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-----X
RESTORATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FOR
STEWART AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE
-----X

Date: February 4, 2020
Location: Newburgh Armory Unity Center
321 South William Street
Newburgh, New York
Commencing at: 6:00 p.m.
Court Reporter: Laura Evans

MINUTES OF
MEETING

1 RAC/STEWART ANG MEETING

2 COL. MARC KELLY:

3 Hello. Good evening, everybody.

4 Welcome to our quarterly meeting. Glad
5 to see so many people here.

6 Our last meeting was November 7th.
7 The great news is this is our first
8 formal RAC meeting, so the table has
9 expanded and there are a lot of new
10 players, and we definitely want to thank
11 the selection committee for doing that.
12 We'll thank them in a little while. I'll
13 actually ask Heather to give you their
14 names. We are going to continue our
15 community involvement and get off on the
16 right foot.

17 And so at this point, what I want
18 to do is pass the mic. If you could just
19 state your name and who you're working
20 with. So those who have not met me
21 before, I'm Col. Marc Kelly. I'm the
22 senior representative from Stewart Air
23 National Guard Base for the RAC
24 committee.

25 MR. BILL FETTER:

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2 Hi. I'm Bill Fetter with the
3 Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance,
4 representing that group as well as the
5 people of the watershed of the Newburgh
6 area.

7 MR. PATRICK HINES:

8 Patrick Hines with McGoey, Hauser &
9 Edsall Consulting Engineers, representing
10 the Town of New Windsor.

11 MR. KEITH MILLER:

12 Keith Miller, Orange County Health
13 Department.

14 MS. ANGELA CARPENTER:

15 Good evening. I'm Angela
16 Carpenter. I'm with EPA's Superfund and
17 Management Division. And while we
18 normally only have one of us here, I'd
19 like to introduce my colleague, Bill
20 Friedmann. We wanted to make sure that
21 there was a consistent EPA presence, so
22 between the two of us, one of us will be
23 here.

24 MR. WILLIAM FRIEDMANN:

25 Nice to meet you. Bill Friedmann,

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2 EPA.

3 MS. AURA LOPEZ ZARATE:

4 Hello, everyone. I'm Aura Lopez
5 Zarate. I'm here to represent my
6 community, the City of Newburgh.

7 MR. MARK SANCHEZ-POTTER:

8 Hello. I'm Mark Sanchez-Potter.
9 I'm standing in for Ed Lawson, who
10 couldn't make it this evening.

11 MS. MARY WAGNER:

12 Hello. I'm Mary Wagner. I'm with
13 the Newburgh Clean Water Project.

14 MR. JOHN CLARKE:

15 Hello. I'm John Clarke. I'm a
16 resident of the City of Newburgh.

17 MS. VICTORIA LEUNG:

18 HI. I'm Victoria Leung, and I'm a
19 representative for Riverkeeper.

20 MS. CASSIE SKLARZ:

21 Hi. I'm Cassie Sklarz, a resident
22 of the City of Newburgh.

23 MS. LAURA GARCIA BALBUEN:

24 Hi. I'm Laura Garcia, community
25 member, also here representing the

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2 immigrant Latino community.

3 MS. MANNA JO GREENE:

4 Manna Jo Greene, Hudson River Sloop
5 Clearwater.

6 MS. CARLA JOHNSON:

7 Carla Johnson representing
8 Newburgh.

9 MR. ANTHONY GRICE:

10 Anthony Grice, councilman at-large
11 for the City of Newburgh.

12 MR. CHUCK THOMAS:

13 Chuck Thomas, chairman of the City
14 of Newburgh Conservation Advisory
15 Council.

16 MR. TAL GLUCK:

17 Tal Gluck, City of Newburgh.

18 MR. ANTHONY FERN:

19 Tony Fern, Town of Newburgh.

20 MS. HEATHER PFEIFFER:

21 I want to welcome and thank not
22 only our RAC members, but everyone from
23 the public who has come to join us this
24 evening.

25 We'll just go over really quickly,

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2 we also have representatives here from
3 the National Guard Bureau; obviously,
4 Col. Marc Kelly from the National Guard
5 Base; we are also working with the Army
6 Corps of Engineers who are here; as well
7 as contractors BERS-Weston Services and
8 Wood, and they will be making
9 presentations later on.

10 My name is Heather Pfeiffer. I am
11 with BERS-Weston as a representative. We
12 have done our introductions of the RAC
13 members. Thank you all for being here.

14 Our agenda for tonight is to go
15 over a little bit of the RAC purpose and
16 selection process. We have some RAC
17 business to cover, being the first
18 meeting. Then we will go into an
19 overview of the environmental
20 investigation and restoration process.
21 From there, we'll do an introduction of
22 all the environmental projects for
23 Stewart Air National Guard Base. Being a
24 Restoration Advisory Committee, part of
25 this group is to cover all of the

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2 different environmental projects on the
3 Base, so we want to make sure everyone
4 kind of knows what all of those projects
5 are. We'll then have a time for a RAC
6 open discussion, and then comments,
7 questions, and public open discussion.

8 Our goal, so that everyone knows,
9 is to end the meeting at eight o'clock.
10 So that's the time limit we're working
11 under today.

12 As we've discussed at our
13 previous -- last two meetings, really,
14 the purpose of the RAC is to serve as a
15 forum for the community to become
16 involved with the environmental projects
17 that are happening at Stewart Air
18 National Guard Base; and to share ideas,
19 and through discussion, provide input to
20 the Base and the Air National Guard
21 regarding those environmental projects.
22 So that's what we're here today to
23 discuss.

24 Our process to get here has been a
25 little bit of a long one. As many of you

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2 know, there was a meeting back in April
3 of last year where we first started
4 talking about the Restoration Advisory
5 Committee, or RAC, and some of the
6 initial applications were accepted.
7 There has been a kickoff meeting, or a
8 meeting really about the Restoration
9 Advisory Committee that we held at the
10 end of July. And from there, we started
11 really -- the National Guard Bureau
12 really kicked off accepting those
13 applications. As we moved through
14 September and October, we publicized that
15 process, but then we also started working
16 with some very wonderful volunteers, our
17 selection committee, and we would like to
18 thank them. Ophra Wolf, Marcel Barrick,
19 Jennifer Rawlinson, Damian DePauw, and
20 Chris Erickson were all part of that
21 selection committee. They worked with
22 us, not only to promote the Restoration
23 Advisory Committee, but then to help
24 select this committee that's up here.
25 And in December, we made those

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2 notifications, and appreciate everyone
3 for agreeing to participate on the
4 committee.

5 So RAC business. We just wanted to
6 cover some basic meeting guidelines. We
7 want the focus of this meeting to be that
8 we will start and end on time. Part of
9 that is because we only have this
10 facility for a certain number of times,
11 but then we want to respect everyone's
12 time that they have volunteered to be
13 here. If we need to, moving forward with
14 this, we can make the decision to extend
15 the meetings or to use them as needed,
16 but for tonight, we have our time block
17 from six to eight.

18 This is our meeting. We ask
19 everyone not to have side conversations.
20 Part of that also assists -- we do have a
21 court reporter here today. She's up in
22 the front. So we're asking everybody,
23 both on the RAC and in the public, if you
24 do ask any questions or make any
25 comments, please make sure you state your

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2 name first so that she can capture that
3 information and it's recorded as part of
4 our official meeting minutes. So that
5 covers our third topic: please introduce
6 yourself.

7 We want to stick to the meeting
8 agenda. Tonight's agenda was set by the
9 National Guard Bureau. We will be
10 working with the community co-chair going
11 forward to set that agenda in advance.

12 We do ask that all dialogue be
13 respectful. And when possible, decisions
14 will be made by consensus. I know our
15 operating procedures that we'll get into
16 also discuss a number of these guidelines
17 as well.

18 So we do want to cover, for
19 everybody, a little bit of those RAC
20 operating guidelines so the public knows
21 what's involved. But then also there
22 will be time that we open up to our
23 Restoration Advisory Committee to make
24 comments or changes before hopefully
25 adopting those operating procedures

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2 tonight. So as the RAC is structured
3 currently, it shall be no greater than 25
4 members. There are ten spots reserved
5 for government representatives, should
6 they choose to participate; five
7 community group representatives as
8 appointed by our selection committee, and
9 they made their introductions as they
10 went around; and ten community members
11 that were also selected by the RAC. And
12 then, as we move forward, those spots
13 will open. Those are one of the things
14 we'll be talking about tonight, about
15 terms and how the future selection of RAC
16 members will move forward.

17 We have attendance. We ask that
18 everyone attend meetings as possible. If
19 not, they can send someone in their
20 place, as we've already seen this
21 evening, to represent them and report
22 back.

23 Currently, terms are two years, and
24 individuals may serve up to three
25 consecutive terms. And removal of a RAC

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2 member, if the committee decides to do
3 so, would be by majority vote of the
4 committee members.

5 And I'll ask the committee now, do
6 we want to stop and cover some of these
7 topics as we go, or get through the
8 slides and then discuss them? How would
9 you prefer to move forward?

10 MR. ANTHONY GRICE:

11 I think we should get through the
12 slides. There are some suggestions that
13 some of us had, but I think that we
14 should get through the slides first,
15 considering that we have an audience here
16 and we don't want to -- you know, we want
17 to be respectful of that.

18 MS. HEATHER PFEIFFER:

19 I'll pause for a moment. Someone
20 has joined us. Would you like to
21 introduce yourself?

22 MS. RAMONA BURTON:

23 Hi. Sorry for my tardiness. My
24 name is Ramona Burton. I was born and
25 raised here in the City of Newburgh. I'm

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2 pleased to be a part of the process and
3 the RAC.

4 MS. HEATHER PFEIFFER:

5 Thank you, Ramona.

6 So moving on, our election and
7 appointments. Tonight, the hope is that
8 this RAC will select a co-chair. That
9 co-chair will serve for a 12-month term,
10 and may serve more than one term if
11 approved by the RAC. That is something
12 that they will vote on. The co-chair may
13 resign without losing their seat on the
14 RAC if they can no longer serve the
15 duties as co-chair, and if unable to
16 attend a meeting, they may appoint
17 another RAC member to serve as co-chair
18 for that meeting. Again, they may be
19 removed for cause by two-thirds majority
20 vote of the RAC.

21 Col. Kelly is serving as our
22 installation co-chair. He's been
23 appointed by the Air National Guard. If
24 he's unable to attend a meeting, he may
25 also appoint someone to serve in his

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2 place for a meeting.

3 Committee meetings will be held
4 quarterly.

5 The Air National Guard will put the
6 meeting agenda and meeting materials and
7 summaries, as appropriate, and make them
8 available to the committee. Materials
9 will also be posted to the Orange County
10 website under PFOSPFOA-resources.

11 Meeting operations, discussions,
12 and comments will be entertained for each
13 scheduled topic. The co-chairs or
14 facilitator may limit the discussion to
15 ensure all business may be completed. No
16 more than five minutes of speaking per
17 person will be observed to ensure fair,
18 open, orderly, and productive debates.
19 And speaking time may be extended by
20 majority vote.

21 Time will be allotted for public
22 comment. Comments and questions should
23 be limited to no more than 5 minutes as
24 well. And co-chairs will assign
25 responsibility for a response if it

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2 cannot be addressed at the meeting.

3 Adjournment and dissolution.

4 Adjournment may be considered if the
5 membership falls to a third or less of
6 the membership number and no community
7 members express interest in filling those
8 positions, and community membership has
9 not participated in or requested a
10 meeting for more than 13 months.

11 Decision will be discussed with RAC,
12 local communities, and other stakeholders
13 as appropriate. That's basically just to
14 say there is an opportunity to close this
15 if there stops being community interest,
16 but that's something that the Base still
17 has to work with community members to
18 determine, as well as other stakeholders.

19 That's the same for the dissolution
20 of the meeting, if there's inefficient
21 operations, things like that. But that
22 is something that we have to work very
23 strongly with the community before making
24 that decision.

25 I would like to open it up for

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2 comments. Let me get my pen so I can
3 also take notes on the changes. So who
4 would like to start with the comments on
5 operating procedures?

6 MR. BILL FETTER:

7 Bill Fetter. We met a few times in
8 the community group. And having met,
9 we've elected, or nominated and accepted,
10 a chairperson to speak for us. And of
11 course, now, Mr. Thomas is going to be
12 the speaker for the community group. So
13 we can minimize time during the meetings,
14 and hope to have consensus prior to
15 meetings with the material submitted
16 before we meet. So I'll defer to Chuck
17 Thomas.

18 MR. CHUCK THOMAS:

19 Chuck Thomas. Thank you. Thank
20 you, committee.

21 I'm just going to really quickly
22 say that I have accepted the votes, or
23 the nomination of the committee. Because
24 I live here in Newburgh, I thought it was
25 important that we're represented by

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2 somebody from Newburgh. And I think I
3 can represent a steady hand as we go
4 forward. We need to have achievable
5 objectives and goals and procedures that
6 will get us there. And we need to
7 address a number of items within the
8 overall operating procedures that we
9 think will clarify our role and allow us
10 to move forward in a more efficient
11 fashion. So I don't have a lot to say
12 about that, because I thought we were
13 going to the presentations first, but if
14 you want to continue with the operating
15 procedures, we have a few things we
16 really want to address.

17 I think number one was clarifying
18 the roles and responsibilities of the
19 moderator -- the co-chairs, we have a
20 pretty good idea -- and the
21 representatives from the different
22 agencies, federal agencies and state
23 agencies that are here, so we understand
24 exactly what roles they have, our public
25 participation roles and how we can hear

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2 from the public, both as community RAC
3 members and also within the grounds of
4 this forum here. So we would propose
5 that we have a series of either pre- or
6 post-comment periods where the public can
7 speak.

8 I think the key to making this all
9 work is to hear from the public, to
10 understand what the public wants from
11 this process, and then to work together
12 to find that common ground between what
13 the public needs, what the members of the
14 RAC need, and what our Air National Guard
15 needs, what the property owners need, and
16 how to work with that and come up with a
17 better environment at the end. So that's
18 where we're at.

19 The other thing is the voting rules
20 are very nebulous. At one point, it says
21 we're not going to vote, and at another
22 point, it mentions 20 times we're going
23 to vote on things. So I think we should
24 look at that and clarify where we're at
25 with that.

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2 I think these rules and procedures
3 are really the place to start. That was
4 the role that I said I'd probably be best
5 at, provide a steady hand as we go
6 through this and recognize that we want
7 to have achievable goals, we want to have
8 achievable procedures, and we want to
9 move forward with this process.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. HEATHER PFEIFFER:

12 So my question would be to you.
13 Are you prepared to discuss those change
14 to the operating procedures now?

15 MR. CHUCK THOMAS:

16 Yes, some of them. We only
17 received the operating procedures a week
18 ago, so we really haven't had time to
19 look at them or discuss them as a group.
20 So I would like the opportunity to go
21 through them and hear recommendations
22 anyone would like to make.

23 MS. HEATHER PFEIFFER:

24 Did you want to make those, or does
25 someone else here want to discuss those?

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2 MR. ANTHONY GRICE:

3 Yes. Anthony Grice. So what we
4 did was, considering that we had received
5 these about 10 days ago, some of us did
6 look through it and made some
7 suggestions. So what I was hoping that
8 we could do was just send those
9 suggestions. Some of those are language
10 things, you know, if we change this word
11 to that one, it would be better. Is
12 there a process for us to send our
13 suggestions to someone, rather than take
14 precious meeting time going through some
15 of these changes? Is that possible?

16 MS. HEATHER PFEIFFER:

17 It is possible if that is the way
18 that the group, as a whole, would like to
19 move forward. You can send those to
20 myself as well as the co-chairs and the
21 Air National Guard, and we can
22 incorporate them to be forwarded. And
23 then, at that point, they wouldn't be
24 adopted until our next meeting. So
25 that's just something to consider before

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2 we move forward.

3 MS. MARY WAGNER:

4 Hi. This is Mary Wagner. We did
5 spend some time really honing down and
6 prioritizing the priorities, so if we
7 could just mention the key ones that
8 relate to what Chuck was saying about
9 rules and responsibilities and public
10 participation. And we can take turns
11 doing this.

12 So for 1.3, adopting the goal
13 language, there was a bullet point number
14 6 that spoke about that RAC was
15 responsible for maximizing efficiency and
16 cost. And we really felt our role was to
17 maximize effectiveness. We are
18 solutions-oriented, and we will make sure
19 to discuss viable options, but we really
20 feel our role as a community is to
21 maximize comprehensive clean-up.

22 Then the other point we have in
23 relation to the rules and
24 responsibilities, we want to make sure
25 that we have continuation on the RAC

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2 committee here. So we are suggesting
3 that we divvy up the terms so that some
4 RAC members would be one year, some would
5 have two, some would have three. That
6 way, there's no complete overhaul of the
7 RAC group.

8 MS. HEATHER PFEIFFER:

9 Do you have an idea of how that
10 would look, to divvy up between one-,
11 two-, and three-year terms at this point,
12 or is that something you're still
13 considering?

14 MS. MARY WAGNER:

15 That's something we're still
16 considering.

17 MR. CHUCK THOMAS:

18 Fifteen members divides by three
19 pretty easy.

20 MS. MARY WAGNER:

21 Two more comments, and I'll pass it
22 on. There are two members where Tuesdays
23 are hard for them to make. We really
24 want them to be included. So as part of
25 the joint co-chair responsibility, if

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2 they can assign the meeting dates with
3 input from the RAC committee so we can
4 ensure all our members are here.

5 As then far as public
6 participation, and then I'll pass the mic
7 on, we would love that there would be a
8 public comment session both in the
9 beginning and at the end of the meeting.
10 So allowing people to speak about the
11 agenda coming up, and then allowing them
12 to comment on the discussion that
13 happened. We can cap each individual at
14 three minutes, but maybe allow for a
15 15-minute session in the beginning and
16 the end for public comment.

17 Anybody else want to speak?

18 MR. JOHN CLARKE:

19 It's difficult, because there's a
20 lot of ambiguous language in the draft
21 procedures. So it raises a lot of
22 questions as to, like, adjournment.
23 There could be 100-percent involvement
24 from the community, and not have the
25 support of government agencies, and we

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2 would meet the criteria for dissolving
3 the Restoration Advisory Committee. So
4 we have some specific language. I don't
5 think this is really the format to make
6 suggestions for a line item's specific
7 language and changing, or efficiency to
8 effectiveness, unless there's a strong
9 opinion otherwise.

10 So specifically, having the
11 information in enough time to prepare for
12 these meetings is important. We're all
13 very busy, and I understand everyone here
14 is busy. So we would like to suggest
15 that there be a line item made that it is
16 required to have two weeks prior, and in
17 English and Spanish at a minimum. Half
18 of our community in the City of Newburgh
19 is of Hispanic or Latino descent, so we
20 need to appeal to that community.

21 I'm an engineer by trade and a big
22 fan of pictures. And it's not because of
23 lack of understanding, but I know that if
24 we can provide visual information for our
25 community, it would go much further in

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2 communicating what's going on.

3 As was already mentioned about the
4 voting, the verbiage in the draft
5 procedure, if we can have that -- any
6 time voting is mentioned, if we can have
7 that clarified, because it's very clearly
8 stated contrary to that early on in the
9 document.

10 So there's a note in here under
11 responsibilities or the missions and
12 goals. It says, "To provide positive
13 solution-focused input to regulators."
14 That's a perfect example of ambiguous
15 language. "Positive" is a very
16 subjective term, and it could be that the
17 solution-focused input is not considered
18 positive, and we think verbiage like that
19 in the procedures is not helpful.

20 Along the line of providing
21 information ahead of time, solicitations
22 were made to apply for this committee.
23 The applications were in English and in
24 Spanish. Do we have a Spanish
25 interpreter here? Again, Spanish is

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2 spoken quite a bit in the city, and
3 it's -- you know, not having someone here
4 to translate is not really meaningful
5 communication.

6 One of our committee members
7 mentioned -- created a word:
8 transcreation, as opposed to translation.
9 The communication form needs to be
10 understandable to people, so no acronyms.
11 Parts per trillion, or PPT, you know, you
12 may look at PPT and think that's a
13 PowerPoint presentation. So we need
14 clear communication.

15 You know, I'm a big fan of
16 pictures, like I said. I did pretty good
17 in organic chemistry. I can understand
18 that. I know what that is. That's one
19 of the primary things we're talking about
20 here. And that's a perfect example of
21 communication, talking about molecule
22 size, and talking about what can be
23 filtered and what can't be filtered.

24 I'm not keeping an eye on the time.
25 Somebody give me the hook. We haven't

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2 adopted the five-minute time limit. Not
3 yet.

4 We noticed that the Health
5 Department's website, it's difficult to
6 find the information. And every time
7 I've gone to the link, I've not found any
8 of the current information. It seems
9 better to go to the Times Herald-Record
10 to find information than our official
11 repository. So if information, the
12 reports, could actually be posted, or a
13 link posted on that website?

14 MS. HEATHER PFEIFFER:

15 Which website?

16 MR. ANTHONY GRICE:

17 The orangecountygov.com, the
18 PFOS/PFOA resources page. The one that's
19 in the meeting notice.

20 Anybody else?

21 MS. MANNA JO GREENE:

22 Because some of our comments are
23 fairly detailed, we thought that we might
24 suggest that we create a subcommittee
25 that has representation from the sectors

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2 that are here so that we could really go
3 over line-by-line. We can't really do
4 that in this forum. So that was a
5 suggestion that we wanted to bring
6 forward.

7 It does seem like -- I think it's
8 section 2.6 where we could create
9 subcommittees so that, by the next time
10 we meet, there really is an ability to go
11 ahead and adopt a consensus document.
12 And that would respect the rules that
13 created the RAC, but also, to a degree,
14 it can include community input. I don't
15 think we can do that wordsmithing at a
16 RAC meeting.

17 MR. CHUCK THOMAS:

18 Can I add to that? Thank you. So
19 I just want to add to that. In response
20 to the comment under section 2.6, we'd
21 actually like to authorize or approve
22 somehow the subcommittee tonight so that
23 we can go forward. And by the time we're
24 at the next meeting, we can set draft
25 language that's been agreed to. I would

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2 suggest the two co-chairs be involved in
3 that, and that representatives of the
4 groups, the official organizations, be
5 involved in that, and that we have a
6 meeting within the next couple of weeks
7 and try and get that language together
8 for the operating procedures. I think
9 that would allow us to move forward much
10 more efficiently at the next meeting.

11 MS. AURA LOPEZ ZARATE:

12 Aura Lopez Zarate. I just want to
13 highlight the Spanish interpreter. I
14 feel it's very important to have that at
15 the next meeting and every single
16 meeting. As we mentioned, we did have
17 the application in Spanish as well. I
18 also -- maybe a third language could be
19 added to that, maybe just for this
20 committee. And this committee needs to
21 reflect the communities that we are here
22 to represent. I feel like it all makes
23 sense, and also, it will be equitable.

24 And then add live streaming. I
25 feel that should also be something else

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2 that we do, because there's folks that
3 can't get here physically. Other
4 meetings in the city are live streamed,
5 and people do go on there, either to see
6 during the meeting or after.

7 MR. MARK SANCHEZ-POTTER:

8 This is Mark Sanchez-Potter. I
9 would like to piggyback off of what Aura
10 said with the live streaming, and to
11 potentially have closed captioning for
12 individuals as well, just to make sure
13 that these meetings are fully accessible
14 to anybody that needs to partake in them
15 and that wishes to partake in them. All
16 community members and individuals,
17 regardless of their abilities, should be
18 able to hear what is going on and
19 understand what is going on.

20 Getting back to what John said, the
21 use of plain language that is easily
22 digestible and understood by the
23 community, we can't be using scientific
24 jargon in relation to the community and
25 expect them to continue to come to these

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2 meetings. It has to be in a language
3 that is digestible to everyone, and in
4 multiple languages. We should truly
5 figure out what languages we need based
6 on population, et cetera.

7 MR. JOHN CLARKE:

8 John Clarke. In the spirit of
9 solution focus, I know that the
10 Department of Education has devices where
11 everyone can wear an earpiece, and one
12 speaker can translate for that group of
13 individuals who are using the radios. I
14 don't represent the Department of
15 Education. I can't offer any resources
16 there, but I know the technology exists.

17 Also, I had a personal question
18 that I didn't really discuss with anyone
19 else. I have a lot of questions, and I
20 want to know what format I can ensure
21 that those questions are answered. And
22 they're not just my questions. We're
23 deeply involved in our school and our
24 church and in public programs. But what
25 method do we have that we can -- it

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2 doesn't need to be -- you know, we don't
3 need to take up two hours of anyone's
4 time with these questions, but we can
5 submit them? Where is the mechanism for
6 submitting a question and the
7 accountability that the question is
8 answered?

9 And another thing I remembered in
10 my pause there, so we're going to have
11 forever economic impact because of this
12 situation. And the people at the center
13 of the economic impact is the Newburgh
14 Department of Water. And I understand
15 that they are a limited-resource
16 organization, just like my household is a
17 limited-resource organization. But, you
18 know, Anthony Grice is an excellent
19 representative, our at-large city
20 councilmember. But where is -- we don't
21 seem to have a representative of the
22 financial interest here. Maybe that's my
23 ignorance. Maybe we do and just, I don't
24 understand who that is. But there's some
25 forever implications to how we're going

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2 to get our drinking water.

3 MR. ANTHONY GRICE:

4 Anthony Grice, councilman at-large
5 for the City of Newburgh. So what I want
6 to do is first I want to acknowledge that
7 we do have some other councilmembers. We
8 have Bob Sklarz, councilman to the Third
9 Ward, and we have Councilwoman
10 Monteverde, councilmember for the Second
11 Ward. We also do have our Water
12 Department in the audience, Mr.
13 Vradenburgh. I'm happy to see him.

14 However, as the elected official on
15 this committee, it is my full intent to
16 almost share everything with my fellow
17 councilmembers and with the Water
18 Department and with our comptroller, with
19 our city manager. And so I do want to
20 assure this committee and the community
21 at large that I will be fully transparent
22 with any information that I get. And I
23 will definitely -- as I did earlier, I
24 think like 5:30 this morning -- I will
25 definitely bother Wayne, Mr. Vradenburgh,

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2 with any questions for his input here.

3 MR. CHUCK THOMAS:

4 I just wanted to add briefly to
5 that. This is to the members of the
6 council and everybody here. This is
7 really our exhortation. You are the
8 representatives of the community that the
9 community is going to talk to, that you
10 see every day, and you need to be
11 speaking to them and they need to be
12 speaking to you. So please make yourself
13 identified. Invite more people to come
14 to these meetings. Tell them there's
15 going to be a public comment period. So
16 really, you're representing certain
17 communities, and we've got to share that.

18 So at this point, can I make a
19 motion?

20 MS. HEATHER PFEIFFER:

21 Yes.

22 MR. CHUCK THOMAS:

23 I would like to make a motion under
24 the operating procedures that we have a
25 subcommittee, and that subcommittee be

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2 responsible for -- whatever I said
3 before -- for obtaining a representative
4 sample of this committee based on the two
5 co-chairs, and appointed by the two
6 co-chairs to form a committee to come up
7 with language for the operating
8 procedures. And that is to meet in the
9 next couple of weeks. Do I have a
10 second?

11 MR. ANTHONY GRICE:

12 Second.

13 MR. CHUCK THOMAS:

14 Discussion?

15 COL. MARC KELLY:

16 All in favor?

17 (ALL UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOR)

18 COL. MARC KELLY:

19 Anyone opposed?

20 (NO ONE OPPOSED)

21 MS. HEATHER PFEIFFER:

22 Thank you. So our next topic is
23 our voting, and we'll just make it
24 official for the group here. I believe
25 they have already nominated and selected

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2 Chuck Thomas, but for our official
3 minutes and because it's an agenda item,
4 can I get the approval of everyone for
5 Chuck to serve as the committee co-chair?

6 (ALL UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOR)

7 MS. HEATHER PFEIFFER:

8 Anyone opposed or abstain?

9 (NO ONE OPPOSED)

10 MS. HEATHER PFEIFFER:

11 Thank you. Now I would like to
12 turn over the meeting to Elaine Magdinec
13 from the National Guard Bureau. She
14 would like to provide an introduction to
15 the environmental investigations and
16 restoration process.

17 MS. ELAINE MAGDINEC:

18 Thank you. Good evening, everyone.
19 I'm Elaine Magdinec. I'm the acting
20 restoration branch chief for the Air
21 National Guard. I've been in public
22 meetings here at Newburgh previously, and
23 actually took another position working
24 construction, but was brought back into
25 the restoration program. So I'm very

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2 happy to be back here.

3 I do want to quickly go over the
4 cleanup process and program that the Air
5 National Guard uses for restoration or
6 cleaning up restoration sites. I know we
7 talk a lot about CERCLA, we talk a lot
8 about cleanup, but I want to go over the
9 prescriptive process that we follow, and
10 they are the Defense Environmental
11 Restoration Program, we call it DERP, and
12 it is codified in law. The Guard does
13 follow this process to clean up
14 environmental restoration sites. The
15 activities are in accordance with the
16 Comprehensive Environmental Response,
17 Compensation, and Liability Act.

18 I apologize for using acronyms, but
19 hopefully, these acronyms are familiar,
20 or will become familiar, and we will try
21 to develop an acronym or a cleanup
22 dictionary so that people can refer to
23 them fairly easily, because when you're
24 in the business, you tend to use those
25 acronyms a good bit.

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2 So CERCLA is the federal law that
3 we follow, and this is across DoD. And
4 it was enacted in Congress in 1980. It's
5 better known as Superfund. But the sites
6 here at Stewart are not part of the
7 Superfund program, they're not on the
8 national priorities list. But we use
9 that same process to clean up our
10 restoration sites nonetheless.

11 The CERCLA process in general, just
12 to give you an idea, it's somewhat
13 linear. It's very collaborative. We
14 work with New York DEC, who's here
15 tonight, to ensure that we clean up our
16 sites in accordance not just to federal
17 law, but to state law.

18 It starts with the preliminary
19 assessment/site inspection phase. That's
20 looking at where we may have had
21 environmental releases, doing kind of a
22 desktop audit.

23 Site inspection is where we
24 actually get a sample. We have remedial
25 investigation/feasibility studies. And

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2 we've kind of given you some time frames,
3 a timeline on how this normally happens
4 on average.

5 Every cleanup project is a little
6 bit different. Some are easier. They
7 run faster than others. Some take
8 longer. Because this is collaborative,
9 we try to get comments from the New York
10 DEC. The RAC members will also be
11 involved in this process, so you'll have
12 an opportunity to look at some of our
13 draft documents and provide comments.

14 Once the RI/FS or remedial
15 investigation/feasibility is done, then
16 we go over to a remedial design/remedial
17 action. We do remedial action operation,
18 and then we go into long-term management.

19 What I'd like to do is very quickly
20 go over what all of these acronyms mean.
21 I'm not going to go over each one, but it
22 is very prescriptive in nature. So you
23 can read through there. And again, I
24 think it would be very helpful to have
25 sort of a running dictionary so you guys,

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2 when we talk about an SI -- like, with
3 the investigation that we're doing, we're
4 doing an expanded SI, we're doing an
5 expanded site inspection. So this is
6 just another continuation of acronyms.

7 And I do want to point out that the
8 Air National Guard has an administrative
9 record that we have on the Air Force's
10 website. It is a location where you can
11 look at all of our final documents from
12 the start of our cleanup program here at
13 the Air National Guard Stewart. The
14 meeting minutes for the RAC meeting will
15 also be posted on the admin record as
16 required. You can go in and you can
17 peruse -- actually, you can see the
18 entire Air Force's restoration program
19 and see all those documents, letters,
20 correspondence, and look through them.
21 Some of the files are quite large, so you
22 may see some documents broken up into
23 several files because we couldn't put
24 them on one, particularly with a lot of
25 pictures.

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2 Yes, sir?

3 MR. CHUCK THOMAS:

4 Is that the only place the minutes
5 will be posted from these meetings?

6 MS. ELAINE MAGDINEC:

7 No. I think the minutes will also
8 be posted on an Orange County website.

9 MR. CHUCK THOMAS:

10 Thank you.

11 MS. ELAINE MAGDINEC:

12 Here are some instructions on how
13 to navigate the administrative record.
14 We don't have any live screenshots or
15 anything, but it's pretty intuitive. You
16 go on the website. You'll see active Air
17 Force, Air National Guard. If you want
18 to look at the Air National Guard, you'll
19 click on that button. You'll see all of
20 the installations that the Air National
21 Guard is cleaning up. You'll go down to
22 Stewart, and you can just do a wild card
23 search. Just hit search, and you'll see
24 all of those records. If you're looking
25 for something in particular, you can do a

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2 keyword search. There's lots of
3 different fields where you can look at
4 documents, look at a certain time period,
5 or, you know, it just depends on what
6 you're looking for. But you should be
7 able to pull up all those documents using
8 a PDF viewer. There's free software,
9 Adobe, and certainly peruse all of our
10 documents.

11 Any questions about the cleanup
12 process?

13 I think as we go through the RAC
14 meetings, and we go through kind of the
15 detailed status of our cleanup program,
16 we'll continue to try to make the
17 information a little bit more meaningful.
18 Sometimes, they do get very technical,
19 and it's difficult just because this is a
20 technical environmental cleanup program,
21 but we will try to translate a lot of
22 that information as we go.

23 MR. ANTHONY GRICE:

24 I just want to go back. How long
25 will it take before the minutes are up,

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2 like if it's going to be a week out, so
3 we can tell the public so they're not
4 clicking on it tomorrow?

5 MS. HEATHER PFEIFFER:

6 We are working with the court
7 reporter. They normally have a two-week
8 turnaround. And then we would need to
9 review that internally and send it out to
10 the RAC. So I would say it would
11 probably be two to three weeks to get
12 that turnaround.

13 MS. ELAINE MAGDINEC:

14 I'm going to give the floor to Jody
15 Murata. She's the restoration project
16 manager here at Stewart. She'll give you
17 a summary of all of the past and current
18 environmental restoration projects.

19 MS. JODY MURATA:

20 Thank you, Elaine.

21 Good evening. My name is Jody
22 Murata, and I'm a project manager with
23 the Air National Guard's Environmental
24 Restoration Branch. So tonight, I'm
25 going to provide an introduction to you

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2 of some of the environmental projects
3 that we have going on at the Stewart Air
4 National Guard Base.

5 So tonight, I'm going to talk about
6 four sites that we have at the Base. The
7 first site is Site 2., which is a
8 pesticide burial pit area. This site is
9 currently closed.

10 The next site is Site 5, which is a
11 pesticides Monitoring Well 1. This site
12 is pending a feasibility study.

13 The third site is Site 4, which are
14 hydraulic lifts in building 208. This is
15 a closed site.

16 And the final site I'll be
17 discussing is Site 3, which is the former
18 Base landfill, which is currently
19 undergoing long-term monitoring. Now,
20 I'd like to point out that Site 3 is also
21 referred to as Site 1 in some of our
22 older documents related to the site.

23 So Site 2 is a former burial pit
24 that was used in the 1960s to dispose of
25 pesticide containers. This site was

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2 first investigated by the New York State
3 Department of Environmental Conservation
4 in the early 1980s, and during this
5 investigation, they conducted ground
6 penetrating radar and trench testing.
7 Subsequent to that, we conducted a site
8 inspection, during which it confirmed
9 that we had pesticides in soil and in
10 groundwater.

11 We did conduct an interim removal
12 action in which the goal was to remove
13 waste materials in soils containing
14 correlated pesticides at concentrations
15 greater than ten parts per million. We
16 also removed 105 5-gallon containers and
17 13 55-gallon containers.

18 After the interim removal action,
19 we did complete a remedial investigation.
20 The goal of this investigation was to
21 determine the nature and extent of any
22 residual contamination, study the rate of
23 transport, and do a risk assessment. The
24 remedial investigation concluded that the
25 site no longer posed a threat to human

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2 health or the environment, and therefore,
3 no further removal action, and continued
4 groundwater monitoring was recommended.

5 In 1999, we issued a proposed
6 remedial action plan, and in 2000, a
7 record of decision was issued. And the
8 record of decision documented the
9 decision to implement no further action
10 plan with two years of semi-annual
11 groundwater monitoring. We ended up
12 collecting four years of semi-annual
13 groundwater monitoring. That's because
14 we were detecting concentrations of
15 correlated pesticides above the New York
16 State Department of Environmental
17 Conservation aggregate water quality
18 standards in Monitoring Well 1. And this
19 well is located hydraulically upgradient
20 of this site. The sampling did show,
21 however, that groundwater concentrations
22 downgradient of the site were
23 consistently below the New York State DEC
24 groundwater quality standards, therefore,
25 it was determined that remedial

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2 objectives of the record of decision had
3 been met, and we were able to close this
4 site in 2011 with New York State DEC
5 concurrence.

6 So during the long-term monitoring
7 of Site 2, we had elevated concentrations
8 or correlated pesticides detected in
9 Monitoring Well 1, again, which is
10 located hydraulically upgradient of the
11 site. So we opened up a new site, Site
12 5, to determine if there was a subsurface
13 source that was contributing to the
14 pesticides that we were detecting in this
15 monitoring well.

16 So the preliminary assessment that
17 we did, we did agree with the fact that,
18 due to lack of information of the source
19 area, that we should proceed to a site
20 inspection. During the site inspection,
21 we collected soil samples and installed
22 additional monitoring wells. We did not
23 detect pesticides above the project
24 action limits, but we do continue to
25 detect pesticides in Monitoring Well 1,

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2 therefore, we moved into the remedial
3 investigation phase. Again, we confirmed
4 pesticides in Monitoring Well 1, but no
5 detections in soil or groundwater above
6 project action limits from any of the new
7 wells that we sampled.

8 The risk assessment that we did
9 during the remedial investigation did
10 conclude that there were no unacceptable
11 risks from soil or groundwater to future
12 or current receptors. However, because
13 we're still detecting pesticides in this
14 monitoring well above the New York DEC
15 Class GA standard, which is a category of
16 groundwater that is used for drinking
17 water, which is more conservative, we
18 weren't able to close this site.

19 So the next steps that we will do
20 is we will conduct a feasibility study
21 where we will evaluate different
22 alternatives. The proposed final remedy
23 will be presented in a proposed plan,
24 which will be issued for public comment.
25 And once the final remedy is accepted, it

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2 will be documented in a record of
3 decision, followed by implementing the
4 final remedy.

5 MR. ANTHONY GRICE:

6 Just a quick question. What's the
7 time frame on that?

8 MS. JODY MURATA:

9 The time frame? We have to
10 prioritize other projects due to risks.
11 We have to stack all of our projects. So
12 right now, it's not currently funded for
13 this fiscal year, but we always
14 re-evaluate priorities during the fiscal
15 year.

16 So the next site is Site 4. This
17 refers to two hydraulic lifts that are
18 located in Building 208. So there are
19 two hydraulic lifts that were previously
20 located in this building. One of the
21 hydraulic lifts was reported to be
22 leaking in 2005 and was repaired and put
23 back into service. The second hydraulic
24 lift was removed in 2010. There were no
25 reports of active leaks or signs of

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2 contamination during the repair and
3 removal of the hydraulic lifts. And this
4 just shows the location of Site 4.

5 MR. BILL FETTER:

6 No soil issues with that?

7 MS. JODY MURATA:

8 There are no signs of
9 contamination. But because there were no
10 sampling data or closure documents
11 related to the repair or the replacement
12 of the hydraulic lifts during preliminary
13 assessment, it was recommended that we do
14 move forward into a site inspection. So
15 we conducted a site inspection where we
16 collected soil and groundwater samples,
17 and none of the detected alkylates were
18 above the respective project action
19 limits, therefore, we were able to close
20 the site in 2015 with New York DEC
21 approval.

22 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC:

23 Can you explain what a hydraulic
24 lift is, please?

25 MS. JODY MURATA:

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2 It's used in car maintenance
3 facilities where they're able to lift the
4 car up so that people can perform
5 maintenance on it.

6 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC:

7 For the airplanes, is that what
8 it's being used for?

9 MS. JODY MURATA:

10 In this case, it's for vehicles.

11 So the final site I want to talk
12 about is Site 3, which is the former Base
13 landfill. And this landfill received
14 municipal domestic waste from former
15 on-site Air Force residents during the
16 '60s and '70s. So the Stewart Air
17 National Guard Base was previously an Air
18 Force Base. The landfill cover was
19 installed in the summer of 1999, and it
20 consists of an engineered cap.

21 So the site is currently undergoing
22 final closure requirements in accordance
23 with New York Solid Waste Regulations.
24 This requires a minimum of 30 years of
25 long-term monitoring following the

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2 application of the landfill cap. A
3 variance for reduced monitoring frequency
4 may be granted by the New York State
5 Department of Environmental Conservation
6 after a minimum of five years of
7 monitoring has been completed. They're
8 currently monitoring groundwater, surface
9 water and sediment, and landfill gas.
10 They're also collecting volatile organic
11 compounds -- well, analyzing for volatile
12 organic compounds, in addition to some of
13 the baseline parameters that are
14 required.

15 So the site is currently in
16 long-term monitoring. We began that in
17 2000. In 2005, we transitioned from
18 quarterly sampling to semi-annual
19 sampling, and then transitioned to annual
20 sampling in 2007.

21 The impacts to groundwater quality
22 are typical indicators of
23 landfill-derived compounds, such as
24 chloride, sodium, total dissolved solids,
25 and alkalinity. However, we have been

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2 detecting select chlorinated volatile
3 organic compounds in monitoring wells.
4 The concentration profile suggests that
5 we do have reductive dehalogenation and
6 attenuation, so basically the compounds
7 are breaking down naturally, and the
8 source area seems to be vertically and
9 horizontally localized.

10 So with that, I will turn the
11 presentation over to Wood, and he will
12 discuss the expanded site inspection.

13 MR. BILL FETTER:

14 All of this is on the website you
15 referred to earlier?

16 MS. JODY MURATA:

17 Yes.

18 MR. ANTHONY GRICE:

19 The administrative work group,
20 that's not the website he just asked
21 about. Is that the one for federal
22 sites?

23 MR. KERRY TULL:

24 Yes. The administrative record is
25 the website that Elaine spoke about

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2 earlier.

3 MR. ANTHONY GRICE:

4 Not the Department of Health
5 website?

6 MR. KERRY TULL:

7 No, not the Department of Health
8 website.

9 MR. ANTHONY GRICE:

10 That brings me to a further
11 statement. What we're going to need,
12 especially for the public, so they're not
13 confused, because we used a bunch of big
14 vocabulary words, we're going to need for
15 all of that information to be in one
16 site. I don't want the community to have
17 to go to this page to find something,
18 then a separate page to find something
19 else. We're going to need for everything
20 to be in one place where the community
21 can go to. If it's through the
22 Department of Health, great. Let's have
23 everything there. If it's Air National
24 Guard, great. Let's have everything
25 there.

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2 MR. KERRY TULL:

3 We were talking earlier about
4 putting together a list.

5 MS. ELAINE MAGDINEC:

6 I just want to make sure I
7 understand your question or comment. So
8 you want all of the administrative record
9 documents that are posted on the Air
10 Force's administrative record to also
11 include all of the RAC documents and
12 correspondence?

13 MR. ANTHONY GRICE:

14 I'm going to say yes, because if
15 we're talking about it here at the RAC,
16 and considering we have community members
17 out there, they're going to be curious.
18 They're going to want to do that
19 research. They're going to want to find
20 out and ask questions. And if
21 you're putting an extra -- I just want to
22 call it a burden -- if you're putting an
23 extra burden for them to go here, then go
24 there, that's going to -- it might deter
25 someone.

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2 MR. TAL GLUCK:

3 Would a link on the Department of
4 Health's website to the location suffice?
5 I mean, you go to one website, and you
6 have links available. Just having one
7 collection point for the links.

8 MS. SARA PASTORELLO:

9 The links are already on the
10 Department of Health's site, and it has
11 been since 2018. So the site that
12 they're talking about is a collection of
13 the entire Air Force's inventory. It's
14 literally thousands and thousands and
15 thousands. So actually having that would
16 hurt you, because they would have a hard
17 time navigating which site. So this
18 being a federal law, those same
19 instructions, they're on the Department
20 of Health site. They say, access this
21 tool. So going to the Department of
22 Health site, you can download that PDF
23 that tells you how to use that tool just
24 for that specific site. Because I
25 guarantee, you don't want to go the

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2 thousands of other documents. Maybe you
3 do, and I would love to hear what you
4 think. But for this project, I was so
5 impressed by it, I wrote the
6 instructions. If you want to go further
7 and simplify it, you can.

8 MR. ANTHONY GRICE:

9 Thank you.

10 MR. KERRY TULL:

11 I'm Kerry Tull. I'm a geologist
12 and project manager with Wood. I work
13 with Steve Posten, here in the audience
14 as well, as well as Jay Mullet. And we
15 work alongside BERS-Weston, as well as
16 the Guard. And we're taking a look at
17 the Base both from a site inspection
18 standpoint -- that includes groundwater,
19 test drilling -- but also the stormwater
20 side of this is its own function.

21 So the idea here is to take a look
22 at the pipes under and through the Base
23 to see how they might be contributing to
24 the Rec Pond water that contains PFAS.
25 We're trying to assess the most

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2 significant locations for where AFFF is
3 used, resulting in PFAS on the ground and
4 in the pipes. And supporting all of this
5 is just one component to support all of
6 the feasibility studies that will go into
7 helping to treat the water in Rec Pond in
8 the long term, and finally Lake
9 Washington. And I apologize for any
10 jargon in advance.

11 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC:

12 Can you clarify the difference
13 between stormwater and groundwater?

14 MR. KERRY TULL:

15 Yes, I will. Thank you. Good
16 point. Stormwater flows off in a storm
17 event, off of any hard surfaces, whether
18 it's the tarmac, driveways, into storm
19 drains that you're all used to seeing,
20 and then down through a series of
21 conduits, concrete pipes, and that
22 finally leads into Rec Pond. And that's
23 what we're here about, because Rec Pond
24 then drains into Silver Stream.

25 Groundwater is that water which

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2 comes to rest and is saturated in the
3 ground below our feet pretty much
4 everywhere. And it can be a few feet
5 below the ground, it can be a hundred
6 feet below the ground. But especially in
7 the Northeast, especially around here,
8 groundwater is that which eventually gets
9 down to any surface water. Whether it's
10 a stream or reservoir, groundwater is
11 that water which just moves very slowly
12 along and recharges surface water.

13 So I wanted to raise awareness as
14 to what we're dealing with worldwide,
15 especially when it comes to PFAS. PFAS,
16 perfluoroalkylated sulfonate compounds
17 that we're talking about, the acronym
18 you're going to hear a lot about that we
19 live and breathe, is found in rain and
20 snow. It is deposited almost everywhere
21 through atmosphere, through the exhaust
22 or different sources that it's come from,
23 whether it's manufacturing, landfills,
24 AFFF use, it doesn't matter. It's all
25 contributed to the fact that we see PFAS

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2 in rain in the Eastern United States
3 running between one to five parts per
4 trillion, PPT.

5 And then we also see it in snow
6 worldwide. We find it in a concentration
7 range between .91 up to 23.9 parts per
8 trillion. And because of this,
9 especially in the snow, PFAS in the snow
10 is used as an atmospheric tracer, meaning
11 when it falls with rain, the rains falls
12 away and it's gone. But snowfall,
13 whether you're measuring it in a glacier,
14 in an ice flow, or just the snow in your
15 backyard, scientists have been able to
16 date when PFAS has been deposited, in
17 what event. So snow is an interesting
18 way in which PFAS is used as a tracer.

19 What it comes down to is that
20 atmospheric deposition of PFAS is what we
21 live with. It provides a certain
22 background. So simply by cleaning up any
23 one site, it's difficult, if not
24 impossible, to reach that zero aspect
25 that we would all like.

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2 So going back to the activities
3 directly on the Base, there are almost
4 10 miles of stormwater pipes across the
5 Base. It's staggering. It's the size of
6 a medium-size tank. It was a lot to
7 consider. We broke it down into various
8 drainage areas. And this is just a first
9 look, not by any means a comprehensive
10 view of stormwater pipe across this base.

11 Wood inspected about 1.3 miles of
12 pipe ourselves. We opened up 181 catch
13 basins and manhole structures. We were
14 looking for, particularly, leaks in pipes
15 we could find readily, and we were
16 looking for sediment. Why were we
17 looking for sediment, that fine-grained
18 sand that's left after a storm event?
19 Because that material can sometimes exude
20 off PFAS. So it's come from somewhere.
21 It's been deposited in the concrete pipe,
22 and then later on, with another rain
23 event going across it, PFAS can be
24 released from that.

25 So sediment is interesting from the

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2 standpoint of where it's going, how long
3 it's residing there, and then should the
4 sediment be sampled as an ongoing source
5 of PFAS, too. When sediment comes to
6 reside in a place like Rec Pond, or any
7 other surface water impression like that,
8 then it becomes much more interesting,
9 because you're able to determine if this
10 is an ongoing source into the surface
11 water itself. So the stormwater pipes
12 and the sediment that we were looking
13 for, or catches of sediment, we're just
14 trying to see if we've got places in the
15 stormwater lines where we would want to
16 sample later.

17 A credit goes out to the New York
18 Department of Transportation. They took
19 it upon themselves -- and this is quite a
20 length. This is almost a mile long, 0.8
21 miles. They did this entire 17K run with
22 closed-circuit TV inspection. And we are
23 still -- we've only recently received
24 that data. It's a ton of information.
25 It's a lot of pictures. And they've

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2 written up a summary, so we're still
3 digesting that.

4 By the way, this portion that I'm
5 presenting tonight is primarily aimed at
6 base flow -- not Base as in Stewart Base,
7 base meaning dry water flow. Flow that
8 comes day in and day out as just that
9 trickle that you get into the stormwater
10 lines, that you see in the stream in dry
11 weather. You haven't had rain for a
12 month, but you've got some sort of base
13 flow. That's what I mean by base in this
14 case.

15 These locations were inspected
16 based on potential release areas. PRLs
17 are important because the Base, at
18 certain times, has used firefighting foam
19 to train, they've used it to put out a
20 fire, they may have had to respond to an
21 aircraft emergency within a hanger. And
22 each one of these uses are potential
23 release areas. So that's how we were
24 able to prioritize where we were going to
25 sample and take a look and inspect the

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2 various pipes.

3 So here's some closed-circuit TV
4 inspection of the -- this is a typical
5 cross section. What we've got here is,
6 this is typical concrete pipe underneath
7 the Base. It's in excellent condition.
8 We did find minor leaks here and there.
9 That's to be expected. A lot of these
10 pipes have been under there 20 -- 40
11 years? Right, 40, 50. There you go. I
12 did expect to see a lot more than what we
13 did. But this trickle that's in there,
14 that's the base flow. This gives you an
15 idea of what types of things we found
16 that we didn't know were going to be
17 there.

18 There was one pipe that was just
19 bricked up. It turns out later on that
20 we were able to find that this pipe
21 needed to be diverted, and there is a
22 go-around from here, but it gives you an
23 idea of what the camera can see. Again,
24 that's just a snapshot.

25 So typical evidence of minor

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2 deterioration of concrete pipes. A few
3 leaking joints and fractures are to be
4 expected. Some pipes had little to no
5 leaks and deterioration. Most pipes
6 contained that small level of base flow
7 you see.

8 We did, interestingly, find pipes
9 entering the Base from which there was no
10 map or reason for them to come onto the
11 Base. The general direction was the
12 airport that's beyond the Base. So
13 that's for follow-up later on. And then
14 we did identify pipes on the Base which
15 hadn't been previously mapped at all. So
16 what happens with a big facility like
17 this over the years, whether it's a
18 university, a town, or a military base,
19 is that obviously, you're going to have
20 pipes come out of service. New ones go
21 in, but not every map is going to be
22 updated all the time. You work with the
23 best you have at the time. It certainly
24 was at a 99-percent level, but you're
25 always going to find something unique.

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2 And we were able to basically get a good
3 feel for where pipes were coming from,
4 from the drainage areas that were shown,
5 as we move on.

6 So our basic activities included
7 collecting samples from the storm drain
8 system, and this is in dry weather. At
9 the next meeting we have, I'll be able to
10 present wet weather results. That's a
11 lot more exciting, because we had some
12 big storm events. We collected 11
13 samples from different areas of interest.
14 Those are the potential release areas.
15 These locations were selected to provide
16 data for the stormwater model to evaluate
17 potential PFAS sources.

18 The combined PFOS and PFOA -- and I
19 have the actual names down there so
20 people can refer to those -- now, this
21 range is quite wide, from 14.8 up to
22 4,000 parts per trillion. Now, that
23 range depends on where it was located,
24 how close to a fire department or to an
25 actual area where the Base may have done

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2 some fire training working.

3 The potential PFAS sources include
4 groundwater infiltration. So again, Sara
5 raised the point about the difference
6 between groundwater and stormwater.
7 Groundwater at different places in the
8 Base is right next to the pipes. This
9 happens in any facility or any town. And
10 so, depending on whether or not the pipe
11 has any cracks or leaks in it, the
12 groundwater can work its way into the
13 pipe, and then will be carried by the
14 pipe, out.

15 Then we also performed some flow
16 tests. This included just taking clean
17 potable water, filling up a drum, and
18 then pouring it into a catch basin, and
19 then having different people at different
20 locations, just to see how the pipes were
21 flowing. Not all the time, when water
22 flows into the pipe, is it going to go
23 from this storm drain to that storm
24 drain. It may work its way around,
25 depending on the slight tilt of how the

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2 pipes are laid out. That ended up being
3 a little inconclusive, but we tried those
4 measures just to see if we could pan out
5 what's going on.

6 MR. BILL FETTER:

7 They were different diameter pipes?

8 MR. KERRY TULL:

9 All ranges, yes. So we're talking
10 everything from 6-foot, 7-foot diameter,
11 right down to 2 feet, and everything in
12 between.

13 MR. BILL FETTER:

14 And all concrete?

15 MR. KERRY TULL:

16 Yes, they are all concrete. We
17 didn't find any corrugated metal or brick
18 pipes or things of that nature.

19 So this is a simple diagram. The
20 color coding is, the green was where the
21 two compounds that we're most interested
22 in out of the deck comprised PFAS, the
23 two decks that were tested for, PFOS and
24 PFOA, less than 70 parts per trillion.

25 So here's of former nozzle testing

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2 area. Here is an area we anticipated to
3 have high hits on. What we did is we
4 found the confluence of the drains coming
5 from that former nozzle test area. We
6 tested the water in dry conditions coming
7 down, either groundwater or surface water
8 contributing to that. It was below the
9 70 part per trillion that the EPA
10 advises.

11 However, there are different areas
12 where we found hits on Base. So there's
13 a fire station and the nozzle testing
14 area here. They contribute -- the water
15 from this area contributes and starts to
16 collect in a spot right here. This was
17 clearly above the -- the orange is above
18 70 parts per trillion. And we had a few
19 of those down in the areas where,
20 collectively, all the drainage areas get.
21 One near here, near a hanger. There may
22 have been some usage of AFFF in this
23 hanger that may explain that. Then we
24 had a variety of samples that came back
25 right between 70 parts per trillion and

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2 700 parts per trillion, and these are the
3 blue areas here. So we've got an anomaly
4 here, not found. We do have it in most
5 areas where we would expect it, and then
6 we outline the drainage outfalls into Rec
7 Pond here.

8 So this, moving forward, combining
9 the dry weather with later on the wet
10 weather sampling, we'll be able to put a
11 stormwater model in which we may be able
12 to suggest to the Air Guard where they
13 may want to do pipe mitigation, meaning
14 either cleaning out the pipe and/or
15 relining it, or finding some other
16 measure in which to prevent that existing
17 PFAS from coming down into Rec Pond.

18 So, recommendations. Going back
19 again to the larger arena of the site
20 inspection report, we'll evaluate if
21 additional pipes are recommended for
22 inspection; the type of mitigation
23 options to prevent future infiltration;
24 and if additional data are needed on
25 flow, PFAS, et cetera.

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2 So in summary, 189 structures were
3 visually inspected. 39 pipes were
4 inspected using the closed-circuit camera
5 through 1.3 miles of pipe. So we were
6 only able to get a portion of that
7 9.7 miles of total piping. 19 pipes
8 inspected did have a crack or a leak, so
9 roughly half. But overall, the pipes
10 were in much better shape than we
11 expected for a facility of this age.
12 I've inspected pipes at a facility like
13 this, same age or newer, in which we had
14 small geysers gushing, coming into the
15 pipes. So not bad from that perspective.
16 But it was revealing what we were able to
17 find.

18 The interesting point that I
19 mentioned earlier, we have four pipes
20 coming onto the Base that are not Base
21 drainage pipes. They don't serve --
22 these are pipes that are contributing to
23 the Base's management of stormwater, and
24 then six pipes found leaving the Base.
25 Out of that six are four that we

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2 definitely know where they go. The other
3 two, we need to find out where those are
4 going to.

5 Out of the 11 dry weather samples
6 that we collected, 10 were above the
7 lifetime health advisory of 70 parts per
8 trillion. And then the combined PFOS and
9 PFOA concentrations range from 14 up to
10 4,000 parts per trillion.

11 MR. ANTHONY GRICE:

12 So I just want to go back. For the
13 six pipes, the four that we definitely
14 know -- because we definitely don't know,
15 you definitely know -- so where are they
16 going?

17 MR. KERRY TULL:

18 They're coming to Rec Pond. Sorry.
19 I should have mentioned that.

20 MR. BILL FETTER:

21 189 structures, meaning manholes or
22 catch basins?

23 MR. KERRY TULL:

24 Yes, subsurface structures. Thank
25 you.

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2 MR. JOHN CLARKE:

3 I'm not sure if this is your
4 specialty, but what's the persistence of
5 the chemical on the surfaces, like with
6 water flow or without water flow?

7 MR. KERRY TULL:

8 Steve Posten, do you have a feel
9 for the life span of PFOS?

10 MR. STEVE POSTEN:

11 It depends on the nature of the
12 material, so if it's porous or not
13 porous. I couldn't give you an answer.

14 MR. KERRY TULL:

15 If you were to use AFFF repeatedly
16 on a porous surface, it's going to take a
17 lot of storm events to take that way.
18 And we have a strong feeling that, in
19 areas where the Base genuinely had to use
20 AFFF in a concentrated form to fight a
21 fire and/or in fire training, that you've
22 got some areas that are going to have
23 PFAS in them and on those materials. So
24 one thing you're kind of hitting at is
25 that, a method in which to reduce or

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2 mitigate PFAS as an ongoing source at the
3 surface is cutting it out. And that's
4 been done on concrete, asphalt, as well
5 as soils.

6 MR. JOHN CLARKE:

7 My wife was an aircraft/airfield
8 rescue firefighter for a time. I'm
9 thinking also of apparatus and buildings,
10 you know, not just on-ground structures.
11 So what is the, you know, the exposure
12 there?

13 MR. KERRY TULL:

14 I wouldn't know.

15 MR. JOHN CLARKE:

16 On the side of a building,
17 exterior, interior, how long does it sit
18 there?

19 MR. KERRY TULL:

20 It would be site specific.

21 MS. MARY WAGNER:

22 I wonder, as you're finding those
23 hot spots -- I have two questions. It
24 seems it would take a lot longer to map
25 the entirety and come up with options.

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2 Is there any interim method for
3 containing what you already know to be
4 hot spots?

5 MR. KERRY TULL:

6 Well, you wouldn't want to, just
7 with a small amount of information. It
8 helps inform the next steps, absolutely.
9 If we were to find a hot spot which we
10 genuinely felt -- and it may come out of
11 this that I recommend to Elaine and Col.
12 Kelly and say, here's something that
13 would be worthwhile to remove or take
14 care of this. Yeah, that will be
15 contained in the report. But we're not
16 there yet.

17 MR. BILL FETTER:

18 I had heard through discussion
19 among the community that Rec Pond is
20 sized such that it will hold a quarter of
21 an inch of rain. More than that, it will
22 overflow. Is that true? How much can it
23 handle?

24 MR. KERRY TULL:

25 Do you want to speak to this, Doug?

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2 MR. DOUG CLOSE:

3 I will eventually. We don't really
4 know how much it will hold and how much
5 of a rain event will be a problem. It's
6 a 2.5-acre retention pond. How much
7 water it can hold is changing constantly
8 by the amount of sediment that's in the
9 pond as well.

10 MR. BILL FETTER:

11 The pond is not lined?

12 MR. DOUG CLOSE:

13 It is not lined.

14 MR. KERRY TULL:

15 About 450 to 500 gallons a minute
16 flow from the Base in just dead, dry
17 weather, into Rec Pond. So that's what
18 is flowing without any rain.

19 MR. BILL FETTER:

20 How much infiltration do you
21 calculate into the soil? How much are
22 you losing into the soil, gallons per
23 minute or gallons per day?

24 MR. KERRY TULL:

25 No, no, the groundwater is very

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2 shallow there.

3 MR. BILL FETTER:

4 So putting a liner inside of this
5 pond is not within thought? Temporary
6 liner? It's an oil industry standard.
7 It's not hard to replicate, especially
8 that size. It's not very big. It should
9 be easy enough to accomplish pretty
10 quickly to at least stop the transfer
11 between groundwater and surface water
12 draining through the system. You're
13 going to have it elsewhere on the Base.
14 And another question: Will you view all
15 the pipes, are you going to count all the
16 pipes eventually?

17 MR. KERRY TULL:

18 What we want to do is focus on
19 those areas that provide the biggest --
20 in other words, those areas that are
21 going to help the Guard decide where they
22 may want to make repairs.

23 MR. BILL FETTER:

24 Follow the trail?

25 MR. KERRY TULL:

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2 Yes.

3 MR. BILL FETTER:

4 Thank you.

5 MR. TYRESE BILLUPS:

6 I have a question. The side
7 effects of PFOS and PFOA -- I was
8 wondering, do you know what PFOS and
9 PFOA -- does it cause any side effects?
10 What's the side of effects of it?

11 MR. KERRY TULL:

12 I wouldn't be able to speak to
13 that.

14 MS. HEATHER PFEIFFER:

15 Questions like that we will hold
16 until the public comment. We can get
17 through the rest of our presentation, and
18 then we will have a RAC open discussion
19 and public comments.

20 MR. DOUG CLOSE:

21 I'm Doug Close from BERS-Weston.
22 I'm a contractor supporting the Air Guard
23 and the US Army Corps of Engineers. We
24 have been part of bringing in the interim
25 treatment system at Rec Pond. Thank you,

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2 Kerry, for your update here.

3 I'm going to use the overview map
4 to get everyone familiar with Rec Pond
5 and your community. You can see Stewart
6 there is highlighted in bold. Rec Pond
7 receives the drainage that Kerry talked
8 about, and then overflows into Silver
9 Stream.

10 On a more focused overview, here is
11 a depiction of the outfall structures
12 that Kerry was talking about, all the
13 drainage. These four primary outfalls
14 all flow directly into Rec Pond.

15 As we mentioned, we came in
16 thinking we had a dry weather or normal
17 flow of about 500 GPM, or gallons per
18 minute, coming into the Rec Pond. We
19 found during our stay and building of the
20 interim system, it can be much more
21 significant than that. I think in the
22 follow-up meetings and communications
23 from our team to the public, we'll be
24 able to put those numbers out there. But
25 it would be 10, 20 times higher than what

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2 we originally thought with a moderate
3 storm, maybe an inch of rain, 2 inches of
4 rain.

5 I'm going to get into the 30-day
6 commissioning period that we were out
7 there, running the system. The system
8 was mobilized on the Air Guard's
9 commitment to treat the water out of Rec
10 Pond, provide a portable system that was
11 mobile and ready to get into the Rec Pond
12 area.

13 I'm going to keep jumping back and
14 forth here, because this is our best
15 picture. The Rec Pond receives the
16 water, and then it flows downgradient and
17 discharges at the outfall. Our system is
18 built right behind an 8-foot berm, next
19 to Weir, and is footprinted right behind
20 here. You'll see some photos of the
21 system.

22 We mobilized a pretreatment
23 container and two identical treatment
24 containers that contain granular
25 activated carbon and a resin. We'll talk

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2 about how that flows through our system.

3 We've been working with the State
4 and all the agencies in developing
5 mitigation plans, making corrections and
6 reconfigurations as we go through the
7 treatment and what we've been learning.

8 Another concept -- again, we kind
9 of touched on it, those primary functions
10 to the treatment system -- prefiltration
11 is the removal of solids and sediments.
12 Because of what we talked about, the flow
13 that's coming down the storm drains going
14 into the Rec Pond that's been sitting out
15 there developing, building up sediment,
16 there's a lot of pretreatment, a lot of
17 sediment. So it's really becoming our
18 bigger focus, as much as anything, to
19 make the system work properly.

20 Once pretreatment is done, the
21 concept of the system goes through what
22 I'm talking about, a vesseled system of
23 GAC, or granular activated carbon. It's
24 used for some of the unknowns, for
25 stripping of organics. And it would go

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2 through two stages of resin. We call it
3 lead/lag. We have a lead vessel taking
4 out the majority of the PFOS. The
5 secondary or lag vessel is insurance, if
6 you will, a backup during treatment.
7 There's some more pictures. Wish they
8 were bigger.

9 MR. ANTHONY GRICE:

10 Quick question. So after it leaves
11 the GAC with the resin, there's sample
12 tests that are done?

13 MR. DOUG CLOSE:

14 Yes.

15 MR. ANTHONY GRICE:

16 And when are those results?

17 MR. DOUG CLOSE:

18 I didn't bring the results. Let me
19 finish the whole topic and come back to
20 your question.

21 Again, bouncing back, Rec Pond,
22 there's our system. One picture is right
23 here. I'm sorry it's so small. This is
24 our system that, as it lays behind the
25 berm, this is Rec Pond, here is our pump.

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2 The outfall structure is here. The water
3 is brought in with the pump, brought into
4 its first container box. This is our
5 pretreatment. It's a bag filtration,
6 centrifugal separator. We bring the raw
7 water in, we bring it into the
8 pretreatment. It goes through a
9 separator. It brings out the solids.
10 Those are ejected back into the pond.
11 Then it goes through a series of bag
12 filters that is working to take all the
13 sediment and anything else that's in the
14 water through the bag filters. That's
15 part of our pretreatment and part of our
16 maintenance. Once it leaves the
17 pretreatment container, again, this first
18 structure, it runs through piping to two
19 identical carbon and resin containers.
20 So each one of these boxes holds six
21 vessels. Each one of these drains
22 consists of carbon resin. When they're
23 all running in conjunction, which they
24 always are, they'll be treating
25 500 gallons a minute simultaneously, and

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2 then simultaneously discharging. So it
3 runs through equal process, comes back
4 out equal, goes into this discharge line,
5 and then that will be what drops into the
6 Weir structure or the concrete vault for
7 discharge, and then goes over top of what
8 the original Weir -- original discharge
9 point is.

10 We have a permit with the State,
11 with the DEC, for a SPDES discharge
12 point. So we replicate that by treating
13 our water, discharging it into the vault,
14 and then discharging that into the same
15 location.

16 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC:

17 Can you repeat again the inflow
18 into Rec Pond? Wasn't it over
19 500 gallons a minute?

20 MR. DOUG CLOSE:

21 It's significantly over 500 gallons
22 a minute with light to moderate rain
23 events, or any storm event. We don't
24 have that number because it's constantly
25 changing.

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2 We started December 5th, when we
3 put out the system. We put the treatment
4 system online. This is a 30-day
5 commissioning period. We started
6 treating at 500 GPM. We started sampling
7 daily on December 6th. This probably
8 goes to your question. You know, during
9 that 10th to the 15th, we were looking at
10 rain events on four consecutive days.
11 And we were -- you know, I want to say we
12 were in the neighborhood of 10- to
13 20,000 gallons a minute coming into Rec
14 Pond. It came into our system, and we
15 were trying to pump that. So by
16 December 10th, we're starting to identify
17 increased solids entering into the
18 system. This is through our efforts to
19 change the bag filters, do our general
20 daily maintenance, and read our pressures
21 in our system.

22 The treatment system is regulated
23 and monitored with a computer, so we know
24 what the pressures are in each and every
25 tank and the lines. So starting already

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2 after five to six days, we're starting to
3 see increased solids and sediments.

4 We're having to change the filters three
5 times a day. What will be typical of the
6 system would be once every two to three
7 days, not 9 to 12 times in three days, so
8 it was significantly higher than
9 anticipated. This has a lot to do with
10 storm events that we were encountering
11 and the flow that was coming in. We
12 continued to monitor processed pressure
13 drops, so we saw some impacts immediately
14 going into our GAC. We initiated GAC
15 maintenance, which you might hear the
16 term "backwash."

17 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC:

18 When you say the filters changed,
19 you're not saying the GAC is recharged?

20 MR. DOUG CLOSE:

21 Sorry. When I say filters, that is
22 out of the pretreatment process.

23 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC:

24 So the sediment?

25 MR. DOUG CLOSE:

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2 Yes, sediment coming into
3 pretreatment. GAC and resin, I should
4 refer to that as medium.

5 Again, this is our 30-day
6 commissioning period. By December 20th,
7 again, more weather, higher flows. We're
8 still changing filters out three times a
9 day. This requires round-the-clock
10 maintenance. We have people at 11 p.m.
11 or 3 a.m. going over, doing necessary
12 change-outs to keep the system running so
13 we can really gauge our sustainability
14 with what's going on in Rec Pond.

15 We also started to monitor changes
16 in the resin pressure. We're starting to
17 get analytical back. We're starting to
18 see PFAS in the primary resin. And this
19 would be typical -- our system was
20 designed to run -- well, they were hoping
21 to run six months before seeing any kind
22 of elevation in PFAS.

23 MR. ANTHONY GRICE:

24 In what?

25 MR. DOUG CLOSE:

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2 In the resin. Through our
3 system -- and I'm sorry, there's a lot to
4 talk about -- but in each of the drains
5 and each part of the system, we have
6 sample ports. There's 19 sample ports
7 we're monitoring throughout all the
8 different vessels, all the different
9 changes of the water. That's where we
10 get our samples.

11 MR. TAL GLUCK:

12 Is this whole procedure documented
13 anywhere?

14 MR. DOUG CLOSE:

15 Yes.

16 MR. TAL GLUCK:

17 Where? Where can we access these?

18 MR. DOUG CLOSE:

19 We have reports that we give to our
20 customers, both the Corps of Engineers
21 and Air National Guard. Operational
22 summaries.

23 MR. TAL GLUCK:

24 Can they be made available to the
25 public?

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2 MS. ELAINE MAGDINEC:

3 No. Those are not on the
4 administrative record.

5 MS. SARA PASTORELLO:

6 Elaine, can you explain why it's
7 not on the record?

8 MS. ELAINE MAGDINEC:

9 So this operation, this interim
10 PFOS/PFOA treatment system, is
11 technically not an action driven by the
12 CERCLA process. It's not considered a
13 removal action or a remedial action.
14 We're doing this to be in compliance with
15 the Clean Water Act of the State of New
16 York. So technically, the documentation
17 of the information associated with this
18 treatment system is not required to be on
19 the administrative record, nor will it be
20 allowed to be on the administrative
21 record, because the admin record is only
22 to include restoration and CERCLA-driven
23 documents. So that's kind of the
24 distinction between CERCLA cleanups
25 versus this interim treatment system.

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2 But certainly, you know, when we're
3 looking at PFOS/PFOA removal, we're
4 concerned to protect Lake Washington,
5 because that was used as a drinking water
6 reservoir, so there is a benefit.

7 The expanded SI effort that Kerry
8 talked about, looking at stormwater, was
9 an effort that started way before we
10 committed to the Rec Pond interim
11 treatment system. So we wanted to
12 basically understand flow and understand
13 where we're picking up PFAS in the storm.
14 But this treatment system was kind of
15 pushed forward very quickly because there
16 was a lot of concern from the State,
17 concern for the residents, concern from
18 Congress, about making sure that we
19 remove as much of the PFAS from storms as
20 we could.

21 I'm not sure if that answered your
22 question.

23 MS. SARA PASTORELLO:

24 Well, I think that helps us explain
25 why we can't use that tool. But we have

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2 a team that works on this interim system.
3 And after the approvals and after that
4 data comes in, we can discuss that and
5 make that available for you to see those
6 summaries. Since we can't use that
7 format, we can have it another way, if
8 that makes sense.

9 MR. ANTHONY GRICE:

10 Thank you, because I wasn't happy
11 with that answer, so thank you.

12 MS. SARA PASTORELLO:

13 You're welcome.

14 MS. ELAINE MAGDINEC:

15 That doesn't just apply to this
16 particular project. If there are draft
17 final documents, even on the cleanup
18 side, they would normally not get posted
19 on the administrative record because that
20 only includes final documents. But the
21 RAC would be afforded those documents
22 through your communication channels.

23 MS. MARY WAGNER:

24 Do I understand correctly that the
25 sediment has more concentrations of the

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2 PFAS?

3 MR. DOUG CLOSE:

4 I don't know. I don't think I made
5 mention of that. Sediment and water are
6 probably very similar.

7 MS. MARY WAGNER:

8 Is there any way to capture that
9 sediment, you know, before it goes off
10 the Base?

11 MR. DOUG CLOSE:

12 We're going to talk about that
13 right now. We basically ran through this
14 30-day period and made that same
15 evaluation. We needed to reconfigure the
16 pretreatment to do a much better job of
17 capturing the sediment. We have two
18 things happening inside of our system.
19 We have our pretreatment being inundated,
20 overtaken by the sediment and the solids.
21 So we immediately suspended on
22 January 6th and started to reconfigure.
23 We'll be out next week putting test
24 systems in and trying to find other ways
25 to capture the sedimentation before it

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2 piles up in our system.

3 Additionally, what we learned
4 during this first 30 days that we have is
5 biological growth also impacting the
6 resin and GAC of our treatment system.
7 So before and after, there's a
8 combination of both sedimentation getting
9 through and biological growth, this
10 darker stuff. And we're still trying to
11 evaluate what caused that. Here is your
12 granular activated carbon. That's what
13 it looks like raw on day one, and this is
14 what it looked like in less than 30 days.
15 Same here, a resin bead. It's a clear,
16 amber, kind of small, small bead.

17 So we're currently talking with the
18 Air Guard's Corps of Engineers. We're
19 recommending that we make improvements on
20 the pretreatment. We're working to
21 consider ways to control the bacterial
22 growth within the containers, and we need
23 to help them configure it so it's
24 sustainable and affordable for
25 continuation in long term.

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2 Yes, sir?

3 MR. BILL FETTER:

4 I understand the sizing of the
5 system right now can handle base flow.
6 That's pretty much it. Anything above
7 base flow is taxing the system?

8 MR. DOUG CLOSE:

9 Yes. Significantly above base flow
10 taxes the system.

11 MR. BILL FETTER:

12 Is there any thought being put into
13 expanding the system or sizing the system
14 so that it can be expanded, a change be
15 put online to enlarge as the flow
16 increases, just turn a valve and put
17 another on?

18 MR. DOUG CLOSE:

19 We had that conversation this
20 morning when I met with Elaine, so yes.

21 MS. ELAINE MAGDINEC:

22 It's scalable.

23 MR. BILL FETTER:

24 It's seldom that base flow is going
25 to be the norm.

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2 MS. ELAINE MAGDINEC:

3 We have to fix that problem with
4 the sediment first.

5 MR. BILL FETTER:

6 Even with base flow, you have high
7 turbidity. You've got some velocity in
8 there somewhere. I'm surprised you don't
9 have cave-ins elsewhere on the Base.
10 That sediment was moving at that level
11 flow all that time, all these years.

12 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC:

13 Can you repeat that, Bill, so we
14 can hear?

15 MR. BILL FETTER:

16 I was talking about the sediment,
17 that there is a lot of sediment in low
18 flow water, which means somewhere else
19 upstream has velocity edging out that
20 sediment in a pipe or whatever, or a
21 faucet/pipe situation. And that sediment
22 stays because it's so fine. It stays in
23 suspension in the water before they can
24 get everything to the carbon, and it's
25 blocking out the system for them. But

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2 there's high velocity elsewhere on the
3 Base -- apparently. I'm just surmising
4 here. And with all of that removal of
5 sediment, it leaves a void where things
6 collapse, such as foundations and
7 whatever.

8 MS. HEATHER PFEIFFER:

9 So since we've kind of wrapped up,
10 I believe, your presentation, Doug, we
11 will move into our RAC open discussion.
12 And that can be a continuation of these
13 questions, just so the RAC members know.
14 But I do want to bring it to everyone's
15 attention, we are at ten minutes to
16 eight. We definitely don't want to cut
17 anyone's time to speak, but again, we
18 want to respect people's time for being
19 here so long. So I would implore the RAC
20 meeting, maybe we can try to limit our
21 discussion and try to get through the
22 rest of our topics so we can give at
23 least some opportunity to the public to
24 speak as well.

25 MR. JOHN CLARKE:

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2 So for follow on, I'm an engineer.
3 I understand some of the troubles are
4 installation specific, and ironing out
5 the system. But it makes me wonder what
6 our Newburgh filtration plant, what
7 issues would be also experienced by our
8 community for long-term continuation of
9 dealing with the same problem.

10 And secondly, my second point would
11 have to do with, specifically, the
12 procedures for the RAC. So maybe I'll
13 wait for an answer for the first and see
14 if we have time for the second.

15 I could be more specific. Is the
16 granulated carbon, is that something that
17 is not sufficient to filter out our
18 contamination, and to what size particle?
19 And what other chemicals are we dealing
20 with that the resin is there to mitigate?
21 And are we exposing a limitation of the
22 filtration technology, or just the site
23 specific implementation of the
24 technology?

25 MR. JAY MULLET:

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2 Hi. I'm Jay Mullet of Wood.

3 The turbidity issue with the
4 sediments is, there's a filtration piece.

5 The carbon is used to knock out

6 volatiles. The resin is used to knock

7 out the PFAS. The filtration piece is

8 what we're struggling with as far as

9 turbidity. It's like a coffee filter

10 here. You have to get the solids out

11 before you can run it through the carbon.

12 If you don't get all the solids out, it's

13 going to, in layman's terms, gunk up the

14 carbon. It's going to plug it up and

15 it's going to obviously reduce the

16 efficiency of that treatment.

17 So the challenge that we're looking

18 at and Doug's looking at is we're

19 bringing in a sand filter, a different

20 type of filtration that will be more

21 efficient, that will remove those solids.

22 Because carbon, the GAC, and the resin,

23 that stuff is still going to be useable

24 to treat this material. The challenge

25 that we're having is with the filtration

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2 piece. Does that answer your question?

3 As far as the comparison to
4 other -- Lake Washington or -- you know,
5 every site's going to have very specific
6 things. So, you know, the turbidity
7 issue that we're having in Rec Pond could
8 be vastly different than what they see in
9 other places.

10 MR. JOHN CLARKE:

11 So to that point, we'd like to
12 understand the process you're testing.
13 When you're testing a process, what are
14 you looking for?

15 MR. JAY MULLET:

16 We're bringing in a new type of
17 filtration, the sand filter system, which
18 is much more robust. We're using a
19 series of coffee filters that have
20 different microns. The sand filter's a
21 much more robust system. And that should
22 be able to knock out the material. And
23 Doug's doing a pilot study, bringing that
24 system next week to run this water
25 through the sand filter to try to add

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2 that as an additional piece to this
3 treatment train.

4 MS. MANNA JO GREENE:

5 I'm not going to take up too much
6 time, but just to say that, in case
7 people aren't familiar, the sand and
8 activated charcoal are how the
9 communities that take their drinking
10 water from the Hudson filter out PCBs.
11 So it's a relatively similar system. But
12 PFAS is different and requires the resin.

13 What I would like to request is
14 that we have access to, in particular,
15 the various maps. I can barely make it
16 out in the handouts or on the screen.
17 And I really want to understand the
18 system. I think we can contribute better
19 if we do. So there should be a place
20 where those maps could be made available
21 to us.

22 MR. CHUCK THOMAS:

23 So to get back to the agenda, this
24 would be the opportunity for RAC members
25 to request additional educational

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2 materials and discuss topics. Would that
3 be appropriate at this point?

4 MS. HEATHER PFEIFFER:

5 Yes.

6 MR. CHUCK THOMAS:

7 Great. I think what Manna Jo just
8 brought up would be one of those
9 additional educational materials.

10 I would also like access to the
11 slide presentations so we can see them a
12 little more clearly. We're at a little
13 bit of a disadvantage with the pictures.
14 If that could be made accessible to the
15 RAC members, I'd appreciate that.

16 I'd also like to request that we
17 get a tour of Rec Pond. I would like to
18 see on the ground what I'm hearing in the
19 air and looking at a picture of.

20 And I'd also like updates and
21 notifications of studies and data, and
22 how frequently you can notify us when the
23 data comes out. I'd really like to see
24 it in excess of two weeks before the next
25 meeting so we have a chance to look at

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2 it. Also, when new material comes out,
3 if we can have a method to notify us that
4 it's coming out.

5 Just going quickly, I'm not trying
6 to take too much time, is there any data
7 on the PFOS/PFAS sediments? I'd be
8 curious about that.

9 I'd also discuss quickly the topics
10 for a future meeting. I'd like in the
11 next meeting to go over roughly, in the
12 agenda, the acceptance and adoption of
13 revised operating procedures that will
14 come out in subcommittee, so we can
15 operate under those procedures going
16 forward.

17 Also, I believe you said we were
18 going to ID another format for studies
19 that are not in the administrative
20 record. If you can let us know what the
21 identification of that format would be, I
22 would appreciate that. Thank you.

23 MR. ANTHONY GRICE:

24 Just quickly, because I do want to
25 give the community members a chance to

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2 ask questions as well, but I had a
3 question about the PFAS level coming out
4 of Rec Pond. I'm not sure that I got an
5 answer for that.

6 MR. KERRY TULL:

7 Routinely, the total PFAS has run
8 about 150 parts per trillion in Rec Pond.
9 And that's the sample in a variety of
10 spots.

11 MS. AURA LOPEZ ZARATE:

12 I would just like to be notified,
13 that all of us be notified when the
14 agenda goes out that there will be an
15 interpreter and live streaming of the
16 next meeting so we can let folks know and
17 advocate for them to come out here. I
18 know that a lot of Spanish speakers would
19 be interested to come here, and I want to
20 confirm that they would be able to
21 understand everything before I encourage
22 them to come. So maybe we can get a
23 notification of that when the agenda goes
24 out.

25 MS. HEATHER PFEIFFER:

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2 Any other topics from our RAC
3 members?

4 MR. ANTHONY FERN:

5 When do they expect any data on the
6 discharge from the treatment system?

7 MR. DOUG CLOSE:

8 That will be an answer that will
9 come from the customer. We have a report
10 we're data-validating right now. We've
11 got all our data in. It will show how we
12 went through the first 30 days, what all
13 those sample ports reported are testing,
14 which includes both raw water and
15 effluent, which would be discharge. I
16 don't have a timeline of when that would
17 be made available, that would be up to
18 the team, but I would guess at the next
19 meeting, if not sooner.

20 MR. STEVE POSTEN:

21 So there was a question about the
22 concentration of the PFAS in sediment and
23 in surface water in Rec Pond. So the
24 first pretty comprehensive look at that
25 was information that's contained in the

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2 site inspection report that was prepared
3 about a year and a half ago, the final
4 report. And that report is in this
5 administrative record. And that has the
6 maps with those sample results, you know,
7 graphics and tables. So that already
8 exists and it gives you an idea of what
9 the range of those concentrations were.

10 MS. SARA PASTORELLO:

11 I just want to propose to the RAC,
12 so you don't feel like you have to have
13 all your questions ready in the five
14 minutes you have left, is if you're
15 familiar with the way we have a question
16 or suggestion box, if you want to
17 nominate a member of the RAC to just kind
18 of consolidate your questions and
19 categorize them, assign them priority.
20 We can then post them to the Department
21 of Health site, saying this is who's
22 responded to these questions this way.
23 Then you won't feel under the gun to try
24 and get your question out fast. But you
25 can have someone designated to pool all

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2 the questions and put them into a
3 category. So is that a proposal or a
4 motion?

5 MS. HEATHER PFEIFFER:

6 It's a recommendation. Does anyone
7 want to act on that, or moving forward,
8 do we have any RAC questions, comments,
9 discussion?

10 MR. CHUCK THOMAS:

11 I like that proposal. I'll make
12 that a motion.

13 MR. ANTHONY GRICE:

14 I move that we designate someone.
15 I don't know if we will be able to do
16 that now because of the time frame and
17 other things like that, but I do
18 recommend that we nominate someone to
19 gather questions and e-mail them off in
20 an Excel format.

21 MR. TAL GLUCK:

22 Motion for Mary to consolidate.

23 MR. CHUCK THOMAS:

24 I second.

25 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC:

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2 Can we include a time frame on
3 being answered in the motion?

4 MR. CHUCK THOMAS:

5 At least two weeks before the
6 meeting.

7 MS. SARA PASTORELLO:

8 I can only be responsible for the
9 questions that are asked that have to do
10 with our Air National Guard members. But
11 if it's outside of this room, I can't
12 guarantee what their time frame will be.
13 But they'll be available, I believe, and
14 should help speed up the process.

15 MS. HEATHER PFEIFFER:

16 So if we are good with our RAC
17 discussion comments, we can move forward
18 with the public comments. We are running
19 a little bit over. To facilitate our
20 court reporter to be able to monitor
21 that, and also to make it a little bit
22 more orderly, I would like to ask for
23 people to come to the center with their
24 questions so that, just for mobility
25 purposes, it's a little bit easier than

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2 trying to run around the room. So if
3 people can make their way up to the
4 front.

5 MR. TOM ROBERTS:

6 Good evening. I'm Tom Roberts.
7 I've lived in the City of Newburgh for 20
8 years.

9 I just want to know, that resin
10 that's part of the filter that takes care
11 of PFOS and PFAS, at no time did I hear
12 it takes care of 100 percent of it. How
13 much of it is coming through under normal
14 operating conditions? Anything coming
15 through is too much for the City of
16 Newburgh, who's been exposed to this for
17 50 years, or as long as Stewart Airport
18 has been open. And I think that citizens
19 need to find out about this. If this
20 system isn't working, we need to get a
21 system that does.

22 MR. DOUG CLOSE:

23 We're using the 70 parts per
24 trillion standard. Our operating
25 procedure tells us to notify when we're

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2 at 35 parts per trillion in the lead
3 vessel. That's when we start shutting
4 things down, making changes, so we don't
5 ever get to exceeding the 70 part per
6 trillion limit.

7 MS. OPHRA WOLF:

8 Thank you. That's a great lead-in
9 to my comment. My name is Ophra Wolf.

10 The 70 part per trillion standard
11 is very outdated at this point. The
12 latest research from the NRDC shows a
13 lifetime recommendation of exposures to
14 the entire family of PFAS chemicals as 2
15 parts per trillion. PFOS and PFOA are
16 only two of that family of chemicals.
17 New York State is in the process of
18 promulgating standards that will set the
19 maximum at 10 parts per trillion for PFOS
20 and PFOA, possibly combined. And it just
21 makes me question where we are in terms
22 of the studies and what needs to be
23 redone and what needs to be further
24 tested to comply with what will be the
25 lower standards promulgated by New York,

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2 and as the previous gentleman said, the
3 standards that we expect as a community,
4 which is what science is showing is safe
5 for human consumption, which is 2 parts
6 per trillion, not 70 parts per trillion.

7 I don't know if there's an answer
8 to that question right now, but that's a
9 comment that will remain standing among
10 the community. Tests showing levels at
11 70 parts per trillion or a little bit
12 below don't impress us. Unless you're
13 really looking at the sites where you
14 expect to find the chemical and you're
15 finding 2 parts per trillion or less,
16 we're concerned. And we're concerned
17 with every single site on the Base that
18 is showing more than 2 parts per trillion
19 of this chemical after 30 years of
20 poisoning.

21 And then the other comment is, and
22 this is in relation to slide 41 under
23 recommendations, I'd like to make a clear
24 recommendation for additional data needed
25 to C6 chemicals. If we're only still

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2 testing for concentrations of PFOS and
3 PFOA, which are long-chains, C8
4 chemicals, we're missing potentially
5 thousands of parts per trillion of the C6
6 chemicals, which is what the military
7 changed to using when they stopped using
8 C8s. C6 is what's currently being used
9 on the Base. So we also need to know in
10 these studies, what is the concentration
11 of C6.

12 I know that the resin filter is
13 specifically capable of taking out those
14 short-chains, and so we also would like
15 to know, are you testing for passage of
16 short-chains in the resin filter, and can
17 we see those results?

18 I heard the explanation that these
19 particular studies, because they're not
20 part of the official CERCLA process,
21 could not be posted on the administrative
22 site. I don't understand why they can't
23 be posted on the County Department of
24 Health site. This is exactly the type of
25 information that this community needs to

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2 be seeing and privy to in order to
3 understand the restoration. So unless
4 there's a legal answer, other than this
5 study isn't part of the CERCLA process
6 and we can't see the results of the study
7 from Wood, then that needs to be top on
8 our list of priorities, is to see all of
9 the studies you've gone through. And
10 please, if you can be testing for C6,
11 that's very important to this community
12 to understand full exposure of what we're
13 standing up against, which is more than
14 PFOS and PFOA.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. DANIEL HUGHES:

17 My name is Daniel Hughes. I was at
18 the original Air Guard installation in
19 the early '80s.

20 There was a report in 1981 that was
21 printed for the airport pertaining to Rec
22 Pond. I don't know if any of you people
23 are privy to that. But one of the things
24 that needs to be kept in mind here, where
25 the new tower is and the old tower was,

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2 and from there towards Washington Lake,
3 that was a swamp. There's 80 feet of
4 fill. Between 17K and 207 and the New
5 York State Thruway and up to the tarmac
6 where you come out of the customs
7 building is 80 feet of fill.

8 World War I, they had no Air Force.
9 World War II, they started in. They
10 blocked the swamp, it came back. They
11 blocked the swamp, it came back. In '69,
12 when the 747 came out, they had to beef
13 up the runways. They did core drilling
14 and they found four layers where they had
15 stopped and diverted the water, and
16 Mother Nature took over again. 15 feet
17 of fill. 20 years later, Korea. 15 feet
18 of fill. Iraq, Desert Storm, fill, fill,
19 fill, fill, fill. There's so much crap
20 in that place, you can't even imagine the
21 number of landfills and dumps that have
22 been operated in that area for many, many
23 years.

24 It's got to be looked at. That is
25 just one big tea bag of muck. If we wrap

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2 our head around what's really going on --
3 and there's also a former black hold tank
4 that was part of the original Air Guard
5 that's buried underground. I'm sure
6 there's a lot of mud left in the bottom
7 of that, too.

8 And to the guys that are looking
9 for where the pipes came from, I'm 73
10 years old. We need to take a walk. I'll
11 show you where all that stuff came from.
12 My farm was right down the road from
13 there. There are guys even older than me
14 that are still around that can tell you
15 where all those pipes came from and where
16 the pipes that you don't know about go
17 to. Let's get everybody together and get
18 a clear description of what really lives
19 there.

20 MR. RICK SHOYER:

21 Thank you. I'm Rick Shoyer.

22 Just to elaborate a little bit more
23 on the analysis, I think at the last
24 meeting, we talked about that Wood was
25 only sampling the six compounds. New

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2 York State guide just came out with 537.1
3 with 18 compounds, and the EPA came out
4 with new Method 533, which is for 25
5 compounds. So I know that the community
6 will be looking for making sure that
7 we're gunning for those analyses to get a
8 wider of range of PFAS.

9 MR. DAN SHAPLEY:

10 Dan Shapley with Riverkeeper.

11 I just had a question for the other
12 agencies who are here. One of the things
13 is that some of the community members met
14 ahead of time, we had an earlier
15 conversation about roles and
16 responsibilities. There is a knowledge
17 that we have on the committee, certain
18 really important skill sets -- geology,
19 engineering, et cetera -- but there's a
20 lot of gaps in technical knowledge on the
21 part of the community groups. So to what
22 extent are the other agencies who are
23 sitting, or not yet sitting at the table,
24 able to provide that, to fill those gaps?
25 How do you see your role on this RAC

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2 community? If you could speak to that a
3 little bit, I'd appreciate it. Thanks.

4 MR. JUSTIN STARR:

5 Hi. I'm Justin Starr, New York
6 State DEC.

7 We are not sitting at the table
8 right now because we are the lead
9 regulatory agency for the Base. So we
10 wouldn't want to confuse roles, being a
11 member on the RAC, and then also trying
12 to enforce whatever regulatory statute
13 needs to be enforced.

14 That being said, we're still here.
15 We're acting as a resource. If you have
16 questions, certainly reach out to me.
17 And also, not in this particular venue,
18 too, but you can always e-mail us, FOIL
19 us. We're not some mysterious agency off
20 in the hills. We're right here. You can
21 talk to us. And we will be here for this
22 meeting and then for meetings in the
23 future. If you have questions, technical
24 questions, please feel free to ask us.
25 Please ask the EPA. There's a wide

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2 variety of technical knowledge here. All
3 you have to do is ask.

4 MS. WENDY KUEHNER:

5 I'm Wendy Kuehner with the New York
6 State Department of Health.

7 As Justin said, we will be here to
8 answer your questions during this entire
9 process. Like he said, we don't want to
10 confuse roles, but we are here and you
11 can ask us any questions.

12 MR. KEITH MILLER:

13 Keith Miller. Orange County
14 Health.

15 Along with my partners here from
16 the New York State Department of Health,
17 I'm available to answer questions. The
18 phone number is (845) 291-2341. Ask for
19 me.

20 MS. ANGELA CARPENTER:

21 As I said, I'm Angela Carpenter.
22 I'm with the EPA.

23 New York State is the lead agency
24 for the oversight of the work that is
25 being performed here. However, EPA may

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2 have some resources that the RAC finds
3 they would like to tap into, whether it's
4 a contact with the Office of Research and
5 Development, or maybe somebody who has
6 sampling expertise. If that's the case,
7 let us know. We can work together with
8 DEC to see if one of our agencies can
9 cover a need so that the RAC gets as much
10 information and assistance as possible in
11 understanding what is incredibly
12 technical information.

13 And the goal, on behalf of all of
14 the agencies, is to ensure that the
15 community understands what's being
16 proposed, what's happening, and is able
17 to have meaningful input, and be able to
18 give that to other members of the
19 community who can't attend. So to the
20 extent that we can assist with that,
21 we're certainly going to do so, although
22 our regulatory role is not what people
23 may expect, based on other sites that are
24 on the national priorities list.

25 MR. BILL FETTER:

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2 Pursuant to the responses about not
3 occupying a chair, will someone from
4 those departments eventually occupy those
5 chairs? Because of reasons we won't
6 discuss, those chairs will not be filled.
7 And the reason I ask that, should they be
8 filled with other people from other
9 organizations? And if the DEC and the
10 Department of Health are not going to
11 occupy the folding chairs, perhaps we
12 should replace them with other
13 organizations. Food for thought.

14 MS. SUE SULLIVAN:

15 My name is Sue Sullivan, City of
16 Newburgh resident. I really want to
17 applaud all of you for your preparedness
18 tonight and how seriously you're taking
19 your role on the RAC.

20 I have two issues of importance,
21 and whether they apply specifically to
22 your remediation efforts -- but in the
23 larger context, the impact of the
24 contamination on the whole region. The
25 first is, and I heard it at the last

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2 meeting, the health impact and cost for
3 people who have lived here and
4 experienced this. I've been here a year
5 and a half. But I feel empathy for those
6 who are experiencing those health issues.

7 The second issue is understanding
8 the scope of who is paying for all these
9 consultants. And I'm -- I have not done
10 my research. But also, there is clearly
11 a definitive scope of services you're
12 providing. And clearly, after my second
13 meeting, it seems the problem is much
14 larger than originally envisioned. So I
15 would just ask the RAC to consider having
16 advocacy and outreach to elected
17 officials as a priority. Who decides who
18 pays for what? And the only way that the
19 elected officials are going to respond is
20 for the community -- and I'm not talking
21 about local, city, or county officials,
22 but I'm talking about state and federal
23 officials. This is a policy issue. This
24 is a health issue. And I really implore
25 you to make advocacy and education of

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2 elected officials a priority.

3 MR. JOHN GEBHARDS:

4 John Gebhards.

5 This RAC committee has, as I see
6 it, a tremendous responsibility. Not
7 only will it be analyzing and evaluating
8 reports of a very technical nature, but
9 they also have the responsibility, as I
10 understand it, to reach out and
11 communicate with the community. And this
12 is a very diverse community, as it's been
13 brought out. This media aspect is not an
14 easy task. Where are the funds coming
15 from to enable the RAC committee to do
16 its job? That's my question. And
17 there's no positive answer to that. I
18 don't see how they can possibly do their
19 job of media and evaluation reports and
20 that type of thing without some expertise
21 help, which will cost money.

22 MS. ELAINE MAGDINEC:

23 I can, I guess, address the Air
24 National Guard's funding for all the
25 restoration requirements, including the

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2 interim treatment system. There's
3 funding within the Air National Guard's
4 budget. Congress, this fiscal year,
5 2020, has been extremely generous to the
6 Air National Guard. They did provide
7 funds specifically for PFAS. We will be
8 using some of those funds for the Stewart
9 Air National Guard Base. We do program
10 requirements every year through the Air
11 Force for Air National Guard restoration
12 program, and we do have to prioritize not
13 only our requirements within that budget,
14 but we prioritize against the rest of the
15 Air Force. So they do have a lot of
16 sites that they're cleaning up. A lot of
17 them are on the national priorities list.
18 There's federal facilities agreements.
19 Those are all considerations that the Air
20 Force has to make when they allocate
21 funds for the Air National Guard.

22 We will do our best to ensure that
23 our highest priority projects are funded.
24 As was mentioned, some of these projects
25 will likely have to be deferred to ensure

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2 that there's funding available for
3 projects to protect human health. It is
4 a risk-based program when we clean up,
5 against the risk to human health.

6 I don't know if that covers your
7 question. I can't really speak on behalf
8 of other funding sources. I will mention
9 that there is a program called TAPP. I
10 don't remember what it's called. It's an
11 acronym. Technical assistance for public
12 participation. And it's a grant that is
13 given to RAB, restoration advisory board
14 members, if requested. There is some
15 question about whether this group will be
16 eligible. I can kind of go into some
17 nuance if you have questions about that.
18 That is funding that is available to
19 other RAB members across the country. It
20 can be used for providing an expert to
21 explain some highly technical topics. It
22 can help facilitate or provide some
23 support. So that's another funding
24 avenue that will hopefully be available
25 to RAC.

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2 MS. HEATHER PFEIFFER:

3 We are getting close to the end of
4 when we have this facility reserved. We
5 are going to need to draw to a close our
6 public comments.

7 I do want to make sure that we
8 address your comment from earlier. If
9 you could ask your question again, we can
10 see about a response.

11 MR. TYRESE BILLUPS:

12 Yes, my name is Tyrese Billups.

13 I was wondering what the side
14 effects are of the chemicals PFOS, PFAS,
15 or the other chemicals that were
16 described at this meeting.

17 MS. WENDY KUEHNER:

18 Wendy Kuehner, New York State
19 Health Department.

20 So there are some studies that
21 suggest that PFAS exposure can be linked
22 to liver and testicular issues and birth
23 defects. It's not a guarantee. It
24 depends on exposure, length of time,
25 lifestyles, genetics, and things like

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2 that. But those are -- those studies
3 have indicated those might be issues
4 associated with PFAS exposure.

5 MR. DAVID ROMERO:

6 David Romero from the City of
7 Newburgh.

8 I want to know if anybody here has
9 a record of the folks that have been
10 affected with PFOS.

11 In addition, I think the last time
12 I came, someone said that they wanted the
13 people who were responsible for this to
14 be more out-reachers, perhaps put a
15 postcard in people's mail, be more vocal
16 in the community. I look around and I do
17 see people here from the City of
18 Newburgh. But we also have to continue
19 to mention these meetings. I keep
20 receiving e-mails, but I don't see a lot
21 of folks here who may be interested in
22 coming.

23 In addition, like I said, do you
24 have a record, statistics, number of
25 people who have been affected? I'm

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2 concerned about my health, and I'm sure
3 everyone else here is. We want to know,
4 after being exposed, how long would it be
5 that it would kick in, the effect?

6 MS. WENDY KUEHNER:

7 As far as length of time, I don't
8 think that is something that is known
9 yet. It's relatively new. There's not a
10 lot of studies on it. I don't think
11 there's an actual established time frame
12 for that kind of thing. So I don't have
13 an answer for that right now.

14 MR. DAVID ROMERO:

15 Is there a statistic, a number of
16 people who have been affected that have
17 gone to the Health Department and said,
18 hey, I live in the City of Newburgh. I
19 have liver issues. I believe it's
20 because of PFAS. Is there a number or
21 are there folks who have gone to reach
22 out to anyone?

23 MS. WENDY KUEHNER:

24 So we have a Bureau of
25 Environmental Epidemiology who has done a

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2 blood testing program in the area. I
3 don't know offhand the number of people
4 that have been tested.

5 MR. DAVID ROMERO:

6 I'm sure it doesn't apply to you,
7 but the second question was to do a
8 better job in coming out to the
9 community. Knocking doors would help. I
10 see folks here, again, but we need more
11 people to come out and know what's
12 happening in the community, in the water
13 that they're drinking.

14 MR. KEITH MILLER:

15 Keith Miller, Orange County.

16 A division of the CDC, ATSDR, is
17 coming to town next week. Tuesday or
18 Wednesday, February 11th, from 5:30 to
19 8:00 p.m., here in Newburgh at the City
20 of Newburgh activities center, 401
21 Washington Street. It's one block over
22 that way. So I have handouts for that.
23 I have the press release. I have copies
24 in English and in Spanish. So if anybody
25 needs a copy, you can see me and other

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2 people afterwards.

3 MS. ANGELA CARPENTER:

4 The purpose of that meeting with
5 the ATSDR is they're going to be doing a
6 PFAS exposure assessment. So for people
7 who are interested in hearing a little
8 bit more of what that would entail and
9 what they'll be looking at, there is
10 information here. So we can make sure
11 that anybody who wants to will get a copy
12 of that so that you know about the
13 meeting next week. It's, again, the
14 Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease
15 Registry, which is an arm of the Center
16 for Disease Control -- and Prevention. I
17 think there's another part to their name.

18 MS. HEATHER PFEIFFER:

19 So this will wrap it up.

20 MS. OPHRA WOLF:

21 My name is Ophra Wolf.

22 I just want to speak to two things.
23 The first is the funding issue. I want
24 to just reflect what I have heard from
25 the RAC and from the committee today,

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2 that since -- I think I understood
3 Elaine, but the Air National Guard was
4 given more money towards PFAS-related
5 projects.

6 The things that we have
7 specifically asked for are an interpreter
8 and translated materials. We've asked
9 for continued improved outreach,
10 including postcards, which would be
11 translated postcards. We've asked for
12 funds that would go specifically to
13 supporting the education and information
14 of the RAC.

15 And I would add personally that,
16 you know, with great concern for what
17 we're hearing about the persistence of
18 these chemicals and the sediments, the
19 fact that there have been leaks through
20 the ground and not just through the
21 pipes -- and maybe this is a question for
22 the EPA -- but whoever can provide us
23 with whatever studies exist out there
24 about the persistence of these chemicals
25 in groundwater, their transference from

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2 sediment to groundwater, and what we need
3 to be expecting in the long term from the
4 persistence of these chemicals in our
5 environment, I would like to make a
6 request for either those studies to be
7 made available, or for monies to start
8 going in that direction.

9 And this is a very personal note,
10 but I understand that these chemicals are
11 now found in the rain and in snow events.
12 My question would be, what percentage of
13 these chemicals that were released into
14 the environment are the responsibility of
15 the military? So rather than saying,
16 well, maybe not all of the pollution here
17 is because of military release of these
18 toxins, we might start talking about the
19 fact that they're everywhere. And a
20 percentage of the fact that they're
21 everywhere is because of the military
22 release, so that we understand that the
23 responsibility doesn't shift from the
24 military, because we're finding a certain
25 percentage of this in the rain and the

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2 snow. The fact that it's so persistent
3 in our environment, the military has a
4 significant responsibility.

5 And if we start working those
6 percentages and really think about what
7 that means across the country and across
8 the world, I think we can come back to,
9 how do we really take care of this
10 community right here? How do we make
11 sure that this community, rain or not
12 rain, knows that it has clean drinking
13 water for the long term? Thank you.

14 MS. HEATHER PFEIFFER:

15 Thank you. With that, we will draw
16 the meeting to a close. I would like to
17 thank all of our RAC members for the time
18 that you have committed to be here this
19 evening. We look forward to moving
20 forward, working especially with Chuck on
21 planning the next meeting and getting
22 materials out sooner.

23 Have a good evening.

24
25 (MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:35 P.M.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK)
)SS:
COUNTY OF ORANGE)

I, LAURA EVANS, a Court Reporter and
Notary Public within and for the State of New
York, do hereby certify that the foregoing is
a true and correct transcript of the minutes
recorded by me and reduced to typewriting
under my supervision to the best of my
knowledge and ability.

X 

Laura Evans

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