as documents that have been  
13   added to the website, opportunities for public  
14   involvement and other important news and events. The  
15   GLMRIS website can be found on the study brochure in  
16   the comment form as well as the business card that we  
17   have. So there's plenty of different ways to find that  
18   site. You can Google it as well and then, through the  
19   different social media things that the Colonel just  
20   mentioned.

21           Now moving into the comment period, those who  
22   have indicated on their registration form that they  
23   would like to make a brief 3-minute formal presentation  
24   or ask questions will have an opportunity to do so. If  
25   a person wants to ask questions in addition to making a

1 comment, we would just ask that you manage your time to  
2 allow for the comment, question and response.

3           The Corps panelists will answer any questions  
4 that indeed are answerable. In order to manage  
5 everybody's time and give everybody an opportunity to  
6 speak, we ask that everybody abide to the 3-minute  
7 length. After everyone has had their comment and  
8 opportunity to address the panel, if there's time that  
9 permits, we will have additional time and we'll stay  
10 here until every comment and question is answered. And  
11 we'll allow you as many times as you would like to  
12 reenter that comment queue.

13           If time does not allow us time, similar to  
14 what happened this afternoon, just please note that you  
15 can enter any remaining comments on the written comment  
16 form, on any of the computers in the back here or any  
17 time in person or with us in the -- I'm trying to think  
18 here -- oh, on the -- on the project website after the  
19 meeting up until the March 31st, 2011, deadline. And  
20 please note all forms of comments received during the  
21 scoping period will be weighted equally. So whether  
22 you get up in front of the audience here, use a laptop  
23 to put something down or use the comment form to jot  
24 your comments down, they all have the exact same  
25 weight.

1           And then just a visual reminder here that  
2 we're going to use to keep track of our time, I've got  
3 a small little power point visual cue that starts out  
4 with a green slide. Once you begin any comments for  
5 us, this green light will stay -- the green box will  
6 stay activated for two minutes. It will automatically  
7 switch to yellow and count down every 15 seconds for  
8 the final minute of the three.

9           And then, once the time is up, it will turn  
10 to red. Shortly after that, I will ask you to make a  
11 concluding statement if it doesn't look like we've got  
12 a closure coming and ask that you would end your  
13 statement after that. We do feel that this procedure  
14 is the most fair and will give everyone an equal  
15 opportunity to be heard.

16           And I see a few chuckles here. We've used  
17 this -- I've used this now for about 10 years, and it  
18 really is a nice way, and anybody that was here this  
19 afternoon will see that this tool is really helpful in  
20 trying to just keep mindful of everybody else's time  
21 and be respectful of the format we've provided.

22           Also, I'd like to mention that we have a  
23 stenographer with us tonight. She's located right off  
24 the edge of the stage. And for that we want to make  
25 sure that any comments that we receive during this oral

1 presentation period are addressed through the  
2 microphone system. So I do ask that -- we've got a  
3 blue line and a yellow line microphone set up here.  
4 When you do come up, you can use either side, whatever  
5 is the easiest for you to get to. But I do ask that  
6 you use the microphone and ensure that it's adjusted to  
7 the right height. We've got some helpers here that  
8 will help us do that as well.

9 But we do want to make sure that we capture  
10 everything using those microphones.

11 And then, also, before you start any comments  
12 that you have for us, I would like to ask if you could  
13 give us your name, even if it's the second time up --  
14 we want to make sure we have your name -- any  
15 organization or affiliation that you may represent and  
16 your zip code for statistical reasons. And then, also,  
17 I'd like to ask if you could spell us your last name,  
18 and it definitely helps in our transcript to get things  
19 clear.

20 While at the microphone, I'd ask that you  
21 position the microphone and speak slowly so we can all  
22 hear everything you have to say for us.

23 Thank you.

24 Okay. I've got -- just was handed a listing  
25 and I've got from a preregistered list and then an

1 additional four that have asked to go tonight.

2 So from the preregistration list, anybody  
3 with a blue card, I've got Jennifer McKay, Mary Lee Orr  
4 and Andy Knott that have asked to speak. So I'll start  
5 with Jennifer. If Ms. McKay is here, she can start.  
6 And we'll get a microphone turned on.

7 And we'll probably have to get that a little  
8 shorter.

9 That's okay. We can get them adjusted. We've  
10 got plenty of time. Okay. Sounds like it's good. And  
11 when you're ready, go ahead. You can start with your  
12 name, if you would.

13 MS. MCKAY: My name is Jennifer McKay, M-c-K-  
14 a-y.

15 And my zip code is 49770. Good evening and  
16 thank you for being here tonight. Thank you for the  
17 opportunity to provide comments on the Great Lakes and  
18 the Mississippi River Interbasin Study. As I said, my  
19 name is Jennifer McKay. I'm pleased to be here tonight  
20 on behalf of the board, staff and over 2,300 members of  
21 Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council.

22 As a means of introduction, the Watershed  
23 Council was founded in 1979. It's a nonprofit  
24 organization based in Petoskey, Michigan, whose purpose  
25 is to protect, restore and enhance water resources

1 including inland lakes, rivers, wetlands, groundwaters  
2 and the Great Lakes. Because safeguarding our waters  
3 is paramount to the mission, the Watershed Council has  
4 reviewed both the project management plans and the  
5 Other Pathways preliminary risk characterization. And  
6 based upon that review, we offer the following  
7 comments.

8           The study should prioritize the Chicago Area  
9 Waterway System and provide a solution on this pathway  
10 prior to addressing any other area, given the current  
11 aquatic nuisance species threat that exists for this  
12 area. The study time line needs to be expedited with  
13 final results for the Chicago Area Waterway System  
14 completed within 18 months, given both the opportunity  
15 and urgency to actually prevent Asian carp from  
16 becoming established in the Great Lakes.

17           Ultimately, the permanent solution,  
18 especially with respect to the Chicago Area Waterway  
19 System, is to restore the ecological barrier between  
20 the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basin to prevent  
21 invasive species from moving back and forth between the  
22 two water bodies. The study should focus on the  
23 congressional mandate under the Water Resources  
24 Development Act 2007 Authorization and the subsequent  
25 Army Corps of Engineers guidance and work to prevent

1 rather than minimize risk of the transfer of aquatic  
2 nuisance species between the two basins; use other  
3 studies that are either completed or underway as a tool  
4 to help expedite the time line of the study -- two  
5 specific ones underway are the Great Lakes Commission  
6 and Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Cities, Envisioning  
7 Chicago Area Waterway System for the 21st Century and  
8 then the U.S. and Canadian Risk Assessments; include  
9 educational efforts as a method to prevent the transfer  
10 of aquatic nuisance species; clarify a few terms and  
11 not a condition under inventory, historic and existing  
12 conditions.

13           We also recognize other potential  
14 representations for the Executive Steering Committee or  
15 representatives to working for a nation with the  
16 Executive Steering Committee, specifically travel  
17 representation to the City of Chicago or someone who  
18 actually sits on the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating  
19 Committee. The funding for the study should not come  
20 from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative due to the  
21 limited funding available under the GLRI and the fact  
22 that the study benefits those beyond the Great Lakes by  
23 protecting the Mississippi River Basin as well,  
24 increased public and stakeholder participation with  
25 regular discussion forums and reach out to all states

1 involved in the study area. And we appreciate that the  
2 Corps acknowledges that the document needs to be able  
3 to be -- document the change with the circumstances in  
4 field conditions. So I'm out of time, and on behalf of  
5 the board, staff and members of the Great Lakes  
6 Watershed Council, thank you for the opportunity to  
7 share these comments with you. And we've provided  
8 written comments to give more detail on specific  
9 points.

10 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Okay. Second up, Ms.  
11 Orr.

12 Following her will be Mr. Knott and then  
13 third up will be [REDACTED]. When you're ready, go  
14 ahead.

15 MS. ORR: I'm Mary Lee Orr. My zip code is  
16 49635.

17 Thank you very much, Colonel Quarles and John  
18 Goss and other distinguished panel members for coming,  
19 giving us a chance to express our great concerns over  
20 this issue. As you know, DNA evidence of carp in Lake  
21 Michigan has been validated in a peer review and  
22 scientific article published the first week of this  
23 month, January 2011, in the Journal for Society for  
24 Conservation Biologists. We now have confirmed that  
25 this invader with a glutinous appetite, an appetite



1 that demands a daily diet of 40 percent of its adult  
2 weight, as much as a hundred pounds. Its menu consists  
3 of the plankton on which our native fish population  
4 depend. This monster has now been proven to be a  
5 resident in our lake. And we view its appearance as a  
6 permanent and dire threat to our 7 billion dollar  
7 commercial and sport fishing industries, a threat to  
8 our recreational and tourist attractions and to the  
9 health and viability of the aquatic options that have  
10 offered -- this lake has offered to those of us who  
11 reside in close proximity to its shoreline.

12           Citizen and environmental groups,  
13 legislators, attorneys general and governors over the  
14 past several years have made public their great  
15 concerns and attempts to block passage between the  
16 Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal and Lake Michigan. In  
17 2007 Congress directed the Army Corps to conduct a  
18 study that will, quote, "prevent the spread of nuisance  
19 species such as Asian carp between the Great Lakes and  
20 the Mississippi River Basin," closed quote.

21           However, much to our consternation and  
22 despite specific congressional directive, the Army  
23 Corps now has altered the wording of its investigation,  
24 which now says it's to look at measures that will,  
25 quote, "prevent or reduce the risk of species

1 migrations between the two basins," closed quote. Under  
2 whose authority was this weakened version of the  
3 original directive issued?

4           Convincing arguments for a permanent  
5 hydrological separation of the Great Lakes from the  
6 Mississippi River Watersheds have been made by the  
7 President of the Alliance for the Great Lakes, Mr. Joel  
8 Brammeier. Granted, this would not only require very  
9 generous funding, but would also inconvenience some  
10 commercial enterprise. Those businesses would have to  
11 change to truck hauling as it would require an entire  
12 and undoubtedly costly overhaul of Chicago's sewage  
13 disposal system. Nevertheless, throughout history  
14 vastly expansive -- expensive undertakings have been  
15 accomplished because there was a consensus that the  
16 expenditures were justified. Encouragingly, Mayor Daley  
17 has gone on record speculating that this might indeed  
18 be the time to upgrade Chicago's sewage system.

19           Advocates of hydrological separation say that  
20 it would not only produce the benefit of stopping  
21 Asian carp, but it would also lead to cleaner water and  
22 conserve more of it in the Great Lakes since the  
23 procedure would necessarily reverse the flow of water  
24 out of Lake Michigan. I'm aware that we now -- that we  
25 are now aware of more than one pathway open to the

1 carp's emergence into Lake Michigan, a fact that  
2 complicates your assignment. However, this threat is an  
3 emergency, and emergencies call for intensive and  
4 speedy counteractive measures. In closing I would like  
5 to invite the Corps of Engineers to seize the  
6 initiative to act boldly with vision, imagination and  
7 conviction based on the immediate facts at your  
8 disposal, adhere with integrity to a mandate and heed  
9 the call of those of us so concerned about the prospect  
10 of these invaders and the harm they are sure to create.  
11 Don't consume five years in a research.

12           The carp problem will not wait for that kind  
13 of deliberation. Please follow the congressional  
14 mandate as it was issued. Please release your study  
15 results as soon as you possibly can.

16           MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Next Mr. Knott,  
17 followed by Paul Richert and then following, Marcia  
18 Curran. When you're ready, go ahead.

19           MR. KNOTT: Thank you. My name is Andy  
20 Knott.

21           That's K-n-o-t-t. My zip code is 49684. I'm  
22 the executive director of the Watershed Center of Grand  
23 Traverse Bay. Our mission is to protect water quality  
24 in Grand Traverse Bay, right outside the window here.  
25 And it's a 1,000 square mile watershed. It also

1 includes two major tributaries, the Elk River Chain of  
2 Lakes and the Boardman River as well as several smaller  
3 tributaries. We have over 600 members that support our  
4 mission. And my comments today are going to focus on  
5 four areas of concern; ensuring that study results in  
6 prevention and not just reducing the risk, the long  
7 time line of the study, ensuring physical ecological  
8 separation as well as addressing human releases.

9 I do want to start out by thanking you all  
10 for holding these hearings, thanking the Corps of  
11 Engineers, the Council on Environmental Quality.

12 I think it's very important that you're doing  
13 this and really appreciate -- we appreciate this  
14 opportunity and also appreciate the coordinated effort  
15 that's obviously happening with the many, many  
16 agencies. So, first, in authorizing this work,  
17 Congress mandated that the study prevent the spread of  
18 aquatic nuisance species between the Great Lakes and  
19 Mississippi River Basins.

20 We're also concerned, as others have stated,  
21 that the Corps is talking about reducing the risk of  
22 spread. We think this standard is not high enough, not  
23 what Congress mandated and, therefore, the study's goal  
24 should focus on prevention.

25 On the time line issue -- again, we've heard

1 it before, but I'll say it as well -- we feel that 2015  
2 is too long. There are several other studies either  
3 completed or underway that should be included in the  
4 Corps' study to speed up the time line. The U.S. Fish  
5 and Wildlife Service and the Fisheries and Oceans  
6 Canada have already completed studies on the potential  
7 impacts of Asian carp that could and should be included  
8 in the study. Similarly, the Great Lakes Commission and  
9 the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative are  
10 Conducting studies on water management and  
11 transportation alternatives for the physical separation  
12 in Chicago. Those organizations are also completing an  
13 economic impact analysis. All of these studies should  
14 be included and incorporated in the Corps work.

15           Thirdly, we do believe that the ultimate  
16 permanent solution is a physical, ecological separation  
17 of the two basins and any other option such as the  
18 current electrical barrier should only be considered  
19 temporary. Lastly, we believe the study should be  
20 expanded to address prevention of human release. It's  
21 clear that there is a -- that there's a risk present in  
22 overland transport of bait fish as well as adult fish  
23 being used by -- being used as food by certain members  
24 of the community and that human release should be  
25 prevented through increased public education,

1 regulation and enforcement efforts. Again, I just want  
2 to thank you all for your efforts in coming to Traverse  
3 City.

4 Thank you very much.

5 MR. BLUHM: Thanks. [REDACTED] followed by  
6 Marcia Curran and then Ted Curran.

7 [REDACTED]: Hello. My name is [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED]. And my zip code is [REDACTED]. I'm  
9 living at [REDACTED]. I used to live in [REDACTED]  
10 since I moved up here. My parents had retired, and  
11 then I moved up to the area in about 1986. So I've been  
12 swimming and fishing and walking the beaches of Lake  
13 Michigan for about the past 20 years, anyway. And I can  
14 tell you that we believe in the nuisance species.

15 I've seen fishermen pull them out of the  
16 Boardman River right out -- over here behind the  
17 Holiday Inn. I've seen zebra mussels. They were more  
18 prevalent when we still had the water -- the power  
19 plant. So if you had hot water, they were all over  
20 that. But, you know, out in Leelanau County I can walk  
21 the beach and find zebra mussels that have washed in.  
22 They're just stacked so high I can get buckets full of  
23 them to bring home, grind them up and use them as  
24 fertilizer.

25 But what I wanted to tell you were a couple

1 things. And one of them has to do with our swimming  
2 pool.

3           You know, about ten years ago the high  
4 watermark was about six feet from where we jump at the  
5 Open Space 'til you hit the water. And today the high  
6 water mark has dropped three feet below that. So now  
7 it's a nine foot jump to the water and the water level  
8 is only six feet deep. What an engineer has told me is  
9 that because of this watershed basin into the  
10 Mississippi that Lake Michigan is losing one inch of  
11 water per year.

12           And I'm going to tell you we've lost three  
13 feet in the past ten years in this bay alone. Other  
14 than that, I want to share with you a video that I had  
15 seen produced by the Michigan Department of Natural  
16 Resources based in Alpena. It was made in 2004. It's  
17 talking about not the nuisance species but the species  
18 that we rely on; the trout and the salmon and the  
19 fishing of big -- big fish. Because in 2004 our  
20 alewife population collapsed. And we used to walk the  
21 beach, and those alewives -- they're little fish about  
22 so big -- would wash up on the beach and be everywhere.

23           This summer I'm walking the beach, and, you  
24 know, the only thing you see that's a fish that wash up  
25 are little baby brown trout. So I'm telling you that

1 our big fish have no more food supply in there, and if  
2 you let these Asian carp in, we aren't going to have  
3 any salmon left at all.

4 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Thanks. Ms. Curran.

5 MS. CURRAN: My name is Marcia Curran,  
6 spelled Curran. And my zip code is --

7 REPORTER: How do you spell Marcia?

8 MS. CURRAN: Pardon? M-a-r-c-i-a. My zip  
9 code is 49635. I do not have a prepared statement.

10 I just made a few notes. I appreciate your  
11 being here, and it was a very instructive presentation.  
12 I'm glad to know that the board has taken some  
13 immediate action in the Eagle Marsh area.

14 That sounded very significant. I would  
15 second what's been said already. I think people have  
16 made marvelous statements, and I don't think I can  
17 improve on them. But I do feel very strongly that we  
18 must act more quickly than waiting five years, and I  
19 think -- I urge you to take action in any area that you  
20 see where there's something that's going to happen very  
21 quickly, because I don't think we can wait, which is  
22 really why I think we have to take action in the  
23 Chicago area very, very soon. And I personally think  
24 that Chicago ought to be able to adjust to the closing  
25 of those connections to the Great Lakes. They have a



1 lot of infrastructure there. We're a country that went  
2 to the moon and quantum -- and sent robots to Mars. We  
3 can certainly deal with this issue before it's too  
4 late. And I think five years is taking too long. We  
5 can't wait five years. I'm not sure we can wait one  
6 year. So I really think you have -- it's not something  
7 we can be so super careful about doing enormous studies  
8 on. We really have to act quickly in areas where we  
9 know there are problems right now.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Okay. Then next Mr.  
12 Curran. I would assume that he was probably  
13 fairly close to where you were sitting. Okay.

14 And then lastly Mike Lambert.

15 MR. CURRAN: My name is Ted Curran. I want  
16 to particularly associate myself with the last set of  
17 comments.

18 But, of course, I support everything that's  
19 been said by the audience this evening. And I'm not  
20 going to -- I don't really feel that I can add anything  
21 substantively. I want to make two or three general  
22 comments for this. First of all, thank you for coming  
23 and for bringing this level of expertise to this  
24 community. We appreciate that very much.

25 I don't -- I'm sure you probably have gotten

1 it, but let me underline the general sense in this  
2 community, that there's not enough, adequate,  
3 sufficient urgency being addressed to this problem. I  
4 believe several of us have been here for several years.  
5 I'm not quite as young as the colonel, but I've lived  
6 here off and on for 50 years. And I just don't think  
7 there's been enough attention addressed to these very  
8 serious problems; the alewives, the game fish that have  
9 been basically attacked, threatened and then most  
10 recently the carp issue. So please underline for your  
11 colleagues in Washington and in the district; they may  
12 not understand how urgently and how strongly this  
13 population feels about this issue.

14           And added to that is a very, very clear sense  
15 that the United States government -- I'm not picking on  
16 any one agency -- has not responded adequately to the  
17 threats that have been -- come into the Great Lakes in  
18 addition to the Chicago problems, the St. Lawrence  
19 Seaway and the ducking of the agencies who were  
20 responsible for handling that. And, lastly, just  
21 picking up on the urgency, I think the Manhattan  
22 Project is a model you should bring back to your  
23 superiors in Washington. This is a -- this is a  
24 requirement almost on that level. It's an existential  
25 situation, and I really urge you to ask your superiors

1 to increase funding and increase attention devoted to  
2 this problem. Thank you.

3 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Next Mr. Lambert.

4 MR. MIKE LAMBERT: All right. I'm Mike  
5 Lambert, L-a-m-b-e-r-t. I'm in seventh grade. I like  
6 fishing in the bays here and the lakes all over.

7 I'm also in the Grand Traverse Area Sport  
8 Fishing Association. And I see that it's not exactly  
9 feasible to close the locks right away, but  
10 reproductive interference in predatory fish possibly --  
11 studies in that could -- and putting to use very  
12 quickly in that area would be useful and also selective  
13 poisons like, for example, lampricides for lampreys.  
14 And we as people have with many fish almost completely  
15 over-fished a lot of fish species. So why don't we  
16 purposefully do that for Asian carp?

17 MR. GOSS: We're pretty good at it.

18 MR. MIKE LAMBERT: That's about it.

19 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Okay. That concludes  
20 the people who have identified that they'd like to make  
21 a formal statement by their registration form. At this  
22 point in time, we have plenty of time left in the  
23 evening. I'd like to open the forum to anybody that  
24 would like to make a new statement that hasn't had a  
25 chance to make a statement yet today. So let's start

1 with anybody that hasn't been to the microphone.

2 First, I've got a hand here. Sir, you can go  
3 first. And then you can go next. So go on ahead, make  
4 your way to the microphone. Because we don't have your  
5 registration information, I'd ask the same, if you  
6 could give us your name and spell the last name, that  
7 would be most helpful.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. JOE LAMBERT: My name is Joe Lambert, L-  
10 a-m- b-e-r-t. My zip code is 49685. I'm not much more  
11 than a parent to a very avid fisherman in the Great  
12 Lakes Basin. In fact, he drags me all over the place.  
13 My concern is the study is scheduled through 2015. And  
14 we have a presidential election here in 2012. Now, we  
15 know from recent history that power shifts can happen  
16 quite drastically during an election year. So the --  
17 Colonel, thank you for holding the line with the  
18 directives you've been given.

19 But, Mr. Goss, what assurances can you give  
20 us as the public that a potential in a power shift in  
21 Washington is not going to sink the Asian carp  
22 initiatives?

23 I think that's probably our biggest concern,  
24 would be with the length of time that the study is  
25 scheduled to get.

1           MR. GOSS: That's a fair question. Certainly,  
2 I'm concerned that we don't want to get off track. And,  
3 also, with the -- with the deficit reduction and the  
4 changes for federal budgets, it's going to be  
5 increasingly difficult.

6           However, I think we have momentum for this  
7 project right now for the Asian carp funding.

8           Currently, the Great Lakes Restoration funds  
9 are paying for the majority of the projects. On top of  
10 that we have the base budget money with the Corps of  
11 Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, USGS. So  
12 hopefully the base budget money we can protect, and  
13 that will keep -- hopefully, that will be enough money  
14 to do the GLMRIS Study in the future, to keep the  
15 barriers operating and continue the aggressive  
16 monitoring. Beyond that, we will have a challenge, I  
17 think, in the -- in the coming -- actually in this  
18 year's budget, just to -- just to be very honest. We  
19 identified another 25 million dollars worth of projects  
20 that we would like to do in 2011, but Congress has not  
21 released any of those funds.

22           We have a 10-year resolution, but that  
23 doesn't allow any new project money to be released. So  
24 certainly, there is -- right now there's a concern  
25 about the funding. But I do think, with the commitment

1 from this area and many areas around the Great Lakes,  
2 that working together we can keep the momentum going  
3 for this initiative.

4 It will need your help, though. We will  
5 continue to need your help in supporting work on this  
6 until we get the permanent solution. So I appreciate  
7 the question. I can't guarantee what happens in the  
8 elections.

9 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Thanks a lot. Thank you.

10 All right. Yes, make your way to the  
11 microphone.

12 MS. HARTWELL: I'm Lynn Hartwell. Last name  
13 is H- a-r- t-w-e-l-l. And I have a very simple  
14 question. We first discovered these carp in public  
15 waterways in 1971, in the Mississippi River. In the  
16 Mississippi River pool number 26 it was discovered back  
17 in 1990 that this was already a problem. I'm curious  
18 why it's taken so long to deal with this issue, why  
19 we've allowed it to travel so far north.

20 And I would urge you not to politicize this  
21 tremendous problem. Thank you.

22 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Okay.

23 COLONEL QUARLES: I mean, I can honestly  
24 speak to what I know of. And when you think about the  
25 first barrier or the reports I read upon taking

1 command, by the early 90's, the mid 90's it was seen as  
2 a threat that, yes, the -- this invasive species in  
3 terms of Asian carp and the round goby (inaudible) in  
4 CAWS. So as Mr. Goss.

5 mentioned, the first electrical barrier was  
6 selected as a tool. And I read the background of the  
7 selection. There was a lot of tools considered. And  
8 the barrier came out as a tool that would do what we  
9 wanted in terms of invasive species and still allow  
10 navigation as well. Now, we did not forget about those  
11 other tools. In the earlier session it was mentioned,  
12 "Why don't we use sound as a type of barrier or type of  
13 tool?"

14 So the best I can tell you -- and I'm not  
15 sure of the background of why it has taken this point -  
16 - to this point to get a sense of urgency.

17 What I can speak to you during my team now is  
18 we have to have a sense of urgency.

19 And the best I can do is use all the tools at  
20 my disposal.

21 Some things will have impacts. Some  
22 solutions will not. So we separate it among our study  
23 authorities to get on the ground those things that we  
24 can that will help in this fight and not have major  
25 impacts and then do due diligence as best as we can to

1 get answers for a longer solution. So, Mr.

2 Goss, further comments?

3 MR. GOSS: That's fine.

4 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you, sir. Okay.

5 Anybody else that hasn't had a chance to talk

6 today, I want to start with -- with those. So, sir,

7 I'll take yours. And then you can follow.

8 So go ahead and come on up to the microphone.

9 MR. FULLER: Thank you all very much for  
10 coming here tonight. Really, I mean --

11 MR. BLUHM: Can you start with your name and

12 MR. FULLER: Yup. My name is Warren Fuller,  
13 F-- u-l-l-e-r. And I'm from Cedar, 49621.

14 MR. BLUHM: Thank you.

15 MR. FULLER: I too am a fisherman, but I'm  
16 going to save most of my rants for questions, 'cause I  
17 want to get some more understanding. So thank you for  
18 all -- thank you for your service, by the way. Thank  
19 you for all for coming here.

20 Thanks for a Chicago representative, you  
21 know, appreciate it. I've got like four questions.

22 I'm just kind of looking for some more info.

23 The first question is I think I heard in part  
24 of the presentation that there's like one river that's  
25 fully established in Chicago, that's got a lot of carp



1 in it and it's right next to the other one that isn't.

2 And that's -- that's one.

3 Two, what really -- what impact has this  
4 really had on the Indiana fisheries as a fisherman? I  
5 want to hear it from a fisherman. What do we really  
6 need to do? I mean, if -- if something came out of  
7 Traverse City or some city in Michigan or one of these  
8 cities you're visiting, what is the headline that's  
9 going to make action happen? I mean, do you need a  
10 billion Facebook hits? What do we need to do? We want  
11 something to come out of these meetings. We want to  
12 say, "Yeah, you know that?

13 Traverse City stood up and they listened."  
14 What have you got to hear that will make it happen?

15 COLONEL QUARLES: Let me take shot at your  
16 first question. When I took command July 1st, 2008,  
17 about a month later -- you know, I knew about Asian  
18 carp, but I wanted to get (inaudible) so at least I'd  
19 understand. And so I was at a meeting, not just the  
20 Corps of Engineers but an advisory panel. And just like  
21 you, I'm asking, trying to understand, "Where are the  
22 carp as best as we know?" At that point in time a lot  
23 of traditional tools that you know better probably than  
24 me, you know, electrofishing, netting, had been used  
25 and a lot of fish had been caught at that time in terms

1 of -- the fish barrier, for those who don't know the  
2 CAWS, it's about 33 miles away from Lake Michigan,  
3 Chicago Lock. The closest an adult fish had been  
4 caught at that time was 55 miles away. I'm sorry.

5 That's juvenile. Adult fish was about 30  
6 miles away downstream. So to us that was the leading  
7 edge.

8 Since that time, we partner with U.S. Fish  
9 and Wildlife, DNR, establishing that as the least --  
10 for all agencies to employ all our tools to try to find  
11 -- just like the desert, you know, you may have a  
12 little enemy, but we're going to locate the mass  
13 population. So we're using that technique and gradually  
14 using different tools out at the Chicago Waterway to  
15 try to find where is the abundance at.

16 And we think it's still well downstream below  
17 Brandon Road Lock and Dam. Since the time I took  
18 command, there's been one Asian carp that was found 500  
19 feet above Lockport Lock and Dam when we did the  
20 rotenone exercise a couple years ago. And there's been  
21 the one Asian carp found in Lake Calumet. So in terms  
22 of location, sir, that's the best we know. And just  
23 like in Iraq we can't sleep. We must employ all the  
24 tools we can to monitor and find what's there.

25 Given the frequency of use of tools and the

1 different tools being used, we think abundance is low  
2 above -- you know, around the barrier and probably back  
3 down to Brandon Road Lock and Dam.

4 Action -- Mr. Goss spoke to a lot of actions  
5 that have happened already. And so I'll let you speak  
6 to those future actions.

7 MR. GOSS: Let me talk about fishing just for  
8 a second. In Southern Indiana -- I have just a few  
9 anecdotes to share because it has not been studied. But

10 MR. FULLER: From fisherman to fisherman.

11 MR. GOSS: Okay. In a friend of mine's  
12 property on the White River, which is very near the  
13 confluence with Wabash, and which he intentionally  
14 floods all of his cornfields for duck hunting, he gets  
15 a lot of fish coming in when he opens the gate. And  
16 they come into his fields.

17 Historically, that's been drum catfish and a  
18 variety of other species. In the past two years he's  
19 had nothing but silver carp coming in from the White  
20 River down at that area. So, also, I know from other  
21 catfishing friends that they are getting few and far  
22 between in the southern part of the state in our major  
23 rivers. So they are crowding out our catfish already.  
24 I'm not sure what you left me, Vincent. I did not  
25 answer it yet, sir.

1 COLONEL QUARLES: The action I think.

2 MR. FULLER: Yeah, the action. I mean --

3 MR. GOSS: Oh, what do you have to do? Okay.

4 What do you have to do?

5 MR. FULLER: Yeah.

6 MR. GOSS: I think certainly this afternoon  
7 and this evening from Traverse City we are getting the  
8 message loud and clear that this is an urgent situation  
9 that we need to seriously look at the time line and see  
10 what we can do to speed things up. There's no question  
11 we're getting that message loud and clear. You don't  
12 have to repeat it. We got it. And we are working on  
13 it. That has been the message from each of the other  
14 six cities where we've been already in January, and  
15 we've got six more to visit in the next couple weeks.  
16 I think there's no question, that is the top line  
17 message. Dave?

18 MR. WETHINGTON: Yes.

19 COLONEL QUARLES: Well, I'll take a quote,  
20 Dave.

21 MR. GOSS: Okay. We hear you.

22 COLONEL QUARLES: But, again, I don't want  
23 any perceptions, because I've looked at this already.  
24 We will look again. And how can you help us? How can  
25 other agencies help us? It's through a better

1 understanding. And so, when we get the reports like  
2 the studies you mentioned, of course, we must review  
3 all of the data sets we get. So if future studies  
4 come, we will -- and we know about them, of course, we  
5 will look at them and see how can they inform GLMRIS.  
6 All of those efforts will help us address this, because  
7 we need the details in order -- we just don't want to  
8 present a solution that will not work. We just need to  
9 put enough thought into this to make sure that the  
10 alternative we offer will do what we say it would do  
11 and we fully understand the impacts.

12 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Miss, you're next.

13 MS. FRY: My name is Peggy Fry, F-r-y. And  
14 my zip code is 49686.

15 (Off the record interruption)

16 MS. FRY: I just had one question, and that  
17 was

18 I had no idea that it was going to be five  
19 years for the study. So my question is who is planning  
20 to take care of the problem once the carp get into Lake  
21 Michigan? Is there a plan?

22 Is there a group of people who are planning  
23 what to do once they're here?

24 MR. GOSS: I can't -- can't give you details,  
25 but I know the State of Michigan does have a carp

1 management plan. Someone here might have worked on it  
2 or be familiar with details. That would include  
3 emergency responses if they are detected. I can tell  
4 you that your Department of Natural Resources has been  
5 thinking and working on it, and they have put together  
6 some plans.

7 COLONEL QUARLES: If you notice on the -- if  
8 you notice on the slides we have, we do know of a USGS  
9 effort that is focused on should Asian carp reach the  
10 lake, what's their chances of surviving, you know, the  
11 cold water, 'cause it's not a river. So we know of that  
12 study. We're working on the time line of when that  
13 study will be done and so we can inform GLMRIS. So  
14 that's another study that we know is out there and it's  
15 being looked at. So, you know, can Asian carp survive  
16 in, you know, lakes as deep as Lake Michigan and the  
17 others or would they do other things?

18 MR. BLUHM: All right. Anybody that hasn't  
19 had a chance to come to the microphone yet today, come  
20 down here and then I'll take -- I'll get to you. Don't  
21 worry. I'll get to you. Okay. Go ahead.

22 MR. OLIVER: Oliver, Craig, O-l-i-v-e-r,  
23 49686.

24 A little bit about my history. Born here,  
25 got a BS in geometry from Michigan State, returned

1 here, have been in construction all my life. My  
2 grandfather was a commercial fisherman out on the bay.  
3 He was shut down by the lamprey.

4 Okay. I've seen the alewives, ya-da, ya-da.

5 Basically, government has stood by wringing  
6 their hands through all of these. That's my major  
7 concern, that this will be the trend that continues.  
8 You guys are in a unique position to reverse that.

9 Now, that said, I spent probably a hundred  
10 days a year on the Great Lakes, so I've seen the  
11 microbiology at work, what's happened and I'm pretty  
12 familiar with it. The first thing I'm going to do is  
13 say what I've heard from everybody else. You're doing  
14 the right thing in the five-year study. People don't  
15 understand what a scientific study entails. But on the  
16 other hand, we do have a segment that's well defined  
17 and it takes immediate action. So as long -- and guys  
18 know this. Okay. But I want the people to understand  
19 the five-year study is scientifically valid, do it.

20 I heard nothing about the biology of these  
21 fish.

22 I do know in the Missouri River they're  
23 collapsing because they've cleaned everything out. And  
24 then we move right on to this marsh situation. You're  
25 going to find that all along this division line. These

1 marshes -- I hate to say it, but a chainlink fence is  
2 what I use to keep people out of my medical cannabis.  
3 If they're going to breed in marshes like regular carp,  
4 you've got a problem there. That means a little deeper  
5 study and a little more aggressive approach, because  
6 they'll thrive. They'll go through half an inch of  
7 water. Eggs -- you know about that. Okay. So the  
8 biology is something that I really didn't hear much  
9 about, and that goes into these peripheral ecological  
10 overlap regions that have some kind of temporary  
11 flooding going on. So I think that does need to be  
12 addressed and will be with time. And I think there is  
13 a problem with the time there.

14               Now onto the other issues that were in your  
15 paperwork that I took quick note of. The release  
16 issue, a biggie, nothing you're going to do anything  
17 about except for public education.

18               About 15 miles from here there's a little  
19 pothole, a lake called Fife Lake. And about ten years  
20 ago a lady got a really beautiful, robust redbelly  
21 brown eye.

22               That did not swim up from the Amazon. That  
23 has to do with your bait bucket situation, too. Not as  
24 big a deal, but when you've got those rivers within a  
25 few miles of Lake Michigan, people are going to go out



1 and get in that?

2 Again, public education. Not much you can do  
3 about that.

4 It's like a minor issue, but it's valid. So  
5 we're right down to Chicago. Now, as someone who's  
6 spent 25 years in the construction business, talking to  
7 somebody from the Army Corps of Engineers, we both know  
8 what details are. Now, except for the social and  
9 economic issues, bingo. So that's really where your  
10 focus needs to be. And I really don't have an answer  
11 for it except for the political pressure has to be put  
12 on, I think. Those are my observations and for what  
13 they're worth.

14 COLONEL QUARLES: I just want to clarify,  
15 'cause when my team told me we were going to build a  
16 fence, you know, I had questions.

17 MR. OLIVER: Yeah.

18 COLONEL QUARLES: So I have a master's in  
19 mechanical engineering I got in the Civil Department at  
20 West Point. And so you know more about fish than me.  
21 But here's what I do know.

22 When they told me this fence would be used,  
23 we made sure this fence, quarter-inch mesh --

24 MR. OLIVER: Okay. So you're down --

25 COLONEL QUARLES: -- it's not a small fence

1 they can get through.

2 MR. OLIVER: You're down to the private side?

3 COLONEL QUARLES: Yes. So we looked at the  
4 possibilities that eggs could get through. You know  
5 the conditions that these eggs need; if they hit the  
6 bottom they die.

7 MR. OLIVER: Yes.

8 COLONEL QUARLES: So we considered that. And,  
9 again, this was not the long-term solution, but we do  
10 feel it was prudent action to reduce risk.

11 MR. OLIVER: So you are addressing the  
12 biology and that

13 COLONEL QUARLES: We're working with folks  
14 that know that a lot better than me.

15 MR. BLUHM: Quickly, Tom.

16 MR. GOSS: Yeah. USGS has a number of  
17 scientists working on it. They will be doing hopefully  
18 more and more projects if we can get the funds released  
19 this year. They are looking at many different ways  
20 that we could interfere with the carp migration.  
21 Certainly, they're trying to figure out where they're  
22 likely to go, which is what you're referring to.  
23 They're going to thrive in certain spots, and they're  
24 going to spawn in a

25 MR. OLIVER: Swift flowing water?

1 MR. GOSS: Yeah, for a long distance.

2 MR. OLIVER: See, that's not -- not normal  
3 for carp we're used to.

4 MR. GOSS: Right. They're very different  
5 from common carp, yeah. But, yes, that is part of the  
6 work that they've done in Missouri. Duane Chapman's  
7 published one report on what they've been able to find  
8 from -- since they've had more years to observe them  
9 down in the Missouri area.

10 MR. OLIVER: So, really, my basic line to you  
11 guys is we're coming the political end, because I think  
12 the people are behind you. And this is, like I say,  
13 the one big thing where you can have a real invasive  
14 success story.

15 MR. GOSS: Thanks.

16 MR. OLIVER: Thanks.

17 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. Now I've  
18 got a hand right here. Who else hasn't had a chance to  
19 talk yet today? Okay. I'm going to let her - - she's  
20 next, I've got a feeling. Okay. So, ma'am, you can go  
21 and then you in the front, you can go next. How's  
22 that?

23 MS. ORR: All right.

24 MR. BLUHM: Ma'am, go ahead. Yeah, that's  
25 fine.

1 MS. ORR: Mary Lee Orr, 49635. I have three  
2 questions for you. First of all, I'm curious to know -  
3 - you refer to the Asian carp. There's two different -  
4 - there's two different sub-

5 MR. GOSS: Species.

6 MS. ORR: And I'm curious to know which one  
7 is being harvested on the river. Is it the silver carp  
8 that leaps so beautifully or the big -- the bighead  
9 ones that could hardly move out of the water? That's  
10 question number one. Question number two, the barriers  
11 that we refer to that make us feel so happy, my  
12 impression is from what I've heard, is that they're not  
13 running all the time, that they run at different times?  
14 So it's kind of a hit or -- kind of hit or miss?

15 COLONEL QUARLES: No.

16 MS. ORR: My last question, which is really  
17 my most fervent one, given the -- the confirmation --  
18 the scientific affirmation of the DNA having been  
19 discovered in Lake Michigan, you refer to an  
20 established colony or an established --

21 MR. GOSS: Population.

22 MS. ORR: -- carp system in the lake. But  
23 that's not really the point right now. The point seems  
24 to me that we now know that there is DNA that -- from  
25 these carp that has gotten into Lake Michigan. And a

1 few carp are going to produce ultimately an established  
2 colony, so to speak. How many of you really think that  
3 there are no carp in Lake Michigan? I'm just curious  
4 to know.

5 COLONEL QUARLES: Let me take what I know. We  
6 have a crew of engineers that monitor the barrier  
7 system 24 hours a day. And the initial barrier system -  
8 - the first one activated in 2002 has been in operation  
9 since that time.

10 So they run 24 hours a day. We have backup  
11 generators should we lose power. And, you know,  
12 there's been blimps where they were out for a second or  
13 -- but, again, we have redundancy within the system. So  
14 we have barrier 1.

15 Barrier 2A has -- we activated that in April  
16 of 2009. And we have now built a year ahead of  
17 planning, because of the support --

18 MR. GOSS: Right.

19 COLONEL QUARLES: -- from the president and  
20 his stimulus to be a year earlier in planning. And  
21 today this long or endurance run, we're making sure it  
22 functions as we desire it to do. We will then do  
23 safety testing, with barges coming through to make sure  
24 of those safety concerns.

25 And then we'll have three different barriers

1 that we can run and maintain throughout that area --  
2 that stretch of 1200 feet of the canal to deter Asian  
3 carp migration. Does that help?

4 MR. CURRAN: Yeah, but you didn't answer the  
5 question about are -- do you all think there's no carp  
6 in Lake Michigan?

7 COLONEL QUARLES: Here's what I've known. And  
8 I've just been a country boy. It's going to take some  
9 number of Asian carp to find the right habitat in order  
10 to do what Mr. Goss said, establish a population. It's  
11 a known fact that in the Great Lakes there's been four  
12 or five Asian carp that was found in lakes, but they  
13 didn't find smaller ones. So I'm going to say it  
14 again. I'm telling you what other scientists have  
15 said. It takes some number. I don't know what that  
16 number is. It's not one and two.

17 It's like some number that find the right  
18 habitat and it's got to be flowing water and certain  
19 other things for them to have babies that create a  
20 population that stays there. So I'm going to leave that  
21 alone. Mr. Goss has some more things.

22 MR. GOSS: Just a couple more points. In  
23 Lake Erie they've found over the years three or four

24 COLONEL QUARLES: Four.

25 MR. GOSS: -- four Asian carp, but they have

1 not located, you know, a breeding population or any  
2 area where they are congregating or thriving.

3           Those were individual fish cruising. I  
4 firmly believe that we have a few fish that are  
5 creating these traces of eDNA. We are not able to find  
6 a concentration or a repeated testing of finding them  
7 in any one spot. So they're -- they're just cruising  
8 around, I think. So we -- we do know that there are  
9 traces there. We need to do more research to find out,  
10 you know, how many fish is that? We don't know yet.

11           COLONEL QUARLES: And we also -- just some  
12 follow-up. We are also looking at -- because this is  
13 DNA.

14           And as Mr. Goss started off, when you have  
15 DNA, it could be from live fish, dead fish. So, you  
16 know, what are the chances? I don't know. But we need  
17 to investigate. And so it is an opportunity to at  
18 least look at other pathways of how you have DNA in a  
19 location versus not fish. And, again, I think there's  
20 more work to be done to fully understand exactly what's  
21 there from that one tool. So when eDNA is found in one  
22 location, the Department of Natural Resources and U.S.  
23 Fish and Army Corps, we use vast -- other monitoring  
24 tools along that stretch repeatedly to try to see  
25 what's out there that we can catch.

1 MS. ORR: Which ones are being harvested?

2 COLONEL QUARLES: I was with the governor --

3 MR. GOSS: Yeah, go ahead.

4 COLONEL QUARLES: I was with the governor,  
5 for instance, in Illinois when he signed a contract  
6 with the Chinese government to buy about 20 million  
7 dollars worth of Asian carp. In addition, the DNR and  
8 other agencies are looking how can they lower the  
9 populations to take pressure of Asian carp from  
10 reaching there.

11 MR. GOSS: Right. And I can't answer that.

12 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. You've  
13 been very patient with me. It's your turn.

14 MS. BAUMANN: Hello. Cheryl Baumann. And  
15 I'd just like to say I'm kind of speaking as a citizen  
16 of the USA, not necessarily Michigan, 'cause I live  
17 here, I lived in Fort Wayne, Indiana, I lived in  
18 Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

19 And I just have a couple of questions, if you  
20 could answer them quickly, just so I can become more  
21 informed. GLMRIS, you are the agency for GLMRIS;  
22 correct?

23 COLONEL QUARLES: Yes, ma'am.

24 MS. BAUMANN: Just you?

25 COLONEL QUARLES: The Corps -- the Corps of



1 Engineers -- it's a Corps of --

2 MR. GOSS: This study itself, the Corps of  
3 Engineers has been authorized by Congress to conduct  
4 this feasibility study. Now, we're reaching out to  
5 other agencies, of course, to help perform this thing.

6 COLONEL QUARLES: Right.

7 MS. BAUMANN: What groups were reporting to  
8 you, and how many? This has been going on since 1970,  
9 they say?

10 Are you the first agency since 1970-  
11 something?

12 COLONEL QUARLES: For the federal government  
13 and those in the Corps here, this is, I think, the  
14 first authorization for a study of this type, that is,  
15 feasibility (inaudible) study, that we know of.

16 MR. GOSS: Right.

17 COLONEL QUARLES: Now, again, we can double-  
18 check it. I want to be factual. But there's been a lot  
19 of studies now, I guess, about Asian carp.

20 MR. GOSS: The U.S. Geological Survey has a  
21 2004 study that looked at the migration of carp coming  
22 up --

23 MS. BAUMANN: So we had investigated agency  
24 studies?

25 MR. GOSS: Yeah, different groups have looked

1 at the carp challenge at different times. They were  
2 monitoring the Mississippi and the migration, and, you  
3 know, gave us some indication. The Canadian government  
4 did a risk assessment on whether or not Asian carp were  
5 likely to be survivors, you know, in the Great Lakes  
6 and gave us some results of that. I think that was a  
7 2004 report, also. So those were the first two  
8 scientific looks at whether or not these Asian carp  
9 were going to be a significant problem.

10 COLONEL QUARLES: And Dave did the literature

11 MR. GOSS: Okay. And now we've got all kinds  
12 of other information that's being pulled together by  
13 the Corps of Engineers. And I think those are the two  
14 best known information sources.

15 MS. BAUMANN: So since 1970 there's been many  
16 agencies doing their little thing? And then when did  
17 you guys start?

18 MR. GOSS: About a year ago all the agencies  
19 got together and formed a strategy together. So that's  
20 what we're calling the Asian Carp Strategy Strategic  
21 Framework.

22 I started this fall as a coordinator to try  
23 to make sure that everybody's really working together.

24 MS. BAUMANN: Okay. Well, how come nobody

25 (inaudible)

1 COLONEL QUARLES: The only thing else I would  
2 add is I mentioned before we started and did at least a  
3 literature review of what studies was out there. I  
4 think Dave --

5 MS. BAUMANN: Your presentation convinced me  
6 that you're right on track and you want to get rid of  
7 them just as much as we all do. But my concern is, you  
8 know, how come you guys came along so late in the --  
9 late in the season?

10 MR. WETHINGTON: I guess -- I guess what we  
11 need to make clear is that there have been a number of  
12 studies done on specifically Asian carp, maybe on how  
13 they reproduce, on where they might live. You know,  
14 there's a very large body of knowledge on Asian carp.  
15 And I'm talking about Asian carp, I'm talking about  
16 silver carp, bighead carp, some grass carp, black carp.

17 There's a lot of studies out of, independent,  
18 you know, universities. Researchers have done a lot of  
19 work on Asian carp specifically. What this study is --  
20 and it's very clear -- and it's very important that  
21 we're clear about what GLMRIS is, what the study is --  
22 is the study is how to prevent the spread -- the  
23 transfer of aquatic nuisance species or any kind of  
24 species between the two basins.

25 MS. BAUMANN: Okay. I got that.

1 MR. WETHINGTON: Okay. So Asian carp is one  
2 -- it's an aspect of it. I won't call it small,  
3 because it's not. But an Asian carp is just an aspect  
4 of it. If --

5 COLONEL QUARLES: It is one invasive.

6 MR. WETHINGTON: It is one invasive species.  
7 There are a number. There's maybe a couple  
8 dozen -- a few dozen that are really of some priority.  
9 So when you're asking whether this is the first time  
10 we've done it, yes, we were authorized by Congress in  
11 2007. We received money in  
12 2009.

13 MS. BAUMANN: So what took them so long to  
14 authorize you? That's -- I mean --

15 MR. WETHINGTON: Don't bite the hand that  
16 feeds you; right?

17 MS. BAUMANN: Okay. You mentioned Canada.  
18 Are they still involved with this?

19 MR. WETHINGTON: Yes.

20 MS. BAUMANN: Okay. I hear -- I hear all  
21 these people that don't want it for whatever reason,  
22 and they all seem very legitimate reasons. And all I  
23 hear from this -- from your side is "hold them," "push  
24 them back," "don't let them go forward." Why don't we  
25 just exting- -- kill them (inaudible)? What are they

1 good for?

2 COLONEL QUARLES: Well, I've eaten some.

3 MS. BAUMANN: Huh?

4 COLONEL QUARLES: I've eaten -- I've eaten  
5 Asian carp. You can use them for fertilizer. Again,  
6 it's not the one --

7 MS. BAUMANN: But that doesn't outweigh the  
8 bad they're doing.

9 COLONEL QUARLES: I agree. And what we're  
10 saying is it's not one solution, it's not one silver  
11 bullet. All right. You have certain agencies that's  
12 looking at how can you commercially use them. It's  
13 efforts to get people to see the nutritional benefit.  
14 So it's all these things that could lower the  
15 population and do the things --

16 MS. BAUMANN: And what -- where did -- they  
17 obviously came from Asia, but where were they first?  
18 I'm looking at that map that was huge.

19 COLONEL QUARLES: The best that we know right  
20 now is farmers in Arkansas used them to do good in  
21 cleaning ponds. Flood events happened. They were able  
22 to leave the ponds and go to the Mississippi River.

23 MS. BAUMANN: So these fish are smarter than  
24 all of us -- a long time.

25 COLONEL QUARLES: Well, Mother Nature has a

1 way, ma'am.

2 MS. BAUMANN: And it's -- you know, good luck  
3 to you, guys, 'cause I think you're on our side.

4 But, you know, as I said before, I think it's  
5 government bureaucracy that's going to just -- you  
6 know, not much can proceed and it's a shame.

7 MR. GOSS: Don't give up hope. We're making  
8 progress.

9 MS. BAUMANN: Okay. Thank you.

10 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you. Yes, come  
11 on up, sir.

12 MR. MIKE LAMBERT: I guess I kind of know  
13 something. Also, they're good for exporting.

14 And you talked something about that. And  
15 also some people sell them to Chinese restaurants and  
16 stuff like that. And they're supposed to be not bad to  
17 eat. I haven't tried it myself, but I haven't gotten  
18 the chance. And I was also thinking that the fishing  
19 of the carp shouldn't be regulated or the limits.

20 COLONEL QUARLES: You're quite a smart young  
21 man.

22 I mean, there is efforts being done now, at  
23 least I know by the Illinois Department of Natural  
24 Resources. There's some interest in commercial fishing  
25 and they're looking at how can they assist -- and again

1 we working on the populations -- we're going to  
2 decrease them. I do know there's some efforts to --  
3 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and DNR --

4 MR. GOSS: I think I mentioned there's a  
5 target of taking a million pounds out just in that  
6 stretch of the Illinois River. So they're encouraging  
7 commercial fisherman to take them.

8 They're tough to catch otherwise. They're  
9 not going to bite on a hook. And you've got to have  
10 some special nets and so forth to get them. So  
11 certainly that's -- that's going to have to increase in  
12 all the river systems around the states that have that  
13 population growing.

14 And it's a big challenge to push them back  
15 through all the rivers they've already occupied.

16 So we've got a lot of work to do on that.  
17 Let's say -- I heard you say "just eliminate them." I  
18 understand that part, too.

19 MR. BLUHM: Thank you. Yes, go ahead.

20 MR. LAMBERT: The Asian carp are in Illinois.

21 We're here in Traverse City hundreds of miles  
22 away. We're sitting here. We're watching what appears  
23 to be a plague descending on us. I think I speak for a  
24 certain contingent of us from the local area, who are  
25 more doers. We want to do something. We want to take

1 pride in it. And we want to know what can we here in  
2 Traverse City do that's beyond waiting for our federal  
3 government, waiting for the Corps of Engineers. Is it  
4 load up a couple of tour buses with people with  
5 baseball bats and go play carp baseball, or what can we  
6 do? We want something tangible that we can do to help  
7 prevent a potential collapse of our fisheries, our  
8 recreational facilities. We want to know what is there  
9 out there? What can we do? We don't want to just sit  
10 on our hands.

11 MR. GOSS: Get informed first. I think there  
12 hasn't been enough information about Asian carp.

13 What we're doing here is just a snapshot with  
14 a few folks. So we need to work on networks of  
15 information so that people understand the extent of the  
16 threat and the opportunity we have to do a permanent  
17 separation or a permanent way to stop invasive species  
18 from doing what they've been doing to us, lakes to  
19 rivers, rivers to lakes. That's the important part of  
20 this.

21 We need your support on this study to come up  
22 with that permanent solution. That's going to need  
23 continuing funding. Each year we're going to need money  
24 to keep this thing going. So we need you to make sure  
25 that members of Congress - - and you have some very



1 powerful people from this part of the state and from  
2 the State of Michigan who have stood up and who are  
3 very much involved. So continue to support them on  
4 that.

5 And help us spread the word to other people.  
6 If you can think of any networks that you have, whether  
7 that's sport fishing or any other groups, let's get the  
8 information flowing so that people understand what it's  
9 going to take to get this thing done. We need your  
10 help.

11 COLONEL QUARLES: We want to thank you for  
12 what you're all doing by being here tonight and taking  
13 the time out. I think you have another question.

14 MR. BLUHM: Okay. We'll go next; go ahead.

15 MS. MCKAY: It's not really a question. It's  
16 more to address -- sort of getting an answer. He  
17 mentioned that they're -- they need funding to do all  
18 the short-term action, and all of our members of  
19 Congress and the Great Lakes region are supportive of  
20 what we're doing with the exception of don't -- closing  
21 the locks. So what you need to do is you need to reach  
22 out to friends and families outside the Great Lakes  
23 Basin. We need people to raise -- congressmen and  
24 women in California and Nevada and Idaho, because they  
25 need to support the efforts to provide funding and

1 authorization for these efforts as well. If it's  
2 congressional effort and it's not just the Great Lakes  
3 Basin, it is going to be (inaudible) --

4 MR. GOSS: You just reminded me that you  
5 folks are unique in that you have a lot of people who  
6 visit here.

7 Educating all those folks who pass through  
8 this area every year could help us spread that map work  
9 around the country.

10 You're a very popular destination. You  
11 should use that opportunity to educate folks while  
12 they're here. So appreciate it if you can think of  
13 ways to do that.

14 MR. BLUHM: Yes, go ahead. And I'm just  
15 going to remind you, let's make sure we introduce  
16 ourselves, too.

17 MS. HALEY: Good evening. My name is Susan  
18 Haley, and I am in Leelanau County, 49664. I'm a  
19 former senate employee. H-a-l-e-y. I'm a former senate  
20 caseworker -- constituent worker in the legislature of  
21 Michigan. We have a new governor. And he's not real  
22 political. So I think a challenge for all of us this  
23 evening would be to call him -- his office tomorrow and  
24 just bombard that switchboard with the fact that, if we  
25 don't have salmon in the Great Lakes, Leland, Michigan,

1 will close down.

2 Tourism will close down.

3 And it's all about jobs in Michigan. So  
4 hammer it to our new legislators.

5 We've got -- they've got people like me  
6 sitting there waiting to hear from you, and part of  
7 your calling them is educating them to this being a top  
8 priority, because it goes to economics, just basically.  
9 Then by calling them, they in turn will hopefully  
10 support these gentlemen up here to do their job.  
11 Because the more -- more momentum we have; letters, e-  
12 mails; then they're going to talk to someone like me in  
13 the policy office and say, "Okay. Let's go with it.

14 What can we do to help this body of people  
15 doing researches?

16 How can we speed up that plan?" So tomorrow  
17 -- what are we all going to do tomorrow? Pick up the  
18 phone and call your newly elected legislators. They  
19 work for us.

20 And I just want to applaud all of you for  
21 taking time out to come here. And we hope you'll come  
22 back at another time to go fishing. I have a blessed  
23 90-year-old mother who called me last night from East  
24 Lansing to remind me to come to this meeting. We  
25 should all live that blessed life. Thank you.

1                   MR. BLUHM: I've got a hand over here. Go  
2 ahead, sir.

3                   MR. MAIR: Hello. My name is Tom Mair, M-a-  
4 i-r, and I live in Traverse City. I just want to thank  
5 the woman in the fourth row for bringing that up about  
6 whether there's actually carp -- carp have been found  
7 in the Great Lakes. I was here, and I spoke at 4:00  
8 o'clock this afternoon. I asked a similar question. I  
9 probably didn't ask it correctly, but what everybody  
10 heard here -- and there were about four times as many  
11 people -- was that the closest thing to carp in the  
12 lake was a find of eDNA. So all those people left here  
13 without the same information.

14                   And if you'd like to add that to your  
15 comments, John Flesher of The Associated Press was here  
16 between 2:00 and 3:00 o'clock. He's an excellent  
17 writer. You might want to let him know that there are  
18 actually cases where they found carp in the Great  
19 Lakes, 'cause there was a whole bunch of people who  
20 went out of here with a different piece of information,  
21 including me. I came back, so -- so now I hear it two  
22 different ways. That really concerns me, because I  
23 think it's the message. And I'm not sure whether more  
24 people will be interested if they think it's a threat  
25 that hasn't happened yet or it's already happened and

1 that's a greater threat. So depending on how you give  
2 that message, you're going to get a different reaction  
3 from people.

4 And I'm sort of concerned about how the  
5 message is getting out, because I was really kind of  
6 saddened that The Associated Press guy only stayed an  
7 hour. He didn't hear very much compared to what I  
8 heard. I stayed 'til about 4:20 or so. He was already  
9 out of here at 3:00 o'clock.

10 COLONEL QUARLES: Let me just -- I responded,  
11 so I want to be clear. And I want to help you help me.  
12 I do not recall a case where Asian carp has been found  
13 in Lake Michigan that came up through the CAWS.

14 MR. WETHINGTON: Correct.

15 COLONEL QUARLES: So when you asked me about  
16 eDNA, I was fixated --

17 MR. WETHINGTON: Lake Michigan.

18 COLONEL QUARLES: -- on the CAWS, Lake  
19 Michigan, and the cases that -- the four-Asian-carp  
20 spell

21 MR. WETHINGTON: All Lake Erie.

22 COLONEL QUARLES: -- all Lake Erie --

23 MR. WETHINGTON: Yeah.

24 COLONEL QUARLES: -- and years ago.

25 MR. WETHINGTON: Yeah.

1 COLONEL QUARLES: So that's why it didn't  
2 ring a bell, but, again, we want to be clear.

3 MR. MAIR: Well, I mean that -- the people of  
4 Lake Erie -- there's probably more commercial fish  
5 being harvested out of Lake Erie than Lake Michigan.  
6 That's a guess. If that's true, it's a greater threat  
7 to that lake.

8 That lake's had other environmental problems  
9 in the past and sort of made a comeback as a fishery.  
10 But it seems to me -- and I'd really like to see those  
11 biological studies on what's -- you know, what's the  
12 likelihood that the fish will prosper in a lake like  
13 Lake Michigan, 'cause it's much different than the  
14 environments that they're in now. And if you have a  
15 recommendation on one of those studies for us to read,  
16 I'd like to know so I could find that.

17 MR. WETHINGTON: The U.S. Geological Survey  
18 is the one who has documented those incidents of the  
19 carp being caught in Lake Erie.

20 Coincidentally, they're also the ones who are  
21 doing the research on whether or not Asian carp can  
22 survive or thrive in the Great Lakes.

23 There's a whole -- in addition to the U.S.

24 Geological Survey, I know that the Canadian  
25 government is also doing work on a new risk assessment,

1 something that's using all the former information  
2 that's been gathered over the years to basically  
3 determine whether or not Asian carp can be -- can  
4 survive and thrive in the Great Lakes. The Canadian  
5 government is doing their own separate risk assessment.

6 MR. MAIR: Okay. Well, if you could, you  
7 know, clarify whether there has been actually fish in  
8 the Great Lakes or Lake Michigan or Lake Erie to John  
9 Flesher of The Associated Press, he's a very good  
10 writer -- he doesn't show bias, and he might be able to  
11 get that information out. And that's the message I'm  
12 concerned about, is, you know, whether they've been  
13 there, whether they haven't, whether it's eDNA, you  
14 know, what that story is. 'Cause people are hearing  
15 different things. Thank you.

16 MR. SAFFRAN: I'll just address one document  
17 that is very informative and very comprehensive.

18 It's a little bit old, and I'm not sure if  
19 it's in the 2004 document you referenced to John.

20 But it's called The Management Control Plan  
21 for Asian Carp, and it was produced for the aquatic  
22 nuisance species task force. It was published in 2004,  
23 and it's a pretty good, comprehensive book that  
24 outlines the nature of the four different types of  
25 Asian carp and the individual threats they pose as well

1 as a number of initiatives to be implemented to control  
2 -- management control of carp.

3 MR. MAIR: So if I search those words, I  
4 might find that?

5 MR. SAFFRAN: Yes. The Management Control  
6 Plan for Asian Carp, and it has the Aquatic Nuisance  
7 Species Task Force, ANSTF.

8 MR. GOSS: Fish and --

9 MR. MAIR: And what was the year?

10 MR. GOSS: Fish and Wildlife Service.

11 MR. SAFFRAN: Yes, Fish and Wildlife Service  
12 and USTS. There's others that were all members. It  
13 was very much a multi-agency produced report.

14 MR. MAIR: Okay. Thank you.

15 (Off the record interruption)

16 MR. BLUHM: All right. Who would like to go  
17 next?

18 Looking at my clock, it's about a quarter to  
19 8:00. We've been going strong at this this evening.  
20 We've heard from several people and several people more  
21 than once. And that's been very, very productive, very  
22 helpful for us as we move forward. I'd like to ask one  
23 last time if anybody has any additional thoughts,  
24 concerns, questions or comments for us. Now would be  
25 the time to raise your hand and make your way to the



1 microphone.

2 MS. BAUMANN: I'd just like to say don't let  
3 the political system wear you guys out. Get it done.

4 MR. BLUHM: Okay. Thank you. We'll stay on.

5 Yes, please. I'd like you to come to the  
6 microphone if you can.

7 MS. STONE: My name is Bea Stone, S-t-o-n-e,  
8 49635. I think you four gentlemen came because you  
9 needed to know more about how the people of the  
10 northern part of Michigan felt -- feel about this  
11 terrible problem we have.

12 I've grown up in areas all over the Great  
13 Lakes.

14 I've watched the fish, and I really, really  
15 care about what's happening. I care more about the  
16 recreational fisherman, because I think the fish they  
17 catch are really putting food on tables of a lot of  
18 people. And that really doesn't get counted, but it's  
19 a biggie from where I've observed.

20 But the one thing I would like to mention is  
21 I think you have said that you have learned a lot and  
22 you really know now how the people feel all the way up  
23 to the north and that time is of an essence. My  
24 suggestion to you is for you to go back to your home  
25 now and get going on this problem and not go out to

1 either -- you said you had either four or six more  
2 places to go to to hear what the people say. I think  
3 we're -- I think we're in a hurry and we need to get on  
4 with -- once we hear what -- how people feel, then  
5 maybe we could just go back and get to work. Thank you.

6 COLONEL QUARLES: Be assured that, even  
7 though David is here, we've got some other engineers  
8 that's working hard back in Chicago and other  
9 locations. In, you know, comments that I did before I  
10 began, you know, these events did not happen without a  
11 lot of hard work. So I want to thank the Detroit  
12 District for hosting tonight.

13 I want to thank all of the other folks here  
14 from the Chicago District and other places that are  
15 traveling throughout the Great Lakes with David and  
16 Mike to get these opportunities for us to hear you  
17 speak. And so I really appreciate what they're doing  
18 sending someone.

19 MR. BLUHM: Very good. Thank you, sir. And  
20 I'd like to thank all of you for your comments. Let me  
21 remind you that if you have any prepared statements or  
22 documents you'd like to leave with us, bring them up to  
23 the podium, deposit them with myself or at the  
24 registration table before you leave. We want to make  
25 sure we grab all the information that you've prepared

1 for us. And then also note that, if you wish to mail  
2 in any written statements, those must be received or  
3 postmarked by March the 31st, 2011. And the address  
4 can be found on many of the different forms, keeping in  
5 mind that the white half-page sheet is the piece that  
6 we're providing to give you ample room to write  
7 anything else down if you'd like. So if you think of  
8 anything in the future or if you have anybody that was  
9 not able to attend tonight, grab one of these forms for  
10 them as well if you desire. And we look forward to your  
11 comments that you have.

12 Before we adjourn, I want to make sure that  
13 we also remind you that any of these materials that  
14 we've provided, if you're through with them and do not  
15 need them anymore -- we do have several more meetings  
16 that we're going to be doing -- if you can help us  
17 recycle anything you do not need, you can leave it on  
18 your chair or deposit that on the table as well on your  
19 way out. And that will help us to conserve a few pages  
20 in a future use. With that said, we've just heard  
21 comments from 20 people this evening and some 40 people  
22 this afternoon. We've had a very productive and  
23 rigorous day here and appreciate all for your  
24 attentiveness and your time you've taken for us. With  
25 that said, the time is 7:53, and I'd like to adjourn

1 the meeting. Thank you and have a safe trip home.

2 (Hearing concluded at 7:53 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY

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3 I, ANN M. HOLMS, do hereby certify that this  
4 transcript is a true and correct transcript of the  
5 GLMRIS public hearing and testimony in the case on  
6 January 27, 2011. I am neither counsel for, nor party  
7 to this action nor am I interested in the outcome of  
8 this action.

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ANN M. HOLMS, CER 2629

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