NEPA Public Scoping Meeting

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

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GLMRIS

Great Lakes and
Mississippi River Interbasin Study

PUBLIC MEETING

ON

FEBRUARY 10, 2011

Public meeting held at the Vicksburg Convention Center, 1600 Mulberry Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180.

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1	APPEARANCES	
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3	Jim Breedin, Deputy Asian Carp Director, White	
4	House Council on Environmental	
5	Quality	
6		
7	Colonel Vincent Quarles, Commander Chicago	
8	District US Army Corps of Engineers	
9		
10	Dave Wethington, GLMRIS Project Manager	
11		
12	Mike Saffran, Other Pathways Project Manager	
13		
14	Kendall Zaborowski, Moderator	
15		
16		
17	Reported by:	
18	Angela "Dawn" Dillard, CSR 1763	
19		
20	LIST OF SPEAKERS	
21	Cathy Shropshire	
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23		
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- 1 PROCEEDINGS
- 2 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Good afternoon, ladies and
- 3 gentleman. I would like to welcome everyone to today's
- 4 Great Lakes Mississippi River Interbasin Study or GLMRIS
- 5 NEPA's Scoping Meeting. My name is Kendall Zaborowski.
- 6 I'm from the Chicago District of the US Army Corps of
- 7 Engineers. I will be this meeting's moderator.
- 8 Before beginning the meeting I would like to
- 9 let everyone know that if you go back out to the welcome
- 10 table and follow it all the way to your left you will
- 11 find the bathrooms, so if you need to do that that's
- 12 where they are.
- Before going further I'd like to take a moment
- 14 to introduce our panel. Immediately to my right is
- 15 Mr. Jim Bredin the Deputy Asian Carp Director for the
- 16 White House Council on Environmental Quality.
- 17 Next to him is Colonel Vincent Quarles, the
- 18 Commander of the Chicago District for the US Army Corps
- 19 of Engineers.
- Then Dave Wethington, the GLMRIS Project
- 21 Manager.
- 22 And then Mike Saffran, the Other Pathways
- 23 Project Manager.
- When you arrived today the following materials
- 25 were available at the welcome and registration tables.

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- 1 We have the green meeting agenda that shows the
- 2 break down of how this meeting will be conducted.
- 3 Then we have the GLMRIS business card, which
- 4 has contact information and online information if you
- 5 wish to learn more about the study.
- 6 Then there is the GLMRIS tri-fold brochure,
- 7 which is basic information about the study.
- 8 And we have white comments cards, which has
- 9 instructions on submitting written comments either at
- 10 this meeting or through mail.
- 11 We have a purple paper that is frequently asked
- 12 questions about GLMRIS.
- 13 A peach colored paper which is frequently asked
- 14 questions about other aquatic nuisance species efforts
- 15 undertaken by the Corps of the Engineers and other
- 16 agencies.
- 17 You have a copy of today's presentations that
- 18 will be given here shortly.
- And then lastly the study blue books were
- 20 available, and that is detailed information about the
- 21 Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study.
- 22 If you would like to make an oral comment today
- 23 and have not yet registered at our register to speak
- 24 table, please take a chance to do so. You'll be asked
- 25 to fill out one of these yellow comment forms and we

- 1 will need your last name, first name and ZIP code for
- 2 your comments to be considered in our NEPA scoping
- 3 process.
- 4 Similarly, if you would like to make a comment
- 5 or leave a statement with us we have these blue document
- 6 submittal forms that you can leave at the registration
- 7 table or you can give to myself or any member of the
- 8 panel.
- 9 Our GLMRIS team has organized this public
- 10 meeting to accomplish two goals. The first goal is to
- 11 present information about the study. The second is to
- 12 solicit your comments on what you feel are the
- 13 significant issues or issues that are insignificant that
- 14 should be elminated for further studying.
- The Corps of Engineers is hosting 12 public
- 16 meetings throughout the study area in an effort to
- 17 provide opportunities for those within the study area an
- 18 opportunity to learn more about the study itself, and
- 19 again to give us your comments and tell us what you
- 20 think.
- 21 Please note that the NEPA public scoping period
- 22 ends on March 31 of this year. As indicated on the
- 23 green agenda this meeting is organized into two
- 24 sessions. Identitical presentation will be given at the
- 25 beginning of both sessions. Following the presentations

- 1 the public comment period will open. This will be the
- 2 first presentation and then we are scheduled to end at 5
- 3 o'clock today. And then we will start our second
- 4 presentation at 5:30. We'll have that 30 minute break
- 5 between sessions for us to kind of stretch our legs, but
- 6 we will be available for informal questions and
- 7 answers.
- Please note that any questions or comments made
- 9 during this -- not made during the oral comment period
- 10 will not be considered for our NEPA scoping process.
- If you have any questions or concerns during
- 12 the meeting please find somebody with a red name tag,
- 13 we'll be glad to help you out and answer any questions
- 14 that you may have.
- 15 Now I'd like to turn it over to Mr. Bredin and
- 16 he will begin the presentation portion of this meeting.
- 17 MR. BREDIN: Thanks, Kendall, I appreciate
- 18 that. And as he mentioned I'm Jim Bredin. I'm the
- 19 Deputy Director of Asian Carp for the Council and
- 20 Environmental Quality out of the White House, and I'd
- 21 like to thank the Corps, specifically Colonel Quarles
- 22 for giving us this opportunity, for specifically
- 23 undertaking this massive effort to collect comments on
- 24 the GLMRIS study; but also for allowing us to have a few
- 25 minutes at the beginning of these sessions to just talk

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- 1 about our Asian carp efforts that are going on.
- 2 What I'd like to point out real quickly is that
- 3 the Obama Administration is taking an aggressive and
- 4 pro-active approach to invasive species, specifically
- 5 Asian carp. This is one of the times in which we are
- 6 trying to get out in front of an invasive species. And
- 7 we're doing it in a very significant effort. We're
- 8 trying to do everything we can to make sure we keep
- 9 Asian carp out of the Great Lakes.
- In 2011 we released the Asian carp Control
- 11 Strategy Framework, and I don't know if I'm on the right
- 12 one or not; but anyways, what this is doing is trying to
- 13 -- we've identified 45 specific actions that we will be
- 14 taking to control Asian carp and other invasive species
- 15 throughout the Great Lakes.
- 16 And I'd also like to point out that this
- 17 invasion of Asian carp to the Great Lakes is considered
- 18 to be one of the most serious potential impacts that we
- 19 may see in the Great Lakes in a long time. We had a lot
- 20 of invasive species show up in the Great Lakes, we are
- 21 very worried about Asian carp because of the potential
- 22 impact on the commercial and sport fishing throughout
- 23 Michigan and the other Great Lakes states. And
- 24 specficially the impact that they may have on
- 25 recreational and commercial boaters and other aspects of

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- 1 the Great Lakes economy.
- Okay, in February 2010, the Obama
- 3 Administration came out with a first framework. We
- 4 basically invested over 78 million dollars to combat the
- 5 spread of Asian carp throughout the Great Lakes. And
- 6 this was a very significant effort for controlling
- 7 invasive species; unifying state, federal and local
- 8 actions.
- 9 And this is the actual committee framework
- 10 itself. As you can see on here we have an Executive
- 11 Committee, and recently we've added all of the Great
- 12 Lake states to this framework effort.
- 13 You can also see here, this is part of the
- 14 actual framework itself, we have a Non-Federal Technical
- 15 and Policy Workgroup that we're asking for all of the
- 16 interest that you see around that, to provide us with
- 17 direct advice on how we may be moving forward with the
- 18 whole Asian carp control efforts. This is more of the
- 19 Non-Federal, and we're going to be having educational
- 20 institutions, interest groups, all getting together. In
- 21 fact, the next meeting I think is next Tuesday, is that
- 22 when -- next Tuesday is the first meeting of this
- 23 group. And we'll be, from that point on, trying to
- 24 decide how we move forward with this effort to provide
- 25 advice to the federal agencies.

- 1 I'd also like to point out here, this is the
- 2 Chicago River before and after. I don't know how many
- 3 of you have actually been up to the Chicago area, but
- 4 the picture to the left, the diagram is what it looked
- 5 like before they combined the two watersheds. The one
- 6 on the left is basically the way it looks right now, and
- 7 as you can see there are multiple connections from the
- 8 Mississippi River watershed to the Great Lakes through
- 9 this whole Chicago Area Waterway System.
- 10 And this is the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal
- 11 at the barriers. There are basically three barriers in
- 12 place right now. We have the demonstration barrier,
- 13 which is the furthers upstream. If you can picture it
- 14 going from left to right, the right part is heading
- 15 towards Lake Michigan. The left part is heading down in
- 16 Mississippi. We also then have barrier 2A that is in
- 17 place, and barrier 2B, which will be online very soon is
- 18 my understanding. It's online, but still doing some
- 19 testing. And so I think March is the date that we're
- 20 looking at.
- 21 COLONEL QUARLES: Right now the team has worked
- 22 hard to construct it and we'll get through all the
- 23 safety tests and we'll at how we operate the various
- 24 system.
- MR. BREDIN: Thank you. What we'd also like to

- 1 try to point out here, we talk about the complexities of
- 2 this whole system, and I'd like to provide you with a
- 3 bit of information about this whole area. The
- 4 Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater
- 5 Chicago on a daily basis discharges 1.4 billion gallons
- 6 of wastewater into this entire system.
- 7 And then I have to read this, this is a bit of
- 8 information we just found out. In 2008 during a major
- 9 storm event, in addition to the 1.4 billion gallons that
- 10 was discharged there were 50 -- downstream of there they
- 11 also discharged -- well, in the general Chicago area,
- 12 they had an additional 11.2 billion gallons of
- 13 stormwater. And then down in the -- at the far end to
- 14 southern end of the system there was also 50 billion
- 15 gallons of stormwater that was discharged during this
- 16 one storm event.
- So you get a picture of what this area looks
- 18 like with the majority of it being -- majority of the
- 19 river being made up of wastewater discharges from the
- 20 Chicago area wastewater treatment plants. And also
- 21 during storm events, it's a huge amount of water that
- 22 either has to go down the system itself or released to
- 23 Lake Michigan.
- In 2010 we had a number of accomplishments.
- 25 The 2010 framework included 32 federally funded

- 1 projects, but some of the key accomplishments that we
- 2 had is the enhanced fish barrier system that we talked
- 3 about, and also this is a -- this is the fence at Eagle
- 4 Marsh near Fort Wayne, Indiana. And actually at one
- 5 point in time I happened to lived right next to this.
- 6 And this is an area that floods regularly. And what we
- 7 did was we were very concerned about adult Asian carp
- 8 being able to go between the two systems so Indiana
- 9 basically stepped up to the plate, the Indiana DNR, and
- 10 this barrier was constructed as an interim measure to
- 11 deal with this on a short term basis and then we'll be
- 12 looking at potential long term solutions in the future.
- 13 This effort is -- well, what we see here is the
- 14 effort that we're going to be talking about. It was
- 15 actually started in 2010, but this is a part of the
- 16 GLMRIS process where we've identified a number of
- 17 potential connections between the Great Lakes and the
- 18 Mississippi River Basin. Mike Saffran will be talking
- 19 about that in just a couple of minutes. I did want to
- 20 point out that the yellow star, that's where Fort Wayne
- 21 is, that's where the temporary barrier is currently in
- 22 place.
- 23 And also some of the additional accomplishments
- 24 for 2010 were we have the Asian carp Prevention and
- 25 Control Act that was signed by the President prohibiting

- 1 live bighead carp from being shipped or imported into
- 2 the United States. We are also increasing our eDNA
- 3 testing capabilities to 220 samples per week. And we're
- 4 increasing our collaboration across all of the agencies
- 5 that are involved. That's one of the efforts that I've
- 6 been asked to undertake, and we're trying to make sure
- 7 that we keep all interested people, in fact on our -- we
- 8 have an Asian carp Regional Coordinating Committee and
- 9 we've asked the Governners and they have basically
- 10 identified additional state contacts, so we now have a
- 11 very strong Asian carp Regional Coordinating Committee
- 12 consisting of federal, state interests.
- And also we have an AsianCarp.org if you ever
- 14 want additional information on any of the activities
- 15 that are going on, if you go to AsianCarp.org that's our
- 16 website where we're providing the additional
- 17 information.
- 18 Then this is the 2011 Asian carp Control
- 19 Strategy Framework, and this is also on the website but
- 20 we've added 13 new activities that will be going on.
- 21 We're going to be looking at additional
- 22 projects such as validation of eDNA as an effective tool
- 23 for identifying and monitoring Asian carp. We'll be
- 24 looking at development of the eDNA genetic markers. And
- 25 also looking at the expansion of the US Fish and

- 1 Wildlife Service Lab in Lacrosse, Wisconsin to be
- 2 assisting us with those efforts.
- 3 Just to get into a little bit more information
- 4 on what was accomplished last year, and we basically --
- 5 well, last year we had nearly 1,100 person days of
- 6 effort were expended in the Chicago Area Waterways, and
- 7 we examined over 125,000 fish. In addition, we had our
- 8 sampling teams that treated 2.6 river miles with
- 9 rotenone, completed 344 hours of electro-fishing and
- 10 fished 45 miles of trammel and gill net in the entire
- 11 system.
- The application of the rotenone in the spring
- 13 resulted in an opportunity to identify over 100,000
- 14 pounds of fish, not one of which was either a bighead or
- 15 a silver carp.
- 16 We're also going to be looking at some
- 17 additional projects as part of the 13 for 2011. We're
- 18 going to be looking at alternative trap and net designs
- 19 for capturing Asian carp. We're going to be looking at
- 20 rapid genetic based methods to identify -- to effect
- 21 Asian carp. And we're going to be talking -- we're
- 22 going to be trying to figure out how we impact the
- 23 assessment of some of the barges that are specifically
- 24 in the system and what impact they may have on
- 25 transferring Asian carp from the Mississippi to the

- 1 Great Lakes and vice versa.
- 2 Also some of the 2011 projects are -- we're
- 3 going to be evaluating the permanent separation between
- 4 the Wabash and the Maumee watersheds, as I mentioned
- 5 earlier, through this whole GLMRIS process.
- 6 And I'd also like to point out that this is
- 7 the -- if you take a look at it, the dark green is the
- 8 portion of the study that we'll be looking at from the
- 9 Mississippi River watershed, and the blue is the Great
- 10 Lakes watershed. And we'll be looking at those
- 11 interactions and just kind of characterizing some of the
- 12 things that will be going on in 2010.
- We'll also be taking a look at -- well, at
- 14 using the markets for assisting us in dealing with Asian
- 15 carp. We're going to be looking at actually harvesting
- 16 some of these carp and using them for specific products
- 17 throughout the Great Lakes, and we're really focusing in
- 18 on the area downstream of the barriers trying to take
- 19 some of the pressure off of the barriers from fish
- 20 moving upstream. So we're really looking at using our
- 21 commercial fishermen to deal with this effort and assist
- 22 us with this.
- And also we're working with the Coast Guard to
- 24 assist us in making sure that the area that we're
- 25 dealing with this issue, and specifically in the area of

- 1 the barriers is safe and is a secure zone. And they'll
- 2 be assisting us in dealing with the maritime industry
- 3 and making sure that we keep transportation moving back
- 4 and forth between these areas.
- 5 I'd also like to point out that if you go to
- 6 our website, this provides some of the information.
- 7 It's directly on -- you can get to it from
- 8 AsianCarp.org, but it's also on the Corps' website. And
- 9 this provides all the information regarding the
- 10 monitoring that's going on, specifically, eDNA and also
- 11 additional information that you may be interested in as
- 12 far as seeing what we're finding as far as monitoring
- 13 that's been going on. Monitoring has halted for the
- 14 year just simply because of the weather, and we'll be
- 15 picking that up some time this spring.
- And with that I'd just like to thank you for
- 17 being here today. I hope that what you're seeing today
- 18 is a demonstration of what we believe to be a very
- 19 strong effort in dealing with Asian carp and other
- 20 invasive species, and we look forward to working with
- 21 all of you in the future to make sure that Asian carp do
- 22 not get into the Great Lakes.
- 23 So with that I will turn it over to Colonel
- 24 Ouarles.
- 25 COLONEL QUARLES: Ladies and gentleman, how are

- 1 y'all doing today? See you got it. So I'm Colonel
- 2 Vincent Quarles and as you can tell by my accent I'm not
- 3 originally from Chicago, so I'm finding a place -- if I
- 4 start talking kind of fast you can still understand me,
- 5 but here's what I want you to know, I'm not going to
- 6 talk much today. The intent of these meetings are to
- 7 come out and hear from you.
- 8 And first I just want to thank our team
- 9 regardless of where we go, it's always a dynamic set
- 10 up. We want to reach out. We want to make sure that
- 11 you know what the Corps has done this far to -- and I'm
- 12 going to give you some military terms because I love it
- 13 so much. I mean, as I think about the military, ever
- 14 since I joined the first thing has been being a part of
- 15 a good team. You never want to go to war on a bad
- 16 team. And regardless of what we do, as long as we are
- 17 confident with the team, the plan we're on, then we can
- 18 move forward. So Jim, I want to thank you for
- 19 representing the CEQ.
- 20 Looking at the hand outs you have today, this
- 21 pink sheet talks about what we're currently doing, newer
- 22 term to address Asian carp. And it's just not the Corps
- 23 of Engineers. It's the US Fish and Wildlife, it's
- 24 DNR's, it's other organizations working within our Corps
- 25 competencies to address Asian carp.

- 1 I'm proud to say that as part of the Corps
- 2 family, Mr. Rich Hancock is here representing our
- 3 Commanding General. John Peabody from our Great Lakes
- 4 and Ohio River Division. Sir, good to have you here
- 5 with us today.
- 6 I want to acknowledge all the voices I've heard
- 7 into Chicago from the Mississippi Valley Division, and
- 8 thank the division as well as Vicksburg District for
- 9 being here. Gentleman, ladies, we can not do these
- 10 without the local support. We can not get done all of
- 11 the activities that are captured here without working
- 12 together as a team.
- And most importantly, Rick, I won't forget, of
- 14 course, if you're here, is our engineering experts and
- 15 doctors extraordinaire. But it's all about our
- 16 stakeholders and our public. So that's -- you're why
- 17 we're here today.
- 18 So without further ado, if you look at the map
- 19 you can see the complexity of the area that the Great
- 20 Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study covers.
- I wanted to talk a little bit about the team,
- 22 how we're organized to conduct the study. I want to
- 23 talk briefly about the scope and the authorities for
- 24 which we're studying, so everything I talk about now is
- 25 just not focused on Asian carp. I want to focus on the

- 1 authorities we have that will prevent all the aquatic
- 2 nuisance species from getting between the basins, so
- 3 with that let's move on.
- If you have a plan you want to know what you've
- 5 been tasked, what's your mission. And for us,
- 6 everything we do within the Corps requires congressional
- 7 authority to do; and, of course, the appropriations to
- 8 get it done.
- 9 I won't read it to you, but you can highlight
- 10 -- correction, in blue, we've highlighted some essential
- 11 things to understand about the authority for GLMRIS, as
- 12 well as the implementation or special considerations
- 13 that we're getting in and what we're studying. And
- 14 we're going to break this down even more on the next
- 15 line.
- 16 Before we do that though if you kind of look
- 17 and can see the little dotted black -- it goes along
- 18 the divide between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi
- 19 River basins, many miles traveled if you go along that
- 20 path. The complexity itself and the dark gray and
- 21 brown, 17 different states that we will do a detail
- 22 focus on.
- Of course, we're not forgetting about you down
- 24 in the southern part. You are highlighted in the
- 25 lighter colored gray because overall it's about 33

- 1 states when you consider the span that we must consider
- 2 when looking at how aquatic invasive species might go
- 3 between the basins.
- I want you to take note of the little red
- 5 square because that, of course, is the most direct path
- 6 we feel that aquatic invasive species could go between
- 7 the basins.
- 8 And this is what I want to bring your attention
- 9 to because it breaks down what we interpret our study to
- 10 allow us to cover and do, what the study will not
- 11 include.
- So again, the pathways, we're looking at all
- 13 those things that are aquatic in nature, not just Asian
- 14 carp. It's even particular plants, other things, all
- 15 aquatic invasive species will be covered within the
- 16 scope of our study. We will not look at the other type
- 17 of pathways such as human release as you see.
- As far as locations, we're focused on, again,
- 19 the two basins. And we will not address the
- 20 St. Lawrence Seaway even though -- and we've been
- 21 working with, for instance, the International Joint
- 22 Commission informing them of our efforts as they are
- 23 informing us of their efforts as well.
- 24 And then take a quick look at the elements
- 25 because these are common things that -- and questions

- 1 that we can -- and that's the other thing that I want to
- 2 do is the team has taken time to put together a lot --
- 3 correction, has put together answers to trends of
- 4 questions that we continue to get asked. So just take a
- 5 look at this, and it'll help you really in responding to
- 6 a lot of the questions we normally get at events like
- 7 these.
- 8 Strategy. Instead of just doing everything at
- 9 one time, step by step, we've divided the study efforts
- 10 into two phases or progs.
- 11 We have Mr. Dave Wethington, I'll give you a
- 12 chance to speak in a moment, sir. He's focused on the
- 13 Chicago Area Waterway System as Jim said. Mr. Mike
- 14 Saffran is focused on those other pathways outside of
- 15 the CAWS.
- 16 In order to execute the study, I mean, we
- 17 acknowledge that we have competencies within other
- 18 organizations at local, state and federal levels, so how
- 19 can we reach out to make sure that we do get all
- 20 existing reports. Anything that we can learn that would
- 21 form study efforts before we actually get into the heart
- 22 blood work of new data analysis. So we've already
- 23 reached out to state, federal, local agencies as you
- 24 see. We've formed a group within the Corps to work
- 25 between the different divisions and districts, and we're

- 1 working as well within agencies that can best inform and
- 2 help resource GLMRIS. And you can see they're listed as
- 3 the executive steering committee. And we're reaching
- 4 out to, of course, you the public and stakeholders.
- 5 The other thing that you will see on the
- 6 timeline is not doing what engineers normally do. We're
- 7 very precise. We like to have (unintelligible) diligent
- 8 thought put into a product. And normally we announce
- 9 the final product at the end. Given though we will
- 10 learn things along the way, those things that are
- 11 prudent to cycle out and release to the public and other
- 12 agencies, we will do so along the way.
- This slide only shows that, again, it's not
- 14 just Asian carp that we're looking at, and it is just
- 15 not focused on a cause or other pathways, it's doing
- 16 things as efficiently as we can.
- I want to now give Mr. Wethington a chance to
- 18 talk about our team numbers within the CAWS. Dave.
- 19 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you, sir.
- Good afternoon, everyone. Again, my name is
- 21 Dave Wethington, I'm the project manager of the Chicago
- 22 District for what we'll call Focus Area 1, Chicago Area
- 23 Waterway System. And although Jim kind of highlighted
- 24 some of it briefly I want to go into the map, just a
- 25 couple of little points to kind of characterize some of

- 1 the challenges and complexities that we have within the
- 2 Chicago Area Waterway System.
- 3 So on the map above on our right you'll see
- 4 numbers one through five along the Lake Michigan
- 5 shoreline. Those are the five points at which the
- 6 waters of the Great Lakes Basin and the waters of
- 7 Mississippi River Basin have the opportunity to
- 8 interact.
- 9 Each five of those pathways, what's kind of
- 10 unique about the system is each five of those pathways
- 11 will flow into a single channel, which is the Chicago
- 12 Shipping and Sanitary Canal. So you can imagine kind of
- 13 like five prongs on a fork flowing down into one handle,
- 14 that's why we constructed our electronic barrier, the
- 15 fish barrier at point number seven there on the map.
- 16 That provides the perfect choke point for which to
- 17 control the transfer of that specific aquatic nuisance
- 18 species.
- 19 Another feature that I'd like to point out
- 20 about Chicago Area Waterway Systems are the control
- 21 structures on that system. Points one, two and three
- 22 are controlled. And by that we mean that there is a
- 23 physical structure that has the opportunity, has the
- 24 ability to control water flow between the two basins.
- 25 One and two. One is the Wilmette Pumping Station. Two,

- 1 Chicago Lock. Three is actually controlled by point
- 2 number six I believe, which T.J. O'Brien Lock and Dam.
- 3 You'll also note that numbers four and five are
- 4 what we call uncontrolled, so basically there are no
- 5 physical barriers to stop the water flow into that safe
- 6 system.
- 7 On the left-hand side is basically the process
- 8 that the Corps of Engineers uses for addressing a study
- 9 of this magnitude, a feasibility study. And we're right
- 10 now in steps number one and two, Specifying Problems &
- 11 Opportunities. We put together a team of folks both at
- 12 the Corps of Engineers and as well as I mentioned
- 13 performing outside the immediate Corps of Engineers, are
- 14 members of our federal family, state, resources, global
- 15 agencies, who have specific knowledge of areas to
- 16 basically identify what are the problems, what are the
- 17 opportunities here in the study. And that's part of
- 18 what we're doing here today is getting the public's
- 19 input on how we scope the study and how we address our
- 20 path forward.
- We're also inventorying and forecasting
- 22 conditions. And what do I mean by that? We're
- 23 collecting a large amount of data to help identify what
- 24 those waterway uses are within Chicago Area Waterway
- 25 System as well as the other paths which Mike will

- 1 describe a little bit later.
- 2 Waterway uses you might have heard of include
- 3 commercial navigation, recreation, water supply, water
- 4 discharge. It was mentioned earlier that a significant
- 5 amount of water in the Chicago Area Waterway System is
- 6 treated municipal wastewater. It's about 70 to 80
- 7 percent of the entire volumetric flow of Chicago River
- 8 is treated municipal wastewater.
- 9 Another path that's maybe not so commonly known
- 10 or another waterway use that's not as commonly known is
- 11 flood risk management. The Chicago Area Waterway System
- 12 serves as kind of a spill way, a flood gate in times
- 13 when we have very high intensity rain storms in the
- 14 Chicago Land area. It doesn't happen very often, maybe
- 15 every couple of five years. But during those instances
- 16 that point number two, Chicago Lock, must be opened to
- 17 avert severe flooding over bank in the downtown area as
- 18 well as basin flooding that can be sent throughout the
- 19 entire Chicago Land area potentially effecting millions
- 20 of residents.
- Once we identify what those uses are of the
- 22 waterway we have to look at what's going to happen when
- 23 we implement those five nuisance species controls such
- 24 as the electric barrier system, or full hydrologic
- 25 separation; and what are the potential impacts or

- 1 adverse impacts to those water was uses. Our authority
- 2 and our guidance from our headquarters tells us that we
- 3 must look at ways to also mitigate for adverse impacts
- 4 to those uses, those economic, environmental or social
- 5 uses of those waterways.
- 6 And as we mentioned earlier, we are in full
- 7 collaboration with state, federal and regional agencies,
- 8 Native American tribes as well as other non-governmental
- 9 organizations and private industries.
- 10 With that, I'd like to thank you for your time
- 11 and I will turn it back to Colonel Quarles.
- 12 COLONEL QUARLES: Thank you very much, Dave.
- 13 Now, we ask Mr. Mike Saffran if he would comment just
- 14 for a bit on the pathways outside of the CAWS.
- MR. SAFFRAN: Thank you, sir. Pleasure to be
- 16 here in Vicksburg. I was really looking forward to this
- 17 warm weather venue, and I think we brought the snow with
- 18 us.
- 19 COLONEL QUARLES: We've been accused of that.
- 20 Don't.
- 21 MR. SAFFRAN: When we started into the GLMRIS
- 22 there was quite a bit known about Chicago Sanitary and
- 23 Shipping Canal and the risk that it poses relative to
- 24 aquatic nuisance species, the interbasin transfer of
- 25 aquatic nuisance species. On the other hand, the other

- 1 pathways, there was very little known. And last summer,
- 2 early in the summer, General Peabody challenged the
- 3 regional team to develop a very quick study to identify
- 4 and develop an inventory of all the potential aquatic
- 5 pathways that exist along that nearly 1500 mile
- 6 dividing line between the two basins.
- 7 Anybody that's been up in that area I think is
- 8 familiar with the fact that that's very very flat
- 9 topography over a lot of that, so it's -- there's a lot
- 10 of uncertainty, I guess, as to exactly where the basin
- 11 divide is and then determining where locations are that
- 12 there's an aquatic pathway that exists across that basin
- 13 divide or may form from a large storm event was a pretty
- 14 tall task to take on and basically gave us about 60 days
- 15 to get the product out, get a draft product out. So
- 16 what we did was we reached out to the best experts that
- 17 we could find and we looked to the Official Wildlife
- 18 Service and the USGS to really help us with the universe
- 19 of nuisance species that were out there.
- 20 And then we looked at the state DNR's to really
- 21 help us to identify the locations where aquatic pathways
- 22 already exist or may form. And so what we try to do is
- 23 get the best experts and the people who had the best
- 24 local knowledge of the conditions along the basin divide
- 25 to help is do this study.

- 1 Long story short, it really worked out well
- 2 with great collaboration with all the agencies because
- 3 everybody had a strong interest in trying to prevent the
- 4 transfer of the nuisance species.
- 5 A total of 36 locations were identified. Of
- 6 those 36 locations we determined that there was a
- 7 significant risk at 18 of those locations. We were a
- 8 little bit conservative in that in that a number of
- 9 those 18 locations, there's a lot of uncertainty as to
- 10 really how much water may flow across the basin divide
- 11 there, and rather than conclude that there wasn't a
- 12 significant risk there we kept them in the study before
- 13 we let them go.
- 14 There was one location out of those 18 though
- 15 that really jumped out as a significant location where
- 16 there was a clear and present potential present danger
- 17 of aquatic nuisance species transfer and that was at a
- 18 location called Eagle Marsh in Fort Wayne, Indiana.
- 19 At that location you have two rivers that come
- 20 together, the St. Mary's and the St. Joe's and they form
- 21 the Maumee River in Fort Wayne. When you have a heavy
- 22 rainfall in that basin, those waters rush together in
- 23 the town of Fort Wayne and actually can cause backflow
- 24 across the basin divide into the Wabash River basin.
- In the Wabash River basin you've got

- 1 establishing populations of Asian carp, and the Wabash
- 2 River is the longest stretch of undammed river east of
- 3 the Mississippi River, so it's a location that has
- 4 become infested with Asian carp.
- 5 We had a 2009 flood insurance study that
- 6 indicated that from the largest storm that you'd expect
- 7 to occur in any given year, a one year sort of storm
- 8 event, the water begins to flow across the basin divide
- 9 into the Wabash.
- 10 From a ten year level event, the depth of that
- 11 water across the basin divide is up to four and a half
- 12 feet, which the combination of the Asian carp being
- 13 present and the potential for significant rainfall event
- 14 to connect the waterways led to the project that Jim
- 15 showed just a few pictures of to a very quick interim
- 16 solution to prevent Asian carp transfer at that
- 17 location.
- 18 That project was put together in very very
- 19 short order. From a meeting at the end of July where we
- 20 had all of the agencies, the National Resource
- 21 Conservation Service, USGS, Indiana DNR, Little River
- 22 Wetlands Project, which is a non-governmental
- 23 organization. We had the local county surveyors, we had
- 24 all the right people in the room and we started
- 25 discussing what can we do. Everybody thought that we

- 1 needed some sort of permanent solution, but that the
- 2 time that it would take to implement a permanent
- 3 solution we didn't have.
- 4 So that's why we went to the construction of
- 5 the temporary barrier. The Indiana DNR took the lead on
- 6 the design and construction of that. Before the end of
- 7 September that was in place, so a little over 60 days we
- 8 went from discussing what we might be able to do to
- 9 actually having a physical structure in place, which I
- 10 think, again, points out the collaboration that's going
- 11 on among all the agencies here.
- Right now the Corps of Engineers is developing
- 13 a feasibility study for a long term solution there.
- 14 That report is scheduled to be completed before the end
- 15 of this year.
- 16 And last but not least, on the other pathways
- 17 is we have a draft study plan that's out and being
- 18 reviewed by the team members, and we will finish that
- 19 and complete the risk characterization at those other
- 20 locations this calendar year as well.
- 21 COLONEL QUARLES: Thank you very much.
- Now we can consider what authority have we been
- 23 given for the study? What is the magnitude of the
- 24 study? Take a quick look at what has been accomplished
- 25 in terms of the study effort thus far, getting the team

- 1 together, producing the Project Management Plan so that
- 2 we're -- we know the path, we want to get the study
- 3 done, it's all in there working with all agencies we can
- 4 so that we get all the information before we leave the
- 5 start point or the SP.
- 6 And then you see to the right --
- 7 (unintelligible) working one simple action but trying to
- 8 do things as prudent that can be done together.
- 9 Now, I've got a simple poll. If you're in the
- 10 Corps of Engineers raise your hand. Oh, okay, keep that
- 11 point.
- 12 For them we're going to talk about this time
- 13 line for Corps study processors. Some of you have been
- 14 doing this much longer than me, I won't call any names,
- 15 but it's very important with the process because a
- 16 Feasibility Study that will fully consider not only the
- 17 engineer's solution of how do you do this, what do we
- 18 need.
- 19 Well, first we need to know where we started
- 20 from. So as Dave said, we've already conducted a
- 21 literary review, all the information we had on hand. So
- 22 our folks like Dave looked at it and said, these are the
- 23 things that we think we know, we may learn more. We
- 24 need new data sets to make sure that the baseline data
- 25 we have, because we're going to form alternatives. How

- 1 -- what solution can we offer that will prevent all
- 2 aquatic nuisance species.
- 3 As part of the alternative formulation we will
- 4 look at one alternative being separation of the basins,
- 5 for instance. So we have to form a baseline condition
- 6 that says, before we do a project, how is the system.
- 7 And then we must fully evaluate if we do X, what are the
- 8 impacts of that interim solution, not just for
- 9 separation but for any alternative that we recommend.
- And so if you look at the time line at the top,
- 11 it takes a off and we have done that planning up front.
- 12 We're in the mix now of seeing and knowing that the data
- 13 will support what. How do we evaluate the alternatives.
- 14 We're going to have to build models so that we can see
- 15 what happens if you implement a solution.
- 16 And so as we consider other studies that we
- 17 know about already or that are yet to come, they may
- 18 inform us to a point and we can use that information as
- 19 we go forward and do the plans formulation.
- And at the end of that when we're talking
- 21 about a solution that can have impacts that may be
- 22 significant, we know we must get in NEPA terms to this
- 23 environmental impact statement level where you were
- 24 fully considering those impacts. We need to have
- 25 technical review done of our engineer solution. And

- 1 then we do -- we want to do those policy compliant
- 2 things that are proved to do. For instance, sharing
- 3 information with the public for a given point of time,
- 4 so that we can get comments back like we're here today.
- 5 So when you look at forming the team, the
- 6 finding the problem, getting the baseline of where to
- 7 start from, and then building and modeling the
- 8 engineering solutions, we think -- if funding comes in a
- 9 steady stream, it will take us, Dave, until about 2015
- 10 to get the draft plan and then, of course, it must go up
- 11 to our higher headquarters and then to the Assistant
- 12 Secretary for Civil Works.
- While we were work on the full report, those
- 14 things that we can share with other agencies and the
- 15 public we plan to do so, and you see a few listed.
- 16 As well as those things that other agencies are
- 17 doing that may help inform GLMRIS, we want to gather
- 18 those things and help inform our efforts.
- We're almost there, hang in, because now we're
- 20 getting to the part how you can best help us. And that,
- 21 first of all, is taking the time like you did today,
- 22 researching where we are in the study process and then
- 23 being a part of the information flow that we can do
- 24 justice to implementing a steady authority.
- 25 We -- Dave -- I said we, I use that kind of --

- 1 because you've been to every one of these, I admittedly
- 2 haven't been to all, again, we want to thank you and
- 3 team for reaching out throughout, you know, the basins
- 4 to make sure that we're spreading the word of what we're
- 5 doing and giving a chance to input.
- I believe this would be nine targets done,
- 7 three more to go, and the next one on the 15 of
- 8 February. With the one correction to the handouts we
- 9 have, with weather delays in Ann Arbor, that has now
- 10 been rescheduled for the 8th of March.
- 11 Not only are we here, it's a lot of information
- 12 that's published. If you go to the Chicago District
- 13 you'll a see a link that looks like this, little GLMRIS,
- 14 as we continue to hear from you and get information that
- 15 we feel is useful for you to know we'll post some things
- 16 there. As well as we plan to even after we finish these
- 17 NEPA meetings, have public updates over time to make
- 18 sure you stay informed.
- 19 Ladies and gentleman, it's been my pleasure to
- 20 speak with you. We will be here all day and all night,
- 21 well just about, to make sure that you get a chance to
- 22 do what you came here for and that is comment. Thank
- 23 you very much.
- MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, Colonel.
- 25 Before proceeding to the oral comment period I

- 1 would like to note that the GLMRIS project website is a
- 2 good source of study information. All the handouts that
- 3 are here today are available for download as well as
- 4 additional information and additional documents that you
- 5 can download, like the Project Management Plan that the
- 6 Colonel is so proud of.
- 7 Interested persons can also visit the project
- 8 website and sign up for the study e-mail list there.
- 9 The Corps of Engineers will use the e-mail list to
- 10 distribute updates on such things as new documents or
- 11 products that have been added to the website, or new
- 12 information, or opportunities for publice involvement.
- And again, you can find our project website on
- 14 the business cards and various other things that we
- 15 handed out today. Feel free to follow us on Twitter and
- 16 go to Facebook and friend our study as well.
- 17 I have now been informed that we have nobody
- 18 registered to make a comment at the meeting at this
- 19 time, so we're going to kind of make this a little more
- 20 informal. Normally we would limit things to three
- 21 minutes and let people come up and make sure everybody
- 22 has the opportunity to speak.
- 23 So at this point and time after hearing the
- 24 presentation on the study, is there anybody that would
- 25 like to come up to the microphone and make a comment or

- 1 ask a question of any member of our panel? Anyone at
- 2 all? This might be a first. Just going to hang on for
- 3 a second in case anybody changes their mind.
- 4 Going once, going twice, going three times.
- 5 Well, if nobody would like to make a comment it is now
- 6 2:48 in the afternoon and I guess we will formally close
- 7 our oral comment period. So the team and the panel will
- 8 be around to answer informal questions and comments, but
- 9 please remember that they will not be considered in our
- 10 scoping process.
- 11 If you still would like to make a comment
- 12 please do so through our project website or through any
- 13 of the written submission forms that we have indicated.
- 14 Or if you feel like coming back for a second session and
- 15 have something to say then, please do so.
- 16 So thank you again everybody for your time
- 17 today. We appreciate it and thank you for coming out.
- 18 (First Session Concluded at 2:48 p.m.)
- 19 (AFTERNOON SESSION)
- 20 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Good afternoon, ladies and
- 21 gentleman. I'd like to welcome you to tonight's Great
- 22 Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study or GLMRIS
- 23 NEPA Public Scoping Meeting. My name is Kendall
- 24 Zaborowski. I'm with the Chicago District of the US
- 25 Army Corps of Engineers, and I will be moderating the

- 1 meeting tonight.
- 2 The turn out is not so big, so hopefully we can
- 3 be a little more comfortable and a little more informal
- 4 and present the information for the study for you guys
- 5 in a very effective way.
- 6 Just in case you were wondering or need to use
- 7 the restroom at any point in time, if you go back out to
- 8 the welcome table, then walk down the hallway on your
- 9 left, it will be about half way down.
- 10 Before we go any further I would like to
- 11 introduce the panel tonight. Immediately to my right is
- 12 Mr. Jim Bredin, the Deputy Asian Carp Director for the
- 13 White House Council on Environmental Quality.
- 14 Next to him his Colonel Vincent Quarles, and he
- 15 is the Commander of the Chicago District of the US Army
- 16 Corps of Engineers.
- 17 Then there is Dave Wethington, the GLMRIS
- 18 Project Manager.
- 19 And then finally at the table we have Mike
- 20 Saffran, who is the Other Pathway's Project Manager.
- 21 When you came tonight at the welcome and
- 22 registration tables the follow materials were available
- 23 for you. The green meeting agenda that's going to
- 24 outline what we're going to be doing here this evening.
- 25 Short presentation followed by oral comments and then

- 1 questions if you have any.
- 2 Then there is the GLMRIS business card and that
- 3 has ways to stay involved with us. You'll find our
- 4 mailing address and our project website on there.
- 5 Then there's the tri-fold brochure, which is
- 6 basic information about the study.
- 7 Then we have our comment forms, which have
- 8 space for you to write written comments and submit them
- 9 to us. There's also mailing instructions on there as
- 10 well.
- 11 Then we have the purple sheet, which is
- 12 frequently asked questions about GLMRIS, the study
- 13 itself.
- 14 Then this putrid pink sheet is frequently asked
- 15 questions about other aquatic nuisance species efforts
- 16 undertaken by the Corps of Engineers or other related
- 17 agencies. Then also you'll have a copy of the
- 18 presentation that we'll be giving here in a few short
- 19 moments.
- Then lastly you would have received the blue
- 21 booklet, which is detailed information about GLMRIS.
- I would like to remind you that if you would
- 23 like to make an oral comment and did not register
- 24 already then we would -- before the night is over we'd
- 25 like you to fill out one of our yellow comment

- 1 registration forms so that we can make sure your
- 2 comments are included in the NEPA scoping process.
- 3 And I would like to remind you as well that if
- 4 you choose not to speak tonight or you have any comments
- 5 that you can think of later, the NEPA scoping process is
- 6 opened until March 31 of this year. And any comments
- 7 that are said in any of our public meetings, or
- 8 submitted through our website, or mailed into us, will
- 9 be given equal weight.
- 10 Our GLMRIS team has organized this public
- 11 meeting to accomplish two goals. First, to present
- 12 information about GLMRIS. And second, to solicit
- 13 comments on what you feel are significant issues that
- 14 should be included in GLMRIS or insignificant issues
- 15 that can be eliminated from further study.
- 16 The Corps of Engineers is hosting 12 public
- 17 meetings throughout the study area, this is the ninth of
- 18 those. And through these meetings we hope to provide
- 19 opportunities for those within a study area to learn
- 20 more about the study itself and to provide us with their
- 21 comments.
- As indicated on the agenda this meeting has
- 23 been broken into two sessions. This is the second of
- 24 those sessions, so when I'm done talking here
- 25 momentarily we will begin the presentation and then

- 1 proceeding the presentation we'll have our oral comment
- 2 period.
- 3 If you have any questions or concerns during
- 4 the meeting please find somebody with a red lanyard,
- 5 myself, or anyone that's in the lobby and we'll try our
- 6 best to help you out.
- 7 At this point in time I'd like to turn it over
- 8 to Mr. Jim Bredin, and he will begin the presentation
- 9 portion of this meeting.
- 10 MR. BREDIN: Thank you, Kendall.
- And also thank you to the Corps for allowing us
- 12 to have a couple of minutes. The main purpose of being
- 13 here is to discuss the GLMRIS project, but we'd like to
- 14 take a couple of minutes to talk about the Asian carp
- 15 activities that are going on in the Great Lakes and
- 16 Mississippi River.
- 17 I'm Jim Bredin. I'm Deputy Asian Carp Director
- 18 for the CEQ, Council on Environmental Quality, and what
- 19 I'd like to do is just kind of go over some of the
- 20 things that are ongoing right now regarding dealing with
- 21 Asian carp within the Great Lakes.
- Just a bit of background, the Obama
- 23 Administration has taken a very pro-active approach to
- 24 dealing with Asian carp. Normally, we're put in a
- 25 position when we deal with invasive species of reacting,

- 1 and when we see something coming in we have to try to
- 2 figure what we're going to do about it once it's
- 3 established a population. In this case, at least for
- 4 the Great Lakes, we don't have that situation. We have
- 5 an opportunity to really take a pro-active approach and
- 6 try to figure out what we're going to do, how we're
- 7 going to keep these Asian carp out of the Great Lakes.
- 8 As I said, you know, the whole GLMRIS process
- 9 is looking at more than just Asian carp, but one of the
- 10 things that we're doing is through our strategy is to
- 11 basically focusing on Asian carp, but we're also taking
- 12 a look at other invasive species also.
- The reason why we're taking such an aggressive
- 14 approach on this is because these Asian carp as we've
- 15 see them are very aggressive. We've very very concerned
- 16 about what may happen in the Great Lakes if they ever
- 17 established a sustainable population.
- 18 If you take a look at what they've done in this
- 19 area and also in areas of the Illinois River, you really
- 20 don't want to see those types of activities within the
- 21 Great Lakes if we can help it at all, and so we're
- 22 taking like I said a very pro-active approach to try to
- 23 keep these fish out of the Great Lakes.
- 24 This is our 2010 Asian carp Control Strategy.
- 25 This was started in February of last year, and it

- 1 included 35 actions and had a total of investment of
- 2 over 78 million dollars to try to keep the Asian carp
- 3 from getting into the Great Lakes. And it also was a
- 4 first effort to really bring together federal, state and
- 5 local actions together in one package to really try to
- 6 be pro-active on this whole issue.
- 7 In May of 2010 we established the Asian carp
- 8 Regional Coordinating Committee, and as you can see here
- 9 this is basically the way the committee was
- 10 established. In September of last year we also then
- 11 invited the Governors of the Great Lakes states to
- 12 appoint representatives, so what you see on there are
- 13 all the federal agencies and the Great Lakes states all
- 14 working together to try to keep Asian carp out of the
- 15 Great Lakes.
- 16 This right here is also part of the framework.
- 17 It is the Non-Federal Technical and Policy Group. This
- 18 is an effort, it is not part of the federal process, but
- 19 it is a process to bring other interests that are
- 20 involved in Asian carp controlled activities into the
- 21 process. And as you can see there we have federal
- 22 partners, we have academia, industry, tribes, state
- 23 partners and what we're trying to do through this
- 24 process is bring any type of information that's
- 25 available, any type of knowledge that we may use to

- 1 pursue the process; and we have a co-chair, Phil Moy,
- 2 and we're in the process of identifying the second
- 3 co-chair, but this is a process that's outside of the
- 4 framework itself, but just trying to make sure that we
- 5 bring all of the available information, reports,
- 6 projects, whatever it may be into the process of
- 7 controlling Asian carp.
- 8 As you can see here, I don't know how familiar
- 9 you are with the Chicago area, but the picture on the
- 10 left is Chicago before the two watersheds were combined,
- 11 were connected actually. And then the one in the right
- 12 is what is in place currently. And as you can see there
- 13 was no interaction between the Mississippi River -- no
- 14 direct connection between the Mississippi River basin
- 15 and the Great Lakes before we connected the two
- 16 systems.
- Now you can see there are many points of
- 18 interaction and those are what we're concerned about
- 19 from the Chicago Area Waterways. And just the -- the
- 20 fish have the ability, or at least there's water going
- 21 back and forth throughout that system and that's one of
- 22 the key focus areas for our efforts under our
- 23 framework.
- This right here, and you'll be hearing more
- 25 about this later, this is what the barriers look like as

- 1 of right now, the electric barriers. And as you can, if
- 2 you follow -- if you were to follow the river to the
- 3 right that's leading to Lake Michigan and the
- 4 Mississippi River would be farther down on the left,
- 5 it's the Chicago Sanitary and Shipping Canal. And as of
- 6 right now there are three barriers that are there, and
- 7 those are our electrical barriers that are used to keep
- 8 the Asian carp on the Mississippi side of the basin and
- 9 looks as though as of right now they're doing very
- 10 well. We are finding some traces of Carp DNA north of
- 11 the area, but so far only one Asian carp has been found
- 12 north of the barrier, one live Asian carp.
- 13 This is a description of the Chicago Area
- 14 Waterways itself and what I'd like to do is just give
- 15 you a bit of information regarding this. In this area,
- 16 and as you can picture, that's downtown Chicago, and if
- 17 you've ever been there it's very highly developed; but
- 18 just wastewater alone there's over 1.4 billion gallons
- 19 per day that's discharged through that system making
- 20 it's way down through the system to the Mississippi
- 21 River.
- And just as an example, in 2008 during one
- 23 major storm this -- the Metropolitan Water Reclamation
- 24 District released approximately 11.2 billion gallons of
- 25 stormwater into Lake Michigan through the gates. And so

- 1 you can see that there's a lot of interaction there.
- 2 In addition, downstream at -- downstream from
- 3 Wilmette, which is about 50 miles south, I believe,
- 4 there was an additional 50 billion gallons of stormwater
- 5 released. And that's just us trying to give you a
- 6 perspective of one of the challenges, one of the major
- 7 challenges we're going to have in trying to deal with
- 8 the system, is the stormwater itself because the city of
- 9 Chicago relies on both Lake Michigan and Illinois River
- 10 to basically run all the stormwater through the process.
- In 2010, the framework that we developed
- 12 identified 32 -- I think I mentioned 35, it's actually
- 13 32 federally funded initiatives to deal with Asian
- 14 carp. As I mentioned I we showed you the picture of the
- 15 fish barrier system, but this is one -- this is another
- 16 barrier that was developed near Fort Wayne, Indiana in
- 17 marsh area, and we'll talk about this area a little bit
- 18 more in the future. But this is an interim fish barrier
- 19 to keep Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes basin
- 20 at Fort Wayne, Indiana. This area floods regularly. In
- 21 fact, I lived down right next to this area for a couple
- 22 of years and on an annual basis this area would flood.
- 23 And there's that opportunity for fish to go back and
- 24 forth. And the main concern in this area is adult
- 25 fish. And so this is an interim measure that was

- 1 constructed and is doing very well as of right now.
- 2 We'll be tracking that and looking at opportunities for
- 3 improving the effectiveness of this type of facility.
- Also as part of this process, and once again,
- 5 we'll be getting into this in a little bit more detail,
- 6 but the GLMRIS effort identified a number of sites
- 7 across the Great Lakes, and if you take a look at it,
- 8 the brown area is the Great Lakes watershed. The darker
- 9 area is the Mississippi watershed. And these sites that
- 10 are on here identify potential pathways for invasive
- 11 species to move back and forth. And the yellow star
- 12 there is what I just mentioned earlier, that is the
- 13 Eagle Marsh at Fort Wayne, Indiana; but all of these
- 14 sites are going to be evaluated. These are the highest
- 15 priority sites for potential interaction between the two
- 16 basins, but the other panels will be getting into that
- 17 in a little bit more detail.
- 18 Other accomplishments that we've seen during
- 19 2010 were the Asian carp Prevention and Control Act was
- 20 signed by the President on December 14. That is
- 21 prohibiting the live transport of bighead carp from
- 22 being shipped within the United States.
- We also are increasing our eDNA capacity to 220
- 24 samples per week. We're increasing all the interaction
- 25 between the different levels of government that are

- 1 involved and the stakeholders that are involved through
- 2 this whole process. And also, if you have any questions
- 3 about any of the activities going on through the
- 4 framework you can go to AsianCarp.org. We try to keep
- 5 that website updated with any information that's
- 6 available. We try to keep it out there with any press
- 7 releases, any type of additional information that may be
- 8 available, so it's a good source of future information
- 9 if you're interested.
- 10 This is the 2011 framework. This was just
- 11 released back in December of 2010. It adds 13 new
- 12 projects to the whole process. And so we have -- now
- 13 have a total of 45 projects that are either completed or
- 14 under way through this framework.
- Some of the additional projects that are going
- 16 on include validation of eDNA as an effective tool, one
- 17 of our tools for monitoring Asian carp. And also
- 18 development of eDNA and genetic markers and also
- 19 expansion of our capacity through the US Fish and
- 20 Wildlife Service lab in Lacrosse, Wisconsin.
- Just to give you a perspective of what also
- 22 went on during last year, we spent nearly 1100 person
- 23 day efforts -- person days of effort and we sampled over
- 24 125,000 fish. The sampling teams treated 2.6 miles with
- 25 rotenone and completed 344 hours of electro-fishing and

- 1 fished 45 miles of trammel and gill net. This intensive
- 2 monitoring -- and what I'm trying to do here is show we
- 3 have a very intensive program to monitor this entire
- 4 area and it's all part of this framework that we've
- 5 identified. As part of the rotenone effort we actually
- 6 identified -- we had the opportunity to identify over
- 7 100,000 pounds of fish that were captured and not one of
- 8 the fish that were captured in this area was a
- 9 bighead -- was either a big or a silver carp, so we're
- 10 fairly well certain that our monitoring is really doing
- 11 the job. Our barriers are doing a very effective job
- 12 of keeping the fish out of the area, but we're still
- 13 monitoring making sure that we do not see any type of
- 14 sustainable population in the Great Lakes.
- 15 Also, we have additional projects including
- 16 alternate trap and net designs for Asian carp, rapid
- 17 genetic base methods for detection of Asian carp, are
- 18 fast results than eDNA. And we're also taking a look at
- 19 what impact barges may have on helping to transport the
- 20 fish.
- 21 This right here is an -- it's an area that --
- 22 well, as you can see, the Great Lakes is in purple, the
- 23 Great Lakes watershed. The Mississippi watershed is in
- 24 the green color. And this is just identifying the focus
- 25 areas, the first focus area being the Great Lakes and

- 1 the second focus area being the area outside of the
- 2 Great Lakes basin.
- We're also doing -- we're doing an evaluation
- 4 of the electrical barrier effectiveness as an ongoing
- 5 process, and we'll also be increasing our efforts
- 6 towards enforcement of carp inspections at bait shops,
- 7 fish processors and fish markets. In addition, we're
- 8 working with commercial fisherman to develop a market
- 9 for Asian carp south of the barriers. We're really
- 10 hoping that we can identify a market for these fish,
- 11 that we can help to control the populations of the fish
- 12 south of the barrier thereby putting less pressure on
- 13 the barriers themselves. And really trying to make an
- 14 effort to keep the fish below the barriers
- 15 Also, the US Coast Guard is involved and plays
- 16 a very important role in helping us with this effort.
- 17 They are working with us for whenever we need to
- 18 restrict the waterways and also making sure that we
- 19 have -- whenever we need to, that we take safety first
- 20 and going to consider safety first and they are
- 21 definitely helping us out in that area, identifying and
- 22 establishing enforcement and safety security zones.
- 23 And this right here, if you go to AsianCarp.org
- 24 you can get to this site that we have a button on there
- 25 that talks about eDNA if any of you are interested in

- 1 what's being found. This is actually on the Corps of
- 2 Engineers' website and we appreciate the efforts of the
- 3 Corps to post this whenever we have any new information
- 4 from our monitoring efforts. So you can go to
- 5 AsianCarp.org, click on it and it will take you here.
- 6 And this tries to explain where we are finding positive
- 7 hits from eDNA for Asian carp. And so we update that
- 8 whenever we have additional information.
- 9 And with that I would just like to say that we
- 10 think we have a very strong program in place to keep
- 11 Asian carp out of the Great Lakes. We're seeing a very
- 12 effective barrier system. We're working with all the
- 13 different federal agencies; USGS, Fish and Wildlife
- 14 Service, Corps of Engineers, to bring everybody together
- 15 to deal with this from a team perspective. And that's
- 16 part of the process that I'm involved in through the
- 17 Council on Environmental Quality and we're very thankful
- 18 that we're having this opportunity to provide you with
- 19 this type of information and get the word out that we
- 20 are taking this very seriously and we'll be working on
- 21 this in the coming years to make sure that we do not see
- 22 Asian carp in the Great Lakes.
- 23 So with that I'll turn it over to Colonel
- 24 Ouarles.
- 25 COLONEL QUARLES: It's going to be -- and

- 1 normally I talk to about 2 or 3 hundred people.
- MS. SHROPSHIRE: Well, here have a seat.
- 3 COLONEL QUARLES: I really do. No, I won't do
- 4 that, but what I will do is, see, we came today to be
- 5 able to explain things, so you took the time to come and
- 6 talk to us so the main reason we're here is for you, so
- 7 you got a chance to meet Jim. I want to thank Jim and
- 8 all the agencies that are working on a common goal. And
- 9 the Regional Coordinating Committee is looking at this
- 10 Asian carp, and I'm not sure how much you know about
- 11 that, but that in itself is the basis of these meetings.
- 12 MS. SHROPSHIRE: I've had one in my lap so --
- 13 COLONEL QUARLES: I've eaten one but I've never
- 14 had one in my lap.
- MS. SHROPSHIRE: Well, you need to ride down
- 16 the Mississippi River.
- 17 COLONEL QUARLES: Well, you've seen some things
- 18 that I'm sure I haven't, but the thing I want to bring
- 19 up now is it's going to take -- she can't hear me.
- 20 All right, we want to make sure that we do
- 21 justice in coming out to make sure that the public is
- 22 informed of our efforts, and this is not one district.
- 23 I command the Chicago Corps of Engineers District, you
- 24 have a district right here Vicksburg. You see some of
- 25 the folks from Vicksburg district out here helping us as

- 1 well as we have Mr. Rich Hancock. He's from divisional
- 2 office in Cincinatti, Great Lakes and Ohio River
- 3 Division, as well as the division here, the Mississippi
- 4 River Division.
- 5 The other thing I want to note is all of our
- 6 team from Chicago, from Cincinatti, our staff for being
- 7 here, that put this together. So whether it's 2 people
- 8 or 200, the mission we have here is the same.
- 9 And so we want to talk a little bit about the
- 10 interbasin study that's looking at all aquatic nuisance
- 11 species. But before that I want to refer you to the
- 12 pink sheet here, and this is a lot of what Jim talked
- 13 about, so if we're thinking about what things is the
- 14 Corps currently doing to assist with Asian carp only.
- 15 That sheet is a good reference because we feel we have
- 16 the authority to operate the electrical barriers. We're
- 17 doing that. Looking at the efficacy of those barriers.
- 18 So what will keep Asian carp from getting through the
- 19 barriers and around the barriers, as well as what else
- 20 needs to be done near term for Asian carp.
- The GLMRIS study, and that's what I want to
- 22 focus on, is just not about Asian carp. It's about all
- 23 aquatic invasive species. And when you think of what
- 24 Jim said, this area from the Great Lakes all the way
- 25 down to where you're seeing Asian carp jump in your lap,

- 1 that's the intent of the study. So let's see how much
- 2 you really know about GLMRIS. Next slide.
- 3 MS. SHROPSHIRE: Oh, I don't want --
- 4 COLONEL QUARLES: I don't want to put you on
- 5 the spot, I'm going to help you out.
- 6 MS. SHROPSHIRE: Okay.
- 7 COLONEL OUARLES: Look we'll learn a lot of
- 8 things about what GLMRIS does and doesn't do. Well,
- 9 being a soldier, you know, I got a mission, so what
- 10 authority do we have as the Corps of Engineers to
- 11 conduct the study. So we pulled this directly from the
- 12 congressional authority. We're going to look at a range
- 13 or range of options, just not one solution. We will
- 14 look at the potential solutions that prevent all
- 15 aquatic invasive species, before -- between going from
- 16 the river basin, Mississippi River Basin into the Great
- 17 Lakes or from the Great Lakes into the river basin.
- 18 We wanted to make sure as well you have some
- 19 special considerations, as you see three goals set that
- 20 are very important. And not all studies are 100 percent
- 21 federal, but this one is. So the study itself we will
- 22 get from the President's budget. Next slide.
- I already mentioned and Jim hit this as well,
- 24 it's 33 states that if we look just between the basins,
- 25 as Jim mentioned for the brown and the dark gray, that's

- 1 17 states where David will talk about this one little
- 2 red square. That is what we'll refer to as the CAWS,
- 3 Chicago Area Waterway System.
- 4 Mike Saffran will speak to other potential
- 5 pathways outside of the main and most direct path for
- 6 invasive species to get into the Great Lakes, which is
- 7 the CAWS. When you see this black and white dotted line
- 8 you're probably looking at 1500 miles that we have to
- 9 sort through and say, what potential -- during rain
- 10 events, without rain events, what pathways may be there
- 11 so we can engage. Next slide.
- 12 This slide is very useful in stating what
- 13 GLMRIS will include and what it will not include, so I'm
- 14 not going to read the slide to you, but again, we're
- 15 focused on aquatic invasive species. We're only talking
- 16 about the transfer between the Great Lakes and
- 17 Mississippi River Basin, and not such things as the
- 18 St. Lawrence Seaway. And then you can see the elements
- 19 that we will be looking at. Next slide.
- We understand the urgency of doing what we
- 21 can. Mother nature has a role in what we do, but we
- 22 want to do our study as efficiently as possible. So for
- 23 that reason we have two PM's. One is focused on the
- 24 CAWS, which is one problem of the study. And then we
- 25 have a separate team that's focused on those other

- 1 pathways, and we'll talk more about that in a little
- 2 bit.
- 3 The other intent is to make sure that we're
- 4 organized for success within USACE because we're working
- 5 between districts, between divisions. Make sure we're
- 6 efficient in sharing information. Making sure people
- 7 are on task and working with other agencies at the
- 8 state, local that has resources that can perform the
- 9 studies. And then reaching out to stakeholders and the
- 10 public to make sure they're informed and they get a
- 11 chance to comment on the study.
- 12 And then as we move to the official report that
- 13 must be formed, reviewed, out for public comment and
- 14 eventually go to the Secretary for Civil Works that we
- 15 cycle our products that are prudent, and we'll talk
- 16 about that. Next slide.
- I taught this as far as focusing areas. Again,
- 18 it's wanting to -- it's all those things, invasive
- 19 species at the top of our order. Next slide.
- Now, what I'll do is give Dave a chance to talk
- 21 about the Chicago Area Waterway System.
- MR. WETHINGTON: Great, thank you, sir. Good
- 23 evening, everyone, my name is Dave Wethington and I'm a
- 24 project manager in the Chicago District with the Corps
- 25 of Engineers.

- 1 I'll spend just a couple of minutes just kind
- 2 of outlining the slide and talking to you about some of
- 3 the challenges and complexities within the Chicago Area
- 4 Waterway System. So the map you see to your right is
- 5 basically an outline and there are a couple of things I
- 6 want to point out to you specifically.
- 7 First of all, there are five points between the
- 8 Chicago, I'm sorry, between the Great Lakes Basin and
- 9 the Mississippi River Basin that allow the two
- 10 watersheds the ability to interact, to mix basically.
- 11 And those are outlined in points one through five along
- 12 the Lake Michigan Shoreline.
- 13 The unique character about all of these
- 14 connections is that kind of like the prongs to a fork,
- 15 if you can imagine it that way, they all flow into one
- 16 single stream which would be like the handle of the
- 17 fork. And that stream is the Chicago Ship and Sanitary
- 18 Canal, and that is where we put -- we have constructed
- 19 the both demonstration barrier and the full time
- 20 electronic barriers that prevent the transfer of Asian
- 21 carp specifically from the Mississippi River Basin into
- 22 the Great Lakes Basin. And that point is point number
- 23 seven up on the map.
- So we have a system that has at least 5 mixing
- 25 points and they all flow to one channel. There's also

- 1 something else unique about it, and you'll notice points
- 2 one, two and there are what we would call controlled
- 3 waterways. So points one and two, one is the Wilmette
- 4 Pumping Station. Two is the Chicago Lock. And point
- 5 number three is actually controlled by point number six
- 6 up there, which is the O'Brien. And when we say it's
- 7 controlled stream that means there's some sort of
- 8 physical structure that can be used to control the flow
- 9 of water. Just as importantly, streams four and five,
- 10 the Grand Calumet River and the Little Calumet River are
- 11 uncontrolled waterways, so there are no physical
- 12 structures or physical barriers that are used to control
- 13 the flows of those two waterways.
- 14 On the left is basically an outline of the
- 15 Corps planning process, how we attack a problem like
- 16 this and kind of break it down into the different step
- 17 that are necessary to come up with a final product.
- 18 What we're doing now are basically steps one
- 19 and two. We're specifying problems and opportunities
- 20 and put together teams both with the Corps of Engineers,
- 21 with other department federal agencies, non-governmental
- 22 organizations, and part of the reason why we're here
- 23 today speaking with you is we want to specify how we
- 24 shaped the study and how do we move forward. What's
- 25 important, what's significant, and just importantly what

- 1 is not significant. And so the comments that we're
- 2 getting at this meeting and the rest of the meetings
- 3 that we're doing will help with the scope the, you know,
- 4 problems and opportunities for the study.
- 5 Inventory and forecast conditions, what does
- 6 that mean? Well, what we need to do is we need to
- 7 identify what are the existing uses of this waterway.
- 8 You might have heard about commercial navigation, be a
- 9 big thing. There's also recreation, recreational
- 10 boating, water supply, water discharge and it's also
- 11 very important to Chicago Area Waterway System. About
- 12 78 percent of the total flow of the Chicago River is
- 13 made up of municipal treated wastewater discharge, so
- 14 very important flow for navigation water discharge.
- 15 It's also a critical link in the cities,
- 16 actually in the entire Chicago Land areas, a flood risk
- 17 management strategies. It doesn't happen very often,
- 18 maybe every couple of years or every five years, but
- 19 we'll get a significant enough rain storm that we have
- 20 to open up the box at point number two up there and
- 21 allow the river to flow both directions essentially,
- 22 toward the city and out into Lake Michigan to alleviate
- 23 the flood pressure not only in Chicago where there's a
- 24 chance for severe over bank flooding, but also into the
- 25 suburbs because of all the sources that are

- 1 interconnected. And so there's no place for the water
- 2 to drain. You get back ups that has a potential to
- 3 involve and influence, adversely impact millions of
- 4 residents.
- 5 So we have to identify what are all the
- 6 different uses for the system, and we use that to inform
- 7 how we plan or implement these aquatic nuisance species
- 8 controls, so one example of control would be the
- 9 electronic barrier, that is specifically directed
- 10 towards a specific ANS, Asian carp. But this will also
- 11 help us evaluate some areas for implanting something
- 12 like hydrologic separation or a physical barrier in the
- 13 system. How are the users, the people who rely on
- 14 wastewater, the stormwater management, recreation and
- 15 navigation, how are all those waterway users impacted
- 16 when we implement whatever aquatic nuisance species
- 17 control we may implement.
- 18 So that kind of walks you through how we have
- 19 to formulate the plans, evaluate the effects of plans
- 20 and all the data is kind of necessary in that. Our
- 21 authorization and our guidance also tell us, the Corps
- 22 of Engineers, that we need to provide alternative
- 23 mitigation for adverse impact. So if there's someone,
- 24 you know, we cause increased flooding, you know, how do
- 25 we appropriately mitigate for that alternative.

- 1 As the folks mentioned before we are
- 2 collaborating across not just the Corps of Engineers,
- 3 but with other federal agencies, states, tribes,
- 4 non-governmental organizations, and so really we have a
- 5 lot of great players working on this kind of complex
- 6 problem.
- 7 I appreciate your time and attention. I'm
- 8 going to turn back to you, Colonel Quarles.
- 9 COLONEL QUARLES: Thank you very much.
- 10 Now, I feel a little disadvantaged right now.
- 11 I've introduced you to Jim, representing the CEQ. You
- 12 met Dave. Again, I'm Colonel Vincent Quarles, and
- 13 you've been paying my paycheck for 24 years, so I'm
- 14 really glad to meet you. So what's your name, Ma'am?
- MS. SHROPSHIRE: Cathy Shropshire, I'm with the
- 16 Mississippi Wildlife Federation.
- 17 COLONEL QUARLES: Okay, sir.
- 18 MR. SHROPSHIRE: Tommy Shropshire, I'm with
- 19 her.
- 20 COLONEL QUARLES: So you're with her.
- MS. SHROPSHIRE: He's my driver.
- 22 MR. SHROPSHIRE: I'm retired, but I've been to
- 23 these meetings all over the US before I retired.
- COLONEL QUARLES: Well, thank you. Thank you
- 25 again for coming.

- 1 MR. SHROPSHIRE: I'm looking particularly at
- 2 your process.
- 3 COLONEL QUARLES: Okay. Well, we want to make
- 4 sure we get this right since you've been and you've seen
- 5 others, so any tips you can give us let us know.
- 6 The next thing I want to do is turn it over to
- 7 another member with the Corps. Mike Saffran is going to
- 8 talk a little bit about the other pathways outside of
- 9 the CAWS.
- 10 MIKE SAFFRAN: Thank you, sir. Very nice to be
- 11 in Vicksburg. If you followed our earlier meetings most
- 12 of them have been up north and then I apologize we
- 13 brought snow with us. This is still much warmer than
- 14 what we've been in.
- 15 The other pathways, the -- when we started into
- 16 the GLMRIS there was a lot already known about the
- 17 Chicago Sanitary and Shipping Canal and the risks -- and
- 18 the actual impacts that have occurred through the
- 19 interbasin transfer of species through that particular
- 20 canal. The GLMRIS authority bill said Chicago Sanitary
- 21 and Shipping Canal and other aquatic pathways. We have
- 22 very little background on the other aquatic pathways.
- Last summer at the start of the summer, General
- 24 Peabody became very concerned because obviously we have
- 25 a huge investment in the Chicago Sanitary and Shipping

- 1 Canal. It's been described here with the electrical
- 2 barrier system, the ACRCC and all the work that's been
- 3 going on there that there was a potential that maybe the
- 4 fish could outflank us in one direction or the other.
- 5 So he tasked the division team to come up with
- 6 a plan that we could go out and identify all of the
- 7 other potential aquatic pathways that may form anywhere
- 8 along that nearly 1,500 mile long basin divide. And we
- 9 scratch our head and say, well, that's a tall order; but
- 10 what we did was we went to the best experts within the
- 11 Corps. We have eight different Corps of Engineers
- 12 Districts that are along that boundary. We went to the
- 13 best experts we could find from the USGS, the Fish and
- 14 Wildlife Services, the National Oceanic Atmospheric
- 15 Administration, we went to try to find the best experts
- 16 we could find on a national level and we also went to
- 17 the state DNR's because we really needed to have good
- 18 information about local conditions to be able to do
- 19 anything very quickly.
- 20 So long story short, we did the best we could
- 21 to identify the premier experts and the people that had
- 22 local information and use their judgement helping us
- 23 identify where the locations are, and then also to
- 24 identify what the potential risk of those locations
- 25 would be for this interbasin transfer of species.

- 1 So long story short, we identified 36 locations
- 2 along the basin divide that appear to be viable,
- 3 potentially viable aquatic pathways. These were a
- 4 combination of things from agricultural ditches across
- 5 the basin divide, remanent of former canal systems,
- 6 numerous locations we found wetlands that -- natural
- 7 wetlands that exist along the basin divide. So, again,
- 8 the team worked together. We -- 18 of those locations
- 9 we identified there is a potentially significant risk
- 10 for interbasin transfer of species.
- One of those locations really jumped out as
- 12 something that needed quick attention, and that was the
- 13 Eagle Marsh location in Fort Wayne. As Mr. Bredin has
- 14 already there, that's a location where there's kind of a
- 15 natural -- a remanent from the glaciers that has been a
- 16 back flow location where when you have a large storm in
- 17 that area the St. Joseph's River comes from Southeast
- 18 Michigan and flows into Fort Wayne. The St. Mary's
- 19 River flows in from south central -- west central Ohio
- 20 into Fort Wayne, and then they form the Maumee River,
- 21 which flows off directly in the opposite direction
- 22 toward the northeast to Lake Erie. When you have an
- 23 annual storm event, or a large storm you'd expect to
- 24 occur in any given year, water back flows from the
- 25 Maumee Basin into the Wabash River Basin.

1 We had two -- this is one of the locations we had a pretty current study also, and at that location 3 the 2009 flood insurance study indicated that from a 10 percent annual return frequency storm or the largest 5 storm you'd expect to occur in any given 10 year period, the depth of water across the basin divide was up to four and a half feet deep. We put that in context with the fact that established populations of Asian carp were known in the Wabash River less than 25 miles away from 10 that location, that really jumped off as there's 11 something that needs to be done here. 12 We had an on-site meeting at the end of July 13 that included all of the agencies, and the best experts, 14 including the local county surveyor, and US EPA. 15 all the folks there discussing what can we do about this 16 circumstance. And everybody agreed that there needs to 17 be some sort of a permanent remedy there, but that we 18 might not have enough time to do that if we have a 19 really big storm, so we borrowed from one of the things 20 that had been done in the Chicago Area Waterways, which 21 was to develop an interim barrier that could be used to 22 separate and prevent Carp from being able to cross that 23 The state of Indiana and the Indiana location. 24 Department of Natural Resources stepped up and in less

than 60 days they completed a design and built the

25

- 1 fence. And so we have an interim solution there that's
- 2 preventing adult Asian carp from being able to make the
- 3 trip up that additional 20, 25 miles it would take to
- 4 get across the basin divide.
- 5 The other -- well, let me see. That's
- 6 basically what's going on there. There's also right
- 7 now, the Corps of Engineers is completing a feasibility
- 8 study looking at the permanent solution at that
- 9 location. That report is scheduled to be completed
- 10 before the end of this calendar year.
- 11 And then last but not least, for the other
- 12 pathways, we're going to complete the risk
- 13 characterization at the other -- well, at all 18
- 14 locations we're going to complete the risk
- 15 characterization. And that report, again, is scheduled
- 16 to be completed before the end of this year. Thank you
- 17 for your attention.
- 18 COLONEL QUARLES: Thank you, Mike.
- And Kendall, we can go to the next slide.
- Okay, so David and Mike talked about some of
- 21 the accomplishments this far. You can see them listed
- 22 to the left as well as other things that we're doing
- 23 while we are executing the feasibility study. Next
- 24 slide.
- We talked about what we're doing, a little bit

- 1 about how or the context of what we're doing, now let's
- 2 talk about the timeline of getting it done. Need the
- 3 right team of experts formed and we're glad to say that
- 4 we have that, not just Dave Wethington and Mike, we have
- 5 a whole team of engineers that's looking at the
- 6 different components that we need to study from the
- 7 hydrology to the navigation. And all of that is inside
- 8 of what we call our Project Management Plan, and you can
- 9 find that, as Kendall said, on the web if you wanted to
- 10 look in detail at the plan. But that work has been
- 11 done, and so we find ourselves now able to because of
- 12 all of the support we've gotten, and the appropriations
- 13 part, to begin awarding contracts for the data
- 14 requirements that we don't have. So a technical review
- 15 has been done to know what data is on hand and now we're
- 16 able to now award contracts to get the additional data
- 17 we need to form a baseline. The baseline is this is
- 18 what -- if you put in the model things look like before
- 19 we introduce any solutions, the plan's formulation will
- 20 model what the situation or condition would be if we
- 21 were to, for instance, separate the basins at different
- 22 locations. What models, what impacts would be imposed
- 23 in terms of safety, flooding, navigation. Our process
- 24 requires that we not only offer interim solutions, we
- 25 must consider fully the impacts of our solution. And

- 1 you probably know about the NEPA requirements in this
- 2 case. We expect permanent a solution, a permanent
- 3 solution to have significant impacts, and so we would
- 4 have to do a full Environmental Impact Statement.
- 5 And so we must meet not just the interim
- 6 solution, we must deliver a full analysis of impacts and
- 7 it's going to take some effort, so I'm not going to be
- 8 the only engineer coming up with a solution and not
- 9 having it reviewed. So within our process, say a period
- 10 where we would have external reviews of our solutions or
- 11 alternatives as well as meeting all the policy and
- 12 technical -- technical and policy requirements. And
- 13 that is why we're saying we expect -- if we continue to
- 14 get sufficient funding we can have a draft recommended
- 15 plan out for public review at the time you see here.
- 16 Next slide.
- While we're on that final draft product,
- 18 again --
- 19 (Microphone went out.)
- 20 COLONEL QUARLES: Can you hear me now?
- 21 Any products that we have that don't lead to
- 22 the recommendation that are data points that we can get
- 23 approved through our headquarters to release we plan to
- 24 do so. And some of the products that we think we may be
- 25 able to release are listed here. Next slide.

- 1 We're doing our best not to conduct the study
- 2 in a back room. We're reaching out to other agencies,
- 3 state, local. Again, if they can inform the study we
- 4 want to get as much information as we can, as many
- 5 comments as we can, so that we can form a sound
- 6 engineering solution. And that's why we're here today.
- 7 Next slide.
- 8 Which is why the Corps is here in Vicksburg,
- 9 (unintelligible) city, this is the 9th location we've
- 10 been to out of a total of 12 sites that span throughout
- 11 the basins that the study will be involved with. Next
- 12 slide.
- And with all the technology nowadays, we just
- 14 like kind of talking about it. We've gotten all kinds
- 15 of tools that Kendall is going to tell you about to make
- 16 sure that you can find out and stay current with our
- 17 study efforts, so we're going to be quiet. Kendall is
- 18 going to tell you about some administrative things and
- 19 then we'll give you a chance to comment.
- 20 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, Colonel.
- 21 Before proceeding to the oral comment period of
- 22 this meeting I would like to note that the GLMRIS
- 23 project website is a very good source of study
- 24 information. You'll find all of the handouts that we've
- 25 given you today available for download as well as other

- 1 documents that we produced or interim products as we get
- 2 them will also be posted on the website. The PMP, for
- 3 example, is also available for download and you can find
- 4 out how we plan to manage ourselves during the study.
- 5 Also on the project website you can sign up for
- 6 the GLMRIS e-mail list, and the e-mail list will be used
- 7 to send out updates, opportunities for public
- 8 involvement and any other products or significant events
- 9 associated with the study.
- 10 So the website can be found on many of the
- 11 products that you were given today, on our business
- 12 card, on the comment forms. And then also, if you are
- 13 so inclined, we're using social media to also get out
- 14 our message and updates so you can follow us on Twitter
- 15 or friend us on Facebook.
- 16 At this point in time we are going to open the
- 17 oral comment period of the meeting, and I'm not sure if
- 18 you registered or not, but if you're willing to make any
- 19 comments or if you have any questions that you'd like to
- 20 ask of the panel.
- 21 MS. SHROPSHIRE: I do have a question.
- MR. ZABOROWSKI: Yes, let's see if we can get
- 23 this microphone to work first.
- MS. SHROPSHIRE: I can talk loud.
- MR. ZABOROWSKI: Before you begin, could I just

- 1 ask you to state your full name and spell your last
- 2 name, and give your zip code.
- 3 MS. SHROPSHIRE: I'm Cathy Shropshire.
- 4 Shropshire is spelled S-h-r-o-p-s-h-i-r-e. And 39170.
- 5 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you.
- 6 MS. SHROPSHIRE: Yes, I just -- after sitting
- 7 here, I know a little bit about the project, but
- 8 certainly not -- that's why I was here tonight to find
- 9 out some more about it.
- 10 These barriers, I guess they keep everything
- 11 out, right? All the other species, they wouldn't -- is
- 12 that what happens?
- 13 COLONEL QUARLES: The current -- the current --
- 14 the electrical barriers are designed for fish, and so
- 15 behavior science -- I grew up in Virginia, we had little
- 16 thin wires for pigs to keep them in the pen. They
- 17 touched it, they got zapped. Over time they learned not
- 18 to touch it, so fish are very sensitive to the
- 19 electricity. When they first feel it it's like a little
- 20 tingle. If they try to continue through then they may
- 21 be even stunned and float back down.
- Now, the original barriers were designed for
- 23 the round goby, but the parameters that we operate them
- 24 at, you know, they best defend against the migration of
- 25 fish. And that's why with GLMRIS, we'll be looking at a

- 1 solution that will work for all aquatic nuisance
- 2 species. Big difference. So different authorities.
- 3 Congress gave us one authority to build the barriers to
- 4 focus on Asian carp. Second authority was the efficacy
- 5 studies to, again, look at what will prevent Asian carp
- 6 from going through the barrier or around it. And then
- 7 with this additional more over arch authority, GLMRIS,
- 8 we can look at all aquatic nuisance species.
- 9 MS. SHROPSHIRE: But what about non-nuisance
- 10 species, I mean, are they also --
- 11 COLONEL VINCENT QUARLES: Yes. If they're
- 12 fish, yes.
- MS. SHROPSHIRE: Right, okay. And then the
- 14 other thing was, I'm terrible with names, but he --
- 15 COLONEL QUARLES: Mike?
- 16 MS. SHROPSHIRE: He said something about it
- 17 stopped adult species, but it won't stop -- is it just
- 18 the adults that it -- how does that work?
- 19 MR. WETHINGTON: Sure. Yes, within 20 miles of
- 20 the Eagle Marsh there is no evidence of Asian carp at
- 21 all yet, and so the real threat appears to be from adult
- 22 fish, which can swim very long periods within -- or long
- 23 distances within a day. And like I said, the fish
- 24 biologist looked at it very closely and said that the
- 25 primary threat is the adult carp. (Unintelligible)

- 1 there was a balance, frankly for picking the mesh size
- 2 of preventing flooding at the same time as being able to
- 3 minimize the risk of Carp transfer.
- 4 MS. SHROPSHIRE: Thank you.
- 5 COLONEL QUARLES: And again, inside of the
- 6 canal, this actual Chicago Ship Canal, (unintelligible),
- 7 we have actual steel cables making an electrical field.
- 8 That's the electric barrier. And then, of course, what
- 9 Mike is talking about, a different location is not your
- 10 normal backyard fence. It's an actual fence that's put
- 11 to prevent fish from passing. Fort Wayne, I'm sorry.
- 12 MS. SHROPSHIRE: So who maintains that?
- MR. WETHINGTON: The Indiana DNR.
- 14 MS. SHROPSHIRE: The other species that you are
- 15 looking at, the lamprey and the whatever the other ones,
- 16 how do they get -- are they in the river system now and
- 17 how -- can you explain that to me?
- MR. WETHINGTON: Sure, absolutely, that's a
- 19 good question.
- 20 So what we've done is we have worked with the
- 21 Corps of Engineer experts as well as experts from Fish
- 22 and Wildlife Service to look at both basins. So the
- 23 purpose of the study is to prevent the transfer of all
- 24 aquatic nuisance species between basins. So whether
- 25 it's nuisance from Mississippi River to the Great Lakes

- 1 or Great Lakes to the Mississippi River. So what we've
- 2 done is we've compiled a list of all potential species
- 3 and then kind of refined that list by looking at what
- 4 could survive, you know, how is the habitat looking.
- 5 And we're looking not just at, you know, what's
- 6 currently in the system, but what could potentially
- 7 could come into the system within a certain, you know,
- 8 in a certain realm.
- 9 And so what we've done is put together a white
- 10 paper that's being reviewed currently, and Mike's team
- 11 has also done some work to look at potential aquatic
- 12 nuisance species at those other pathways. What we're
- 13 going to do is we're going to merge all that information
- 14 together into like a single list of what is the whole
- 15 world of aquatic nuisance species that could potentially
- 16 transfer between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River
- 17 Basins. And that will be our target list, which we
- 18 design and basically study the potential control
- 19 technologies that would stop those species.
- MS. SHROPSHIRE: And those species would be
- 21 going from the river system into the Great Lakes.
- MR. WETHINGTON: Either way.
- MS. SHROPSHIRE: Either way.
- MR. WETHINGTON: Either way, yes.
- MS. SHROPSHIRE: But they already are out

- 1 there, these species are already --
- 2 MR. WETHINGTON: Some are and some -- some are
- 3 existing currently, let's say some live in the Great
- 4 Lakes Basin but have not made it to the Mississippi
- 5 River but could be invasive to the Mississippi River, so
- 6 this is preventative.
- 7 MS. SHROPSHIRE: And how did they get to where
- 8 they are today? We know how we got Carp.
- 9 MR. WETHINGTON: Sure. There may be species
- 10 such as -- that live in the river system that would not
- 11 ordinarily come to the Great Lakes.
- MS. SHROPSHIRE: Right, how did they get there?
- 13 I mean, what was --
- 14 COLONEL QUARLES: It depends on what species is
- 15 there. I mean, and again, this -- let's say --
- MS. SHROPSHIRE: I guess what my point is, is
- 17 we know how we got Carp and we don't need another
- 18 situation like Carp.
- 19 COLONEL QUARLES: Right.
- MS. SHROPSHIRE: We need to stop it before it
- 21 happens, which we tried to do and weren't able to. We
- 22 got outvoted on just how helpful those Carp were going
- 23 to be. How do we go about addressing --
- COLONEL QUARLES: Well, the best way to do that
- 25 is look at what we're going to have to do in GLMRIS.

- 1 For instance, the Sea lamprey, they suck onto a fish, so
- 2 a fish swims through. That's, you know, how they may
- 3 transfer.
- 4 If we are able to address the connection
- 5 between the two basins and you find a way to cut that
- 6 off then there's no transfer possible. And that's what
- 7 this study --
- 8 MS. SHROPSHIRE: Well, I'm looking at even
- 9 before that, how do we --
- 10 COLONEL QUARLES: Yeah, I got you.
- 11 MS. SHROPSHIRE: And another question I have is
- 12 --
- MR. WETHINGTON: I want to talk to that very
- 14 briefly. Although a lot of the introduction has
- 15 historically to the Great Lakes, has been through
- 16 ballast water and although the interbasin study is not
- 17 specifically addressing that type of introduction, the
- 18 US Coast Guard is a lead agency on looking at ballast
- 19 water. And so we're taking information they may come up
- 20 with as part of their work on setting new rules,
- 21 regulations for ballast water and incorporating that
- 22 into, you know, the kind of scope -- the results of that
- 23 into our study. So there are other agencies that we are
- 24 definitely partnering with that we know are
- 25 complimentary activities that are ongoing such as this.

- 1 So, you know, introduction through ballast
- 2 water, through transfer of bilge water, things like that
- 3 and the Coast Guard has a lead on that. And other
- 4 agencies like the USGS, they all have their own specific
- 5 expertise, which they were kind of folding into the
- 6 study.
- 7 MS. SHROPSHIRE: And another, which probably
- 8 does not fall within your realm, but what if tomorrow
- 9 you find Carp in the Great Lakes? Who's charged with
- 10 trying to deal with that?
- 11 COLONEL QUARLES: I'll let Jim speak because
- 12 he's looking at and has the position like this to look
- 13 at multiple agencies, but I just left a meeting with a
- 14 bunch of scientists that have studied the Mississippi
- 15 rivers that you're familiar with. Others flew in from
- 16 Chicago and other locations, and these are scientists
- 17 that have been studying the river system for decades.
- And the one thing I think they can all agree
- 19 upon is it will take a number, you know, maybe don't
- 20 know how many, but a number of Asian carp finding the
- 21 right habitat to create a self sustaining population.
- 22 And so one fish out in the open itself may not be a
- 23 threat, so US Fish and Wildlife and other agencies,
- 24 they're looking to say what habitat is this that if
- 25 Asian carp got to these barriers, maybe the problem

- 1 might be worse. Is that right, Jim?
- 2 MR. BREDIN: Right, that's correct. And we're
- 3 taking a look at it from all the agency perspectives
- 4 looking at if they were to get out into the Great Lakes,
- 5 where they would likely go. And so we're doing all
- 6 types of risk assessments to determine which areas would
- 7 be most at risk from a sustainable population in the
- 8 Great Lakes.
- 9 And then also the Great Lakes states are very
- 10 active in this. Michigan has an Asian carp control plan
- 11 as of right now. So if they do find, which I believe
- 12 there will be a press release out fairly soon indicating
- 13 that we have a new round of tests that show that there
- 14 are not any -- that they are not finding any eDNA --
- 15 Carp eDNA in any Michigan rivers. But if they do, they
- 16 have an active plan and they will be enforcing that.
- In many cases the states are the ones that will
- 18 -- that if anything were to happen -- well, even in this
- 19 case, Illinois is very active in this. They are the
- 20 responders to this, and we're working with all the
- 21 states to make sure that if anything happens they are
- 22 prepared. And they are also preparing themselves to
- 23 make sure that they are in a position to where if we
- 24 find any type of sustainable population in the Great
- 25 Lakes area that they can react and react quickly.

- 1 MS. SHROPSHIRE: I guess just one other
- 2 question. You made the -- you said, if we keep funding,
- 3 does the funding look like it will continue?
- 4 COLONEL QUARLES: No, ma'am, it's normal for
- 5 our Corps projects. We get authorized a certain amount
- 6 of money each President's budget. And so when I said --
- 7 showed you the timeline, we looked at what it takes to
- 8 get the baseline data and then we build a work schedule
- 9 on funding. But each year when the President's budget
- 10 comes out and we don't have much money, we actually had
- 11 in that budget cycle.
- 12 MS. SHROPSHIRE: But you don't see any reason
- 13 to think you won't get it? It's tough times up there.
- 14 COLONEL QUARLES: Again, we express the
- 15 capability and then we'll rely upon what we get in the
- 16 President's budget.
- 17 MS. SHROPSHIRE: I think that's all. I think
- 18 that's all.
- 19 COLONEL QUARLES: Thank you very much.
- 20 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you.
- 21 Well, if you feel that you have asked all the
- 22 questions that you'd like or made all the statements
- 23 that you want, at this point and time is there anyone
- 24 else that would like to say anything before we close
- 25 this oral comment period? Yes, please.

- 1 COLONEL QUARLES: Again, on behalf of our
- 2 Divisional Commander, the regional teams that are
- 3 working together and my district, we want to thank you
- 4 again for coming tonight and taking the time to ask the
- 5 questions and find out more about our efforts.
- 6 MR. ZABOROWSKI: That being said, the time is
- 7 now 6:31 and we will close the second oral comment
- 8 period of our meeting today. And since we will close
- 9 the meeting as well, the panel and myself will be around
- 10 for questions if you have any further you think of
- 11 before you leave.
- 12 I would like to remind you that the NEPA
- 13 scoping period ends on March 31. We will be accepting
- 14 web comments or written comments all throughout that
- 15 time period.
- 16 And just a last little note that any comments
- 17 received in any of our meetings, through our website or
- 18 submitted in written form, will all be given equal
- 19 weight. So if you have anything else that you think of
- 20 that you'd like to add, please don't hesitate and we'll
- 21 consider them the same.
- Thank you again for coming out tonight. Get
- 23 home safe.
- 24 (Second session concluded at 6:32.)

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1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE	
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3	I, Dawn Dillard, CSR Number 1763, Certified	
4	Reporter, certify:	
5	That the foregoing proceedings were taken	
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7	That the proceedings were recorded	
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9	That the foregoing is a true and correct	
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11	I further certify that I am not a relative or	
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