

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

In The Matter Of:
Hearing-Centerdale

Centerdale Manor Restoration Project Superfund Site
December 07, 2011



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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

PROCEEDING AT HEARING :

**IN RE: CENTERDALE MANOR RESTORATION
PROJECT SUPERFUND SITE**

**DATE: DECEMBER 7, 2011
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
PLACE: CENTERDALE MANOR
2074 SMITH STREET
NORTH PROVIDENCE, RI 02911**

PRESENT:

Larry Brill, Hearing Officer

Stacy Greendlinger

Anna Krasko

1 (HEARING COMMENCED AT 2:08 P.M.)

2 MS. GREENDLINGER: Hi, everyone. We're
3 going to go ahead and get started. If anybody can't
4 hear me, please put your hand right up, and I'll make
5 sure to speak louder or use the microphone.

6 My name is Stacy Greendlinger, and I'm with the US
7 Environmental Protection Agency. It's nice to see some
8 faces that we've seen before. Thank you so much for
9 coming out today, especially on this raining, kind of
10 yucky day to talk with us about the Superfund site, the
11 Centerdale Manor restoration project here in this area.

12 I'd like to thank Tony Simon from Senator
13 Whitehouse's office for coming out and joining us on
14 this, again, on this beautiful day we have here.

15 MR. SIMON: I'm actually representing
16 the rest of the congressional delegation, as well,
17 Senator Reed and Congressman Langevin, as well. We're
18 kind of splitting up the meetings amongst the staff.
19 So thanks for having me.

20 MS. GREENDLINGER: Thank you, Tony, for
21 being here, and for the other offices, as well. We do
22 appreciate that.

23 Why are we here today, because we were just down
24 here in early November? And I want to make sure that
25 we're clear about why we're here. And hopefully people

1 have picked up a copy of the agenda. And if you didn't
2 already have a copy of the proposed plan -- if you can
3 just borrow yours real quick -- a copy of the proposed
4 plan.

5 THE SPEAKER: Oh, my.

6 MS. GREENDLINGER: And we have Frank
7 Bursie from the mayor's office here in North
8 Providence. He's joined us, as well. Thank you,
9 Frank, for joining us.

10 MR. BURSIE: You're very welcome.

11 MS. GREENDLINGER: Okay. So we're here
12 for two purposes. There are two parts of the meeting
13 today. The first part is an informational session.
14 Because we did some informational sessions in the
15 beginning of November, this one's going to be very
16 short.

17 The main purpose of why we're here today is to do
18 a formal public hearing. What does that mean? A
19 formal public hearing is when we capture your comments
20 into the record so we respond to it as part of our
21 final cleanup plan decision process. And I'll explain
22 that more.

23 But during the formal hearing, we cannot answer
24 any clarifying questions that you have, or any
25 comments. We can't respond to that. So if you have

1 things that you're uncertain about, the information
2 portion, the first part of this meeting, that's when
3 you should be asking us during the question and answer
4 portion. Because once we change to that formal
5 hearing, we're just here to listen and to capture it
6 for the formal record.

7 So let me go ahead onto the informational part of
8 today's discussion. So what is Superfund? I mentioned
9 that, that term. Superfund is the federal program for
10 dealing with hazardous waste sites throughout the
11 country. And Centerdale Manor is one of those sites.

12 And it's -- basically, the Superfund process is
13 composed of assessing the problem, what's going on,
14 investigating the problem, where you really get a
15 handle on what contamination is there, where is it, to
16 what extent, and what potential health impacts or
17 impacts to the environment does that contamination
18 cause. And then the last part of the Superfund process
19 is where you take action and you address those issues
20 that you found in your investigation.

21 So where are we in the process? There have been
22 years of investigation here at Centerdale Manor. And
23 as some of you who have lived here, have been through
24 short-term cleanups that we've done. We've done four
25 of them here. You've seen the sampling efforts that

1 are happening through your windows, or driving down the
2 path here, as well as the next mile and half of the
3 rivers that comprise the Superfund site.

4 So we're at the point now where we've issued this
5 proposed plan. That plan has a series of potential
6 approaches to cleaning up this site. And in that, it
7 also has the one EPA feels is the best way to go
8 forward. And we're putting that out to public comment
9 to you to say, this is what EPA thinks. What do you
10 think? Please, let us know before we make any final
11 decisions.

12 And so that's the point where we're at. We have a
13 public comment period that started on November 14th.
14 It was slated to end on January 12th, 2012. I'd like
15 to announce that we're extending the comment period.
16 We have received multiple requests to extend the
17 comment period, and that will now end on February 13th.
18 So we're adding an additional 30 days to the existing
19 60 days. So, again, the new comment period will end on
20 February 13th.

21 Why take action at this site? What did we find
22 that's making us think we should do something about it?
23 The past use here, and, actually, where we are right
24 now is what we call the source area. This
25 approximately nine-acre location before these apartment

1 complexes were here consisted of a chemical
2 manufacturing building, as well as a drum recycling
3 building. From that you have the resulting
4 contamination predominantly was dioxin and PCBs. There
5 are other contaminants, as well, but those are the main
6 ones that we have to concern ourselves with.

7 Just because we have contamination does not mean
8 that there's actually a human health risk. You have to
9 have a means of being able to be exposed to that
10 contamination. And part of the investigation that we
11 did was to determine is there an exposure pathway at
12 this site to the contamination that would make us
13 concerned, or make us want to take action.

14 What we discovered is that eating the fish, or
15 having direct skin contact with the contaminated
16 sediment, or accidentally eating it, if your hands go
17 in the mud, and then your hands go to your mouth, those
18 are exposure pathways with which we have to be
19 concerned. And those are enough to make us say we need
20 to take action here at the site.

21 So now I'm going to ask if Anna Krasko can come
22 up. Anna is our project manager, for those of you who
23 may not have met her before. And she's going to,
24 again, briefly go through what it is that we're
25 proposing to do. We know that we need to take action

1 here. And now Anna's going to suggest that -- what it
2 is that EPA prefers. And, again, if you can hold your
3 questions until the end, the question and answer time,
4 we'll be happy to answer your questions.

5 MS. KRASKO: Hi, everybody. So if we
6 can go to the next slide. So where did we find the
7 contamination, and where is it all going to happen? So
8 this is the map, and it's the same one that you have in
9 the brochure that was mailed out, and we have available
10 on the table there.

11 As Stacy just mentioned, the source area is where
12 we all are right now. You can look outside and see the
13 beginning of the Allendale Pond, and you can see Route
14 44. And, basically, between Allendale Pond and Route
15 44 is where contamination historically was released.

16 In addition, what we found out is contamination is
17 now located in about a mile and a half of the
18 Woonasquatucket River. It's what is called Allendale
19 Pond and Lyman Mill Pond. And because of this problem
20 right below this area, we're going to address the
21 sediment that is on the bottom of these ponds, as well
22 as floodplain, or the low-light areas that are adjacent
23 to those ponds, including the large wetlands, which is
24 shown in, kind of, yellow/green color on the map. This
25 is one of the largest wetland remaining in this area of

1 Rhode Island. It's a 20-acre habitat that provides
2 critical functions for ecological wildlife in this
3 area.

4 In addition to what I just mentioned, there is
5 also groundwater, or water that has become contaminated
6 under this source area. And the groundwater has been
7 cleaned up in the last year. You've probably seen
8 construction happening right on the Brook Village
9 parking lot. And groundwater monitoring that was done
10 after that work shows that we don't see contamination
11 at the elevated level under that parking lot anymore.
12 So that has been successful. But we do continue to
13 monitor the situation.

14 Next slide. So what are we proposing to do in the
15 next, you know, five, ten years? We're proposing to
16 remove 184,000 cubic yards of material from the
17 Allendale and Lyman Mill Pond area up from floodplain
18 adjacent to the Woonasquatucket River, as well as some
19 of the contaminated material that we think still is
20 located under a portion of the area of where we
21 currently are in the source area.

22 We estimate that the total cost is over
23 \$100 million. Most of the contaminated material will
24 be put in an upland confined disposal facility. And
25 we're currently looking at three properties in

1 Johnston. Actually, more than three properties in
2 Johnston where the facility can be located. The most
3 -- or highly contaminated material would be shipped off
4 site, and will not be stored in that confined disposal
5 facility.

6 In addition, the interim caps that were installed
7 as part of those four short-term actions that Stacy
8 mentioned will be upgraded to permanent and secure
9 caps. Right here, the parking lots, the landscaped
10 areas, and the driveways, will be converted into
11 permanent caps to cover the contamination that is still
12 underground.

13 We estimate that because of the steps that we need
14 to take in the Superfund process it will take five
15 years before construction can start. And after the
16 construction, EPA will still be responsible for
17 monitoring the maintenance of disposal properties.

18 So why are we proposing to put this material that
19 we're going to excavate into a confined disposal
20 facility? The contamination that we found here are
21 largely dioxin and PCBs. And those are contaminants
22 that do not volatilize or vaporize easily. And they
23 also don't dissolve in the water. So they are a good
24 candidate for permanent storage, because they're not
25 going to leak, and they're not going to go into the

1 air. So as Stacy said, there will be no chance for
2 humans to come into contact with those contaminants.

3 The highest levels, as I said, will be shipped off
4 site, and will not be here anyway. This will get the
5 contamination out of the river, where it could be shown
6 that additional contaminant movement can happen should
7 high flows in the river happen in the future.

8 Upland contained disposal facility is providing an
9 opportunity for beneficial reuse, and it also meets
10 regulatory criteria. And compared to other options,
11 like, when we do things like shipping it off site,
12 bringing portable incinerators on site, it is less cost
13 there.

14 Next. This is an example of a beneficial reuse of
15 where material has been stored at the Superfund site.
16 Similar to Centerdale, it has dioxins and polyaromatic
17 hydrocarbons, or PAHs. A community park had been built
18 on top of this facility. And the municipally and a
19 bunch the responsible parties came to an agreement or
20 arrangement that satisfied the community plans. So now
21 Stacy is going to finish up the presentation, and open
22 to Q and As.

23 MS. GREENDLINGER: There are a lot of
24 ways that you can comment. And your comments are
25 incredibly important to us before we determine what our

1 final cleanup decision is. So we are -- once we
2 conclude this portion of the meeting, as I said, we
3 will go to the hearing. So today, this afternoon, you
4 can provide your comments orally. You can also come
5 this evening at 7:00 -- sorry. Let me forward. 7:00
6 tonight, in the North Providence Town Hall, we'll also
7 be doing the same thing. So you can provide oral
8 comments again tonight.

9 It doesn't stop there. As I said, the comment
10 period has extended until February 13th. After today,
11 you won't have a chance to do it orally, but you can
12 still send us a fax. You can send us an e-mail. Or
13 you can write us a letter.

14 And all of this information that's on the board
15 here is on the back page, the very last page of your
16 proposed plan. So you have that. Obviously, the
17 proposed plan has a January date, but you can update
18 that to the February date. And the information stays
19 the same for how you can provide comments to us.

20 So what happens after the comment period? I do
21 want to give you a sense of what are the next steps
22 that happen here. I've said that we can't make the
23 final decision until we hear from the public.

24 Once the comment period closes, we will look at
25 all of the comments that we received. We will consider

1 them. We have to respond to them in what's called a
2 responsiveness summary. And, basically, we will
3 respond to each comment that we get.

4 That responsiveness summary will be part of the
5 public record. It will be out there for people to
6 read. It will also be part of what's called a record
7 of decision. A record of decision is simply a
8 bureaucratic term to say final cleanup plan. And we
9 plan on issuing that this coming September 2012.

10 Once we issue it, we then start negotiations with
11 the potentially responsible parties. A lot of people
12 say to me, how is this going to be paid for. Superfund
13 is based on the premise that polluters pay. So once we
14 have a final cleanup plan in hand is when we engage
15 with the potentially responsible parties with the
16 objective of having them come to the table and actually
17 do the cleanup themselves. EPA does not go away. We
18 stay in the role of overseeing the cleanup in a
19 supervisory position.

20 Those negotiations can take a couple of years.
21 You heard Anna reference five years as a potential time
22 period until work could start. It could take a couple
23 of years to do negotiations with the potentially
24 responsible parties.

25 Once those negotiations close, we then have to do

1 design work. Much like you people have heard me use
2 the example before of if you were building a deck on
3 the back of your house, you would need to figure out
4 how much weight can this deck support. How much lumber
5 do I need. How much is it going to cost me. How many
6 nails. How deep do I need to dig this.

7 That's exactly the type of detailed work that we
8 need to determine that we can't do that until we have a
9 final cleanup plan, and until those negotiations have
10 occurred. So I know some people have said for those
11 who live in the area, it's those details that you're
12 the most interested in. And I don't blame you. I
13 would be interested in those details, as well. You
14 want to know how many trucks, hours of operations,
15 those type of things that impact you on a day-to-day
16 basis. And although we have general ideas of things,
17 the real details of it won't happen until after the
18 comment period has closed, after we have a final
19 cleanup plan, after the negotiations have concluded.

20 But that doesn't mean that public involvement goes
21 away February 13th, when our comment period closes.
22 Absolutely not. We stay engaged in the community. You
23 may not hear from us for a while while those
24 negotiations happen, because those don't happen out in
25 the public. But once those negotiations conclude, we

1 will be working with the municipalities, both North
2 Providence and Johnston.

3 We have Pam Sherrill here from the Town of
4 Johnston. So we will stay engaged working with the
5 municipalities. We will also stay engaged working with
6 the communities that are impacted. We don't go away
7 from that.

8 We also have Alicia Lehrer here from the
9 Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council. And Alicia's
10 group has what's called a technical assistance grant,
11 where they receive money from EPA to be able to
12 understand the technical information that's here.
13 Alicia's a wonderful resource with that TAG grant. I
14 would encourage people to get her contact information.
15 I'm putting you on the spot, Alicia.

16 MS. LEHRER: I have cards with me, by
17 the way. I'll just put them out on the table, too.
18 And I'd love people to contact us. Anything that we
19 can help explain further, we'd be happy to do that.

20 MS. GREENDLINGER: Thank you. And
21 that's part of the purpose of having a technical
22 assistance grant in the community, so the community has
23 an independent technical person to go to to say, what
24 about this, or what about that. And Alicia can help
25 facilitate that connection and interaction.

1 So we work and stay in contact with Alicia. So
2 we're not going away. And when we get to the point
3 where the details start happening, we will be back out
4 to the community to share those details. So I just
5 wanted to share that with people, because that's been
6 raised to my attention as a concern that people have.

7 So I would like to get to the question and answer
8 part before we conclude and go to the hearing. So this
9 is your opportunity. Again, once we start that
10 hearing, we can't respond. So I would love to be able
11 to answer any questions that you have, anything that
12 you just need a little bit of clarifying on, we'd be
13 happy to answer them, or we can go right to the
14 hearing. Yes, Pam.

15 MS. SHERRILL: My name is Pam Sherrill,
16 S-H-E-R-R-I-L-L, town planner for the Town of Johnston.
17 Could you explain what assistance EPA would give the
18 property owner, the Town of Johnston, for development
19 of reuse of these confined disposal sites?

20 MS. GREENDLINGER: Okay. I can start,
21 and then I can -- Anna or Larry can feel free to jump
22 in. We have Larry Brill here who's going to be the
23 hearing officer. He's also the chief of the Superfund
24 program.

25 Basically, we do have limitations on what we can

1 spend our Superfund monies on. So under the Superfund
2 program, we're limited to dealing with the cleanup, and
3 what has to happen. But at the same time, we feel that
4 reuse is very important. And we don't, gone are the
5 days where we clean up a site, put barbed wire fencing
6 around it, and a sign saying, warning, stay away. We
7 really try to get to the point where that property or
8 parcel can be back to the community in a beneficial
9 reuse for the community.

10 And so we try to, and that's why it's really
11 important to us before we start the design process to
12 know what are the potential reuses of an area. And you
13 all heard Anna say that part of our proposal is having
14 a confined disposal facility. And that has the
15 opportunity to have potential reuse on it, as you saw
16 with the example. That's -- the type of things that
17 Anna would want to know is what is the reuse, where
18 would parking be, where would fields be, if it's going
19 to be recreational use, so that she can have that
20 incorporated in the design of a confined disposal
21 facility, whether it's putting in clean corridors, or
22 making sure it's done to be able to handle certain
23 loads, or we're configuring it so that it accommodates
24 where parking would be, or where fields would be.

25 However, we would not be able to put up the tot

1 lot climbing structures. Or we wouldn't be able to put
2 up the backstop or bleachers for watching a sporting
3 event for the potential reuse. That's the type of
4 thing that, Superfund, we're limited by law as to what
5 we can do.

6 Or in the case of its potentially responsible
7 parties, we can't force them to do that, either.
8 Because if it's something that we weren't going to do,
9 we can't force the potential responsible parties to,
10 you know, put a concession stand in. However, that
11 does not mean that there cannot be discussions between
12 a municipality and the potentially responsible parties
13 to see what they will bring to the table, to see what
14 they have done.

15 There's lots of different case studies through the
16 country where there have been reuse, and where those
17 conversations have worked, where the potentially
18 responsible parties invest a significant amount to be
19 able to have that parcel go back to potential reuse.
20 There are also examples where the municipality has put
21 money in it. There are examples of both.

22 But there are legal limitations on what we can do
23 with Superfund dollars, or require the potentially
24 responsible parties do under a Superfund cleanup.
25 Larry, did you want to add anything to that?

1 HEARING OFFICER BRILL: No, that's
2 pretty good.

3 FRANCIS: I'm just wondering --

4 MS. GREENDLINGER: Can you say your name
5 for the stenographer?

6 FRANCIS: Francis. Anyway, I'm
7 wondering if that's only one disposal area, how many
8 more will they need?

9 MS. GREENDLINGER: Anna, do you want to
10 speak to whether we would need potentially more than
11 one disposal area? The question was, for those who may
12 have not have heard it, was that might be one location,
13 how many would potentially be needed?

14 MS. KRASKO: That's a difficult
15 question. We know, basically, the volume of materials
16 that we have to dispose of. And we looked at what's
17 available out there. And in the proposed plan in the
18 brochure that is on the table, there are three
19 properties identified that by themselves or in
20 combination can provide the necessary storage.

21 Right now we're looking at those, and we're in
22 discussion with the Town of Johnston that there could
23 be, potentially, other properties that are available
24 for beneficial reuse and confined disposal facility.

25 Right now we're looking at either one property

1 that will store all the waste, or two properties that
2 we would need to store all the material that we need to
3 dispose of. So between one and two.

4 FRANCIS: Thank you. And, also, what
5 does "cap" mean? They're going to put that -- close
6 the dirt?

7 MS. GREENDLINGER: So what do we mean
8 when we say "cap" a location?

9 MS. KRASKO: Right. The cap is the
10 proposed remedy for this source area. And it's a
11 multilayer cover. Basically, it consists of several
12 layers to isolate the material that is underneath, and
13 to prevent water from going into that waste material.

14 It consists of a low permeability layer, like
15 clay. It also has a plastic layer. We have an example
16 of what plastic -- yep, Frank can show it to you. This
17 is part of it. And then on top of it, two to three
18 feet of soil. And then on top of it there is either a
19 grassy area, or asphalt.

20 FRANCIS: And it's surely going to cost
21 a lot of money?

22 MS. KRASKO: That portion of the remedy
23 for the source area soil I think is about 20 million.
24 It's not cheap. There's nothing cheap here.

25 FRANCIS: Thank you.

1 MS. GREENDLINGER: Other questions?

2 Yes, sir.

3 MR. BURNS: Donald Burns. There seem to
4 be some heavily contaminated areas of the Oxbow area
5 that aren't going to be removed. Does that create a
6 problem later on for Lyman Pond?

7 MS. GREENDLINGER: The question, for
8 anybody who may not have heard it, is there seems to be
9 significant contamination in the Oxbow area. The Oxbow
10 area is downstream from here, and it's a wetland area.
11 So the question is: If that remains, does that post
12 problems for Lyman Mill, which is downstream of that?

13 MS. KRASKO: The proposed remedy for
14 that large wetland is a combination of excavation and a
15 thin layer of cover over the remaining contamination.
16 The excavation is proposed in the areas based on two
17 criteria. One is where erosion of material is most
18 likely. And we're concerned that that material may
19 contaminate the Woonasquatucket River downstream, or
20 excavation will be done in the areas that exceed the
21 state and EPA criteria for human exposure to the
22 contaminants. So the highest levels of contamination
23 will be excavated.

24 What is left is going to be lower levels, and
25 we've done some calculations to show how many years it

1 will take to reach safe levels in those areas. And for
2 human health, I think it was four years. And
3 significantly longer for ecological receptors.

4 But the main thing is that the criteria for
5 excavation are based on the areas where either erosion
6 is likely, or where the highest levels in the soil
7 exist.

8 MS. GREENDLINGER: Yes, ma'am.

9 MS. GRENIER: I'm more concerned not
10 over there, is this area right here. This part of this
11 river here, they put -- they filled it up. And they, I
12 think by filling it up they made it worse. There's
13 nothing. Only trees have grown in there. No life, no
14 frogs, no pollywogs, and even the ducks can't even swim
15 in there anymore like they used to.

16 MS. GREENDLINGER: Do you have a
17 question about it, or a general comment?

18 MS. GRENIER: Yes, are they going to
19 work on that part, too?

20 MS. GREENDLINGER: So the question is
21 whether our proposal involves doing any work behind
22 Centerdale Manor here where we have done some
23 short-term efforts in the past?

24 MS. KRASKO: Yes, this is the area that
25 we refer to as former tail race. And there was an

1 interim cap installed there. And as part of the
2 proposal for this area, that cap will also be upgraded,
3 along with everything else.

4 MS. GRENIER: They're dumping more than
5 they were over here.

6 MS. GREENDLINGER: You said they were
7 dumping?

8 MS. GRENIER: Yeah, because water was
9 all -- each shade of water would be a different color.

10 MS. GREENDLINGER: Other questions?

11 THE REPORTER: Can I have your name,
12 please?

13 MS. GRENIER: Barbara Grenier.

14 MS. GREENDLINGER: Did I see another
15 hand up over here?

16 MR. BURNS: Yes, Don Burns, again. I'm
17 a little confused about the natural recovery process
18 for dioxin.

19 MS. KRASKO: That's what we talked about
20 in the wetland, in the large wetland, what we called
21 enhanced natural recovery. And you're correct, dioxin
22 does not break down. It doesn't degrade. Enhanced
23 natural recovery for dioxin is basically mixing clean
24 material with material that is contaminated. And
25 burying there more contaminated material with clean

1 material that's coming up from upstream. That's what
2 we refer to in this particular remedy.

3 MS. GREENDLINGER: Okay. I think we're
4 going to switch gears, unless there's anything burning.

5 MR. SIMON: I have one question, and you
6 introduced me earlier. I'm Tony Simon, from Senator
7 Whitehouse's office. So there will be a local -- while
8 all this is going on, there will be a local office with
9 a local phone number and a representative on the ground
10 out here in case there are other questions or anything
11 that comes up in the process, as well, right?

12 MS. GREENDLINGER: Tony, do you mean
13 when the work is actually happening?

14 MR. SIMON: When the work is actually
15 beginning, yes.

16 MS. GREENDLINGER: I'm not sure if
17 Anna's relocating here.

18 MS. KRASKO: Sure, I can answer it.
19 Just like when we did other actions here, short-term
20 ones, there will be a field office here, with a phone,
21 and a fully operational full-time office. I don't know
22 if there's going to be some sort of trailer somewhere,
23 or if they're going to rent a space, because it is
24 going to be a long-term construction. But it will be
25 like your regular construction site.

1 MR. SIMON: But there will be a local
2 place for people to go to?

3 MS. KRASKO: There will be a local
4 place, and there will be people here in constant
5 contact with our office in Boston. But, yes, there
6 will be, just like they were at the previous work that
7 we've done.

8 MR. SIMON: Okay.

9 MS. GREENDLINGER: And we also have Lou
10 Maccarone here from the Rhode Island Department of
11 Environmental Management. And if Lou holds to what
12 he's done in the past when we've had short-term cleanup
13 actions, you can find Lou down here on a frequent
14 basis, as well.

15 Okay. I would like to switch us. And, again,
16 this portion is going to be headed up by Larry Brill,
17 our hearing officer.

18 HEARING OFFICER BRILL: I'm going to
19 try -- can everyone here me if I don't use the mic?
20 Great. This is the more formal part of the
21 presentation. I'm Larry Brill. I'm chief of the
22 Superfund branch at the US EPA New England regional
23 office in Boston. And I'm going to serve as the
24 hearing officer for today's proceeding.

25 I would like to take a moment to describe the

1 purpose and format of this process. First, the purpose
2 of the hearing is to accept if anyone has any oral
3 comments on the proposed cleanup plan for the
4 Centerdale Manor Superfund site, that way it will go
5 into the formal record.

6 During the formal hearing, we will not be
7 responding, as Stacy said, to any questions. It's just
8 comments. However, all oral comments received will be
9 responded to as part of the site record, and will be
10 responded to EPA in writing in a document referred to
11 as a responsiveness summary. And it will be part of
12 the final record of decision, which is the overall
13 cleanup plan for the site.

14 The responsiveness and the record of decision
15 should be done, hopefully, by the end of our fiscal
16 year, which will be September 2012. And it will be
17 available -- and the information repositories are in
18 both the Johnston and North Providence libraries, and
19 in EPA's Boston office.

20 After all oral comments have been recorded, I will
21 close the formal hearing. If you feel uncomfortable
22 about speaking today, you can also just, as we said,
23 either send us by e-mail or by letter, as we have
24 before, to Anna Krasko of EPA Region 1. Comments, they
25 have to be in by February 13th. That's the last day of

1 comments. And they all will be addressed.

2 So are there any questions on the purpose of this
3 process? So if you want to have a formal comment,
4 please raise your hand so I can call on you. As I call
5 on you to make your statement, please come forward to
6 the microphone so the stenographer can hear you. When
7 you speak, please identify yourself. Spell your name,
8 and provide your address.

9 MR. RHODES: Good afternoon, everyone.
10 My name is Don Rhodes, and the spelling of the last
11 name is R-H-O-D-E-S. I am a North Providence citizen.
12 Recently retired, so I have the time to be here. We
13 just had a North Providence environmental council
14 meeting about ten days ago where an engineer from the
15 EPA spoke. And two of the things that I took from that
16 is this procedure we need a lot of patience, because
17 when -- when we go out to the people that did the
18 contamination, sometimes they really don't exist
19 anymore. So the legal thing that is going to have to
20 happen we need to be patient for, because that is going
21 to be a long procedure.

22 And the other thing I wanted to comment on is the
23 highly contaminated issues, and where this project is
24 going to be. From what the gentleman at the EPA
25 meeting, the North Providence meeting said, a lot of

1 those contaminants are going to be shipped to Canada,
2 where they have the facilities to take care of these
3 sort of contaminants. So not that we are happy that
4 they're getting them, but in some cases, the less
5 that's here, the better. Thank you, very much.

6 HEARING OFFICER BRILL: Thank you.

7 MS. SHERRILL: Hi. Pam Sherrill, town
8 planner for the Town of Johnston, offices at 100 Irons
9 Avenue. I would like to reiterate the mayor's two
10 requests as expressed in previous meetings. Number
11 one, the town must be assured that the town will not be
12 liable for any maintenance or failure of any future
13 confined disposal facilities that are located in the
14 Town of Johnston. Secondly, state contractors and
15 workers should be selected for remediation and
16 construction. The mayor is very adamant that these
17 projects -- these jobs not go to out-of-state
18 contractors.

19 I would like to offer the following comments as my
20 comments as town planner. Number one, the Town of
21 Johnston is an abutter of the Centerdale Manor site.
22 None of the pollution was generated in the Town of
23 Johnston. And, yet, we are being asked to bear the
24 brunt of the disposal on site, on up -- in upland
25 areas.

1 Secondly, the Town of Johnston has -- bears a
2 disproportionate burden statewide in the disposal of
3 landfill material. This must not continue without a
4 win for the town. And we realize that this is an
5 opportunity for a win-win for the Town of North
6 Providence, the Town of Johnston, and the EPA if this
7 is cleaned up right, and if it is a net benefit to the
8 Town of Johnston. We're definitely supportive of
9 cleanup of the waters, but it cannot be at a cost to
10 the Town of Johnston.

11 Several sites have been -- I believe there were
12 five sites that are looked at in the Town of Johnston.
13 We are very concerned that any of these sites do not
14 adversely affect the tax revenues to the Town of
15 Johnston, and that would be with property tax or
16 tangible tax.

17 Secondly, that this does not displace jobs in the
18 Town of Johnston. This is very important to us, that
19 we need to be supportive of the existing jobs that we
20 have in town. It's much easier to retain a job than to
21 attract new jobs.

22 Thirdly, this must be a -- or in going -- in the
23 discussion of the jobs issue, those jobs also have a
24 multiplier effect in the community. For every employee
25 that works at these sites, they build, or they use the

1 local economy. They support the pizza parlors, et
2 cetera, et cetera. And so there's a multiplier effect
3 for those jobs in the local economy, and that should be
4 addressed.

5 Number three, it must be a win-win, as I said, for
6 the Town of Johnston and for the EPA. And the
7 mitigation for -- mitigation for use of confined
8 disposal sites must recognize this for the Town of
9 Johnston.

10 We are supportive at this time of selection of 100
11 Irons Avenue, the DPW site, as a potential confined
12 facility disposal site. We are -- and we're also
13 supportive of use of the former tire dump that we
14 understand has been remediated up along Railroad
15 Avenue. That's at this time, these are -- this is
16 information that we have currently.

17 We are -- the Town of Johnston is working with an
18 EPA contractor on visioning for reuse of the sites,
19 specifically, at 100 Irons Avenue. And I want to call
20 people's attention to the fact that we have scheduled a
21 visioning workshop on January 11th, 2012, at 5:00, at
22 the Sarah Barnes Elementary School, to discuss
23 recreational -- the potential for recreational reuse of
24 the site at 100 Irons Avenue.

25 A couple of issues, though, that need to be

1 addressed, and I wanted to comment on those
2 specifically. We do have preliminary support for
3 relocation of the DPW elsewhere in town, but this must
4 be paid by the EPA, or the potentially responsible
5 party.

6 Secondly, we do have preliminary support at this
7 time for recreational reuse, again, to be paid by EPA
8 and the potentially responsible party. Third, we need
9 the assistance of EPA in public education regarding
10 health risks for use of recreational facilities. We
11 understand that this is a concern among residents in
12 town, and we really look to the EPA for support in this
13 area.

14 And Number four, we understand your limitations,
15 or you've expressed your limitations today on how far
16 the EPA and the potentially responsible parties can go
17 in assisting the town in beneficial reuse of the sites.
18 This is a huge burden to put on the Town of Johnston to
19 expect us to negotiate with the potentially responsible
20 parties to make sure that the outcome is a win-win.
21 And I feel that this is a disproportionate burden put
22 on the town, and any kind of assistance from EPA is
23 definitely appreciated. Again, these are my comments,
24 only.

25 One other point that I want to raise regarding use

1 of 100 Irons Avenue is that there's a Narragansett Bay
2 Commission sewer interceptor that bisects the site. We
3 need to maintain access, or the Bay Commission needs to
4 maintain access, not just to the manholes that are
5 located on the DPW property, but access to the line,
6 itself, in the event that it would ever need to be
7 replaced or repaired. And we're concerned that any --
8 any deposition on top of that could adversely affect
9 the integrity of that line, itself.

10 Again, these are not comments coming from the Town
11 of Johnston. These are just concerns that we feel that
12 the Bay Commission should be aware of. In closing, I'd
13 like to say that the town is supportive of restoring
14 water quality in the Woonasquatucket River, but it must
15 be a win-win for the Town of Johnston.

16 HEARING OFFICER BRILL: Thank you.

17 Anyone else?

18 MR. RHODES: Yes. I just wanted to say
19 that I sympathize with the Town of Johnston about this
20 matter, and one of the reasons why is when we were
21 looking for our second house, we were, um, we thought
22 we found our dream house up near the landfill, um, up
23 Center Avenue, way across from that. And we went to an
24 event where some people came out to us and said, Don,
25 if you go, like, three, or four, or five miles up from

1 where that house was, you'll change your mind.

2 And what happened is when we went up there, we
3 found boarded-up, beautiful homes, um, recreational
4 ball fields that could no longer be used. And so that
5 is something that even though Johnston -- I -- I
6 wouldn't feel that positive about wanting to have that
7 kind of contamination stored in our city, because I've
8 seen what some of the contamination has already done to
9 Johnston.

10 HEARING OFFICER BRILL: Any other
11 comments? Well, thank you. And I close the formal
12 public hearing. As I said, all the comments will be
13 addressed as part of the final document on the cleanup
14 decision. Please remember that the public comment
15 period on the Centerdale Manor site ends February 13th.
16 Thank you, and have a good afternoon.

17 (HEARING CONCLUDED AT 2:54 P.M.)
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C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

I, Tammi Burnham, RPR, Notary Public, do hereby certify that I reported in shorthand the foregoing proceedings, and that the foregoing transcript contains a true, accurate, and complete record of the proceedings at the above-entitled hearing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 29th day of December, 2011.

Tammi Burnham, RPR, Notary Public

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: November 26, 2012

IN RE: CENTERDALE MANOR RESTORATION

PROJECT SUPERFUND SITE

DATE: DECEMBER 7, 2011

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