

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: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: NORTH PROVIDENCE TOWN HALL
2000 SMITH STREET
NORTH PROVIDENCE, RI 02911**

PRESENT:

Larry Brill, Hearing Officer

Stacy Greendlinger

Anna Krasko

1 (HEARING COMMENCED AT 7:02 P.M.)

2 MS. GREENDLINGER: Good evening. Hi,
3 everybody. We're going to go ahead and get started.
4 Hi, guys. I feel like a teacher at school. How many
5 people remember this from elementary school, when the
6 teacher raises their hand, and all of a sudden the room
7 goes silent. Wow, it still works. You all had an
8 awesome elementary school teacher. We have some people
9 in the hallway that are signing in. I'm going to let
10 those folks sign in, but we are going to get started in
11 a minute.

12 Good evening, everybody. Welcome, and thank you
13 so much for coming out on such a beautiful evening that
14 we're having. We really do appreciate it. Before I
15 get started, if at any point during tonight's
16 proceedings, if you can't hear, can you just flag to
17 us, and we'll make sure that we speak clearer and
18 louder for everybody.

19 So, again, thank you for coming out. My name is
20 Stacy Greendlinger. And I'm with the US Environmental
21 Protection Agency. And we're here tonight to talk
22 about the Centerdale Manor restoration project
23 Superfund site. So it's the cleanup of the
24 Woonasquatucket River for about a mile and a half
25 stretch between, pretty much, the Brook Village and

1 Centerdale area, going down a mile and a half.

2 So that's a great cue. If you have any cell
3 phones, if you can put them on vibrate, that would be
4 awesome. Thanks to whoever did that for me.

5 So we are here tonight, as I said, to talk about
6 the Centerdale Manor. We have two portions of
7 tonight's meeting. Hopefully, when you came in, you
8 not only signed in for me, but you picked up a copy of
9 the proposed plan, if you didn't already have one.
10 This is -- what this is is a series of suggested
11 approaches for cleaning up the river with EPA's
12 preferred one included. And, also, if you hopefully
13 picked up an agenda that we will follow this evening.

14 So we ran a series of about three public
15 informational meetings in the beginning part of
16 November. And because we've had those meetings,
17 tonight is going to be an abbreviated version of the
18 information meetings, because the primary purpose
19 tonight is to be able to hear from you all, formally,
20 into the public record for the formal hearing portion.

21 So there's two parts, as I said. The first part
22 is going to be a short informational session. You will
23 have the opportunity to ask questions, and so we can
24 answer. I am going to ask during the informational
25 session if you can please hold your questions until we

1 get to the question and answer period. We will answer
2 your questions.

3 Once we conclude that, and I'm targeting 7:30 for
4 that, we will switch gears, or maybe a little bit
5 later, since we're starting -- 7:35. We're going to
6 switch gears to the formal hearing. Again, during the
7 formal hearing, the purpose of that is for us to be
8 able to capture into the record your comments about
9 EPA's proposed cleanup.

10 We cannot respond to you during the formal portion
11 of the hearing. It is just to capture it into the
12 record. That's why we're having an informational
13 session to begin with. Before I get started, I'd like
14 to thank Nancy Langrall for being here from Senator
15 Reed's office. She's also here representing the full
16 delegation. So thank you, Nancy, for coming out and
17 being ears for the full delegation. We appreciate
18 that.

19 And where's Frank Bursie? Thank you, very much,
20 to Frank Bursie and North Providence for hosting us
21 this evening. We do appreciate it, and all the help
22 that you've provided us.

23 So we are here, as I said, to talk about the
24 proposed plan. What is Superfund? Just let me briefly
25 say Superfund is EPA's federal program for cleaning up

1 hazardous waste sites throughout the country. It's
2 really kind of broken into three areas, if you will,
3 assessing the situation, does it belong in Superfund,
4 does it belong in the state program. We have Lou
5 Maccarone from the Rhode Island Department of
6 Environmental Management. If it's a state program, it
7 would go to Lou's group. If it's a federal program, it
8 would come to us. And if it's a non-Superfund program,
9 it would get kicked out at that point, and go into the
10 appropriate program.

11 So the first part is assessing it. The second
12 part is investigating. What kind of problems, what
13 kind of contamination, where is it, what's the extent
14 of the contamination, and what are possible ways of
15 dealing with it. So that's really the investigative
16 stage. That can take a long time. And we've done
17 years worth of investigation here along the river.

18 Once the investigation part closes down, it
19 culminates in a proposed plan where we issue it out to
20 the public saying based on our research and our
21 investigations, this is what we think we should do
22 moving forward. You, the public, tell us what you
23 think before we make that final decision. So we're at
24 the point where we're gathering input from people.

25 Public comment period started November 14th. As

1 you notice on here, it was slated to end on
2 January 12th. We have just extended that comment
3 period, based on requests to do so. And the new
4 comment period, close of the comment period, will be
5 February 13th, 2012. I'll get to later the different
6 ways that you can comment.

7 Once those comments close, you get to the act
8 stage. So first we had assess. Second we had
9 investigate. And then the third part of the Superfund
10 program is acting. We'll talk some more about what's
11 the next step, and where we are, and how to move
12 forward.

13 Why take action? Well, we've done a lot of
14 investigation, as I've said, here at this site. And
15 the information that we found leads us to conclude that
16 we need to take action here at this site. The
17 industrial legacy that's been left here is what's
18 propelling that. The past uses, if you were to go to
19 what we call the source area, it's currently where
20 Centerdale Manor and Brook Village are located. It's
21 approximately nine acres. And on that site, there used
22 to be a chemical manufacturing facility, as well as a
23 drum recycling facility. And that is where the origins
24 of the pollution, the contamination that now exists
25 about a mile and a half down the river.

1 The resulting contamination predominantly is
2 dioxins and PCBs. There are other contaminants, as
3 well, but dioxins and PCBs are largely what's driving
4 the cleanup. So just because you have contamination
5 doesn't actually necessarily mean you need to take
6 action. You have to have an exposure pathway. You
7 have to have a way that you are being exposed, you or
8 the environment is being exposed to the contamination.

9 What we found from our investigations is that
10 there are indeed exposure pathways here at the site.
11 And as you can see, it's really based on eating
12 contaminated fish from the river, as well as having
13 direct skin contact or accidental ingestion. If your
14 hands were to go in the sediment and then decide to
15 have a cigarette, or a sandwich, or something like
16 that, that's accidental ingestion.

17 Those are really the ways at the site. They don't
18 volatilize. It's not something you're going to breathe
19 in. It's from these pathways that the potential human
20 health risk exists, as well as ecosystem risks.

21 So we found -- we understand what the contaminants
22 are. We understand where they are. We understand that
23 there are actual possible exposure pathways. And
24 that's led us to the conclusion that we do, indeed,
25 need to take action here at the site.

1 So Anna Krasko is our technical project manager.
2 She's going to walk you through what it is that we're
3 proposing that we do to address the contamination here.

4 MS. KRASKO: Okay. So we're going to
5 look at the map of the area where we want this to
6 happen. And this is from Route 44, and going down
7 Woonasquatucket River about one and a half miles. And
8 it includes Allendale Pond and Lyman Mill Pond. And
9 we're proposing to remove contaminated sediment which
10 is primarily located underneath the water surface, as
11 well as contaminated soil in the floodplain adjacent to
12 those ponds.

13 We are also proposing to remove contamination from
14 a large wetland area shown here in the light green,
15 which is one of the last remaining environmental
16 habitats in this part of Rhode Island. In addition to
17 addressing the river, we're also going to look at the
18 source of the contamination, itself, and provide the
19 program solution there.

20 So what is going to be done? We're proposing to
21 remove over 184,000 cubic yards of contaminated
22 material, and that's a large volume for us. And it
23 will be from the river, from the floodplain, and from
24 the source area, itself. After the sediment is
25 dewatered, we're expecting to be left with about

1 110,000 cubic yards that we have to dispose of somehow.

2 The cost of the remedy is currently estimated at
3 over \$100 million. And the restoration period, itself,
4 is about four years. We don't expect the construction
5 to be starting for another five years, and we'll
6 explain why.

7 Most highly contaminated material, we think about
8 ten percent of the excavation -- of excavation will be
9 shipped off site, because we cannot store it next to
10 the river. We're proposing that this 110,000 plus
11 cubic yards will go into on-site confined disposal
12 facility. It's basically a permanent storage facility
13 constructed next to the site.

14 We're currently looking at potential sites on the
15 west side of the river in Johnston. We have three
16 proposed potential locations on page 21 of the proposed
17 plan. And one of those, or a combination, or maybe
18 some other locations nearby will be used to store the
19 material. After the construction is completed and this
20 containment is constructed, EPA will be responsible
21 under Superfund for the long-term operation and
22 maintenance.

23 So why we are proposing to put material in an
24 upland confined disposal facility? We looked at the
25 full potential of disposal at this site. One was to

1 ship all the material off site. And one was to bring a
2 portable incinerator and proper material near site.
3 That option was an upland confined disposal facility.
4 And the other one was to leave material within confines
5 of the river, basically, near-shore containment.

6 The upland CDF is ideal for this site, because
7 most of the contaminants, like PCBs and dioxin, do not
8 dissolve, and do not evaporate. They have no odors.
9 And once you put them in a permanent and secure
10 storage, there is no possibility for human contact.
11 Therefore, there's no risk, as Stacy just explained.
12 The highest levels will be shipped off site, anyway.

13 We will get contamination out of the river and
14 floodplain, which provides a permanent solution. It
15 also provides an opportunity for beneficial reuse,
16 because the Town of Johnston may be able to construct a
17 facility that can be used by Johnston residents on top
18 of that CDF. It would meet the criteria of both state
19 and EPA, and it's highly protective at lower cost than
20 bringing an incinerator on site, or containing off
21 site.

22 This is a confined disposal facility, CDF, built
23 in downtown Camilla, Georgia, just like this site,
24 because dioxins and polyaromatic hydrocarbons are major
25 contaminants. It was constructed in 2007, and the

1 municipality built and operates a park on top of this
2 facility.

3 Although EPA cannot pay for and construct specific
4 facilities beyond cleanup of Superfund on this site
5 project, just as other projects around the country,
6 there was an agreement that the municipalities and
7 private properties will construct a facility right
8 there for beneficial reuse.

9 And now Stacy will finish her presentation and
10 tell you ways to comment on our proposal, and open to Q
11 and As.

12 MS. GREENDLINGER: EPAs take very
13 seriously the opportunity for the public to be able to
14 provide comments for us. It's really important that we
15 hear your voices and your opinions before we make a
16 final cleanup decision. So the comment period really
17 is very important, and we really do encourage you to
18 take advantage of it, and to be able to provide us with
19 your comments.

20 So there are various ways of being able to provide
21 comments. Clearly, this evening, the main purpose is
22 to be able to give you the opportunity to orally
23 provide comments. And we have a stenographer, as you
24 all can see, here to be able to capture those into the
25 formal record.

1 But it's not just tonight. If you want to go back
2 and read more in the proposed plan and discuss things
3 more with other folks, you have the opportunity, as you
4 can see here, to provide comments by fax, by e-mail, by
5 mail. And as I said earlier, especially for those of
6 you who came in a little bit later, the comment period
7 has now been extended to February 13th. So you have an
8 additional 30 days to be able to provide comments by
9 fax, by e-mail, or by mail.

10 I did want to touch on what are the next steps, so
11 that people can understand that portion of it, and this
12 is part of the Superfund process. As I said, the
13 comment period closes in February. We then go through
14 and review all of the comments that we've received. We
15 do respond back to each of the comments.

16 And that response is put into what's called a
17 responsiveness summary. It is a public document. And
18 it will be part of the cleanup plan, which we call the
19 record of decision. We don't expect to issue that
20 record of decision or final cleanup plan until this
21 coming September 2012.

22 Once that happens, we have a final cleanup plan in
23 hand, and we can then engage with the potentially
24 responsible parties, or the private parties that Anna
25 referred to, and negotiate with them.

1 The full principle behind the Superfund program is
2 that the polluter pays. So it's important for us to go
3 and to engage with the potentially responsible parties,
4 with the objective to have them come to the table and
5 to conduct the cleanup.

6 Once those negotiations are concluded, we then
7 have to do a design. Much like if you were -- people
8 have heard me use this example before, if you were to
9 build an extension on your house, or a deck on your
10 house, you need to think about what's the load
11 capacity. How much lumber do I need. How deep do I
12 need to dig the footings. Those types of details are
13 exactly what happens in the design stage.

14 Once that design is done is then when we start.
15 So Anna alluded to approximately five years. It can
16 take a while to negotiate with the -- with the
17 potentially responsible parties. So if we don't have a
18 cleanup plan in hand until next September, it could be
19 several years out after that until you actually see
20 actions in your community in terms of the excavations
21 that will be occurring in the river. And by the way,
22 it is excavation, as opposed to dredging.

23 I also wanted to clarify first for some folks some
24 feedback that I've heard or questions that I've heard
25 is, well, gosh, for those who are living along the

1 river, the details is particularly what you're
2 interested in. I certainly can understand that in
3 terms of how many trucks are we talking about. How
4 long is the excavation going to take. How large will
5 the trucks be. What are the hours of operation. And
6 those are exactly the type of details, although we
7 might have a broad sense of that now, but those are the
8 details that really come out in the design stage. We
9 can't determine those until we have a cleanup plan in
10 hand, and until those negotiations happened with the
11 potentially responsible parties.

12 So the comment period has to close before that for
13 us to be able to issue a final cleanup plan, and to
14 then have the negotiations. So I just wanted to offer
15 that point of clarification.

16 But we don't go away. EPA is here. Your
17 opportunity as the public and people who live here,
18 your opportunity to share your input and to share your
19 concerns doesn't go away. It doesn't end
20 February 13th. Although we may not have a formal
21 comment period, we will be engaging the municipalities.
22 We will be engaging the people who live along the area
23 to make sure that you're informed about what's going
24 on.

25 And as the design goes along, we do it in, like,

1 30 percent design, 60 percent design, 90 percent
2 design, and then we finally have the complete
3 100 percent design. When we get to the point where we
4 have enough information, we come to the community and
5 we share that with you, and we get input from the
6 community. So your opportunity doesn't go away come
7 February 13th. And I just really wanted to clarify
8 that.

9 I also wanted to point out another resource that
10 you have, Tim O'Connor, Tim, I'm going to put you on
11 the spot. Tim works with the Woonasquatucket River
12 Watershed Council. And they have, the council has
13 what's called a technical assistance grant. Tim is
14 their technical contractor. They have a grant from EPA
15 for them to look at the technical information. They
16 are a resource.

17 And Alicia Lehrer, who is the executive director,
18 her business card was on the front. If people didn't
19 get that, or don't know Alicia, you can see Tim
20 afterwards, or you can see me afterwards. But the
21 Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council is a resource
22 for you to be able to go to and say, I don't understand
23 that, and ask them. That's exactly why Tim is hired by
24 them, to be able to provide those answers. So you do
25 have some other resources. So I wanted to point that

1 out. And thank you for letting me put you on the spot
2 there, Tim.

3 So public participation, again, does not stop on
4 February 13th. So having said that, I would like to
5 move to the question and answer period. And I want to
6 let people know, I'm going to ask if you can ask one
7 question at a time. I will come back to you. You can
8 tell there's a large number of people here. I want to
9 make sure that everybody has the opportunity to ask
10 questions. So I will hold you to one question. But I
11 will come back after those who haven't had a chance to
12 ask a question have asked already.

13 So I'd like to shift to the question and answers.
14 And once we do the questions and answers, we'll move to
15 the second part, which is the formal hearing. So right
16 now this is not for entering comments into the formal
17 record. This is for clarification, if you have
18 anything you need clarification on.

19 I'm sorry. Our stenographer is asking if people
20 can state your name, and if you can stand up. If you
21 can't, that's fine, too.

22 MS. REYNOLDS: Holly Reynolds. And my
23 question is you said it's excavation and not dredging.
24 What is the difference?

25 MS. GREENDLINGER: So the question is --

1 I'll repeat it. The question is I had stated that
2 we're talking about excavation here, not dredging.
3 What exactly is the difference between the two? I'll
4 let Anna answer that.

5 MS. KRASKO: All right. Yes, as Stacy
6 said, what they're proposing to do is excavation. The
7 difference is excavation is in the dry. The dredging
8 will be a dredging without draining the pond. Because
9 we have control of the Allendale Dam, which we
10 constructed in 2001, and we are proposing to
11 reconstruct the Lyman Mill floodgate, as well, we will
12 be able to drain one part of the pond, and just like
13 what we did on the Allendale Dam, itself, in the dry.
14 The excavation will be done in the dry. That would
15 allow us more control over the depth of excavation, and
16 also allows us to minimize contamination downstream.

17 MS. GREENDLINGER: Any other clarifying
18 questions? Hi.

19 MR. GONNELLA: My name is Tony Gonnella
20 (phonetic). And I'm just curious, I don't really
21 understand what the public comment period is for. In
22 other words -- and you know we've referred to the
23 correspondence, a number of neighbors have gotten
24 together and we've shared our concerns. I sent you an
25 e-mail regarding that. What we would like to know is,

1 you know, what is our role in this?

2 I mean, if we found that there was some hazard,
3 for instance, connected to the cleanup, dust carrying,
4 all of these materials entering our yards, our homes,
5 our lungs, is it, you know, what recourse do we have?
6 Can we close this thing down as neighbors? I mean, how
7 much power do we have in this? Is this just exercise,
8 or is this a serious --

9 MS. GREENDLINGER: Oh, no, it's quite
10 serious. Let me, in case people didn't hear, Tony is
11 asking me what exactly is the role of the public. And,
12 Tony, I think I heard, kind of, a couple of questions
13 this there. One in terms of what is the role during
14 this particular comment period, and then later when
15 cleanup is under way, if you were finding issues and
16 problems, what recourse do you have at that point. So
17 those were the two questions that I was hearing.

18 Let me take the first one. As I said, the comment
19 period is on anything that you see in here, or any of
20 the technical documents that support this. There's a
21 slew of technical documents in here. You'll see our
22 administrative record. It's online, so you can look at
23 it that way. It's also at the library in both North
24 Providence and Johnston. So there's a lot of technical
25 documents that are behind this. This is kind of a

1 summary of all those technical documents. They're open
2 for public comment, too.

3 So I can't tell you what to comment on. You know,
4 whatever your opinion is about what we're laying out
5 here. It doesn't have to be on EPA's proposed cleanup
6 that we're putting forward. It could be on one that we
7 didn't choose. You can say, I disagree. I think you
8 should have chose that, or you should have done a
9 combination of the two, or a combination of the three.
10 Whatever it is that you think is fair game for public
11 comment.

12 So you can put a comment in saying I'm worried
13 about the future when cleanup is underway. I'm worried
14 that we won't have recourse. You can absolutely put a
15 comment in like that. That's important. Because we
16 will formally respond to it. So anything is fair game.

17 I know a lot of people here are going to say use
18 of Rhode Island labor is important. That's fair game.
19 This is a public comment period. It's whatever your
20 opinion or your concern is. And it can be on any of
21 the technical documents, any of the cleanups, or
22 anticipating into the future.

23 So, again, I can't tell you what to say. But
24 that's what the purpose is. We need to be able to make
25 our final cleanup plan, or decision on the cleanup

1 plan. And we're looking for input to help guide us in
2 making that decision.

3 Now, for your second part, once -- looking to the
4 future, once we're under way, if things are happening
5 that are concerning you, if you feel like we're not
6 controlling the dust well enough during the excavation
7 portion of it, you do have recourse. You will be able
8 to reach me. You will be able to reach Anna. You will be
9 able to reach Lou.

10 We have procedures that are set in place. We'll
11 have parameters within the -- that the construction
12 needs to happen. We'll have action levels that if
13 things -- if air monitoring shows that dust is going
14 too high, and it is above our action levels, we will
15 shut down and figure out what's going on, what
16 procedures, what steps need to be taken.

17 I might say that we've had four short-term
18 cleanups here on site, and they've been in concentrated
19 areas. So we have worked, for instance, Brook Village,
20 their parking lot, you know, 2010 -- 2009/2010, their
21 parking lot was ripped up. And we were, you know,
22 excavating their parking lot and the river bank there
23 while they were living there, accommodating, you know,
24 getting to their cars. And all of those types of
25 procedures were in place.

1 So, sure, on a smaller scale and in a particular
2 location, but we have done this here along the
3 Woonasquatucket River. So there would be things in
4 place where we'll have open dialogue. I always
5 encourage people who are here to let us know what's
6 going on so that we can react in realtime and be able
7 to be on it and working with the contractors that are
8 actually doing work to address whatever the issue is.
9 So you do have recourse. But I welcome you to put that
10 in as a comment. Absolutely.

11 MR. BUTERA: My name is David Butera. I
12 hear a lot of fluff, to be honest with you. What if
13 there's enough people in this room right now that don't
14 want it done, that don't want you to clean that, don't
15 want you to tear up everything on that lake and do
16 this?

17 MS. GREENDLINGER: I welcome you to put
18 it as a comment, and that's something that we'll
19 consider.

20 MR. BUTERA: Because it's a lot of
21 fluff.

22 MR. JOSEPH SABITONI: Joseph Sabitoni.
23 In your slide you identified the primary route of
24 exposure as ingestion. What measures has the town
25 taken to prevent and/or discourage people from fishing

1 in those waters, and going down swimming, or what have
2 you, where they could potentially be exposed to
3 contamination?

4 MS. GREENDLINGER: That's a great
5 question. And, actually, eating contaminated fish is
6 the biggest concern. Direct contact and ingestion is a
7 concern, too. But, really, primarily, eating
8 contaminated fish.

9 So there are signs throughout the river. We've
10 actually worked with the Woonasquatucket River
11 Watershed Council to go in inventory, and to look at
12 are there other places that need additional signs. We
13 actually just went through that effort and posted
14 additional signs through in the areas where it didn't
15 go.

16 We have a brochure called the dos and don'ts of
17 the Woonasquatucket River, that, again, the council
18 distributes. They have a lot of different activities,
19 bike rides, canoe paddles, et cetera, where they're out
20 with people who use the resource who would be most
21 likely to come into contact with it. We issue a press
22 release, and it gets covered. That actually does get
23 picked up to run in the newspapers to remind people of
24 the dos and don'ts.

25 A significant portion along the river has fences

1 up. Hello, Mr. Mayor. It's good to see you. Thank
2 you for joining us. We do have in some areas there are
3 fences that are up preventing people from actually
4 being able to get right to the river. So those are the
5 different measures. And Anna wants to say something.

6 MS. KRASKO: I just want to add that
7 since about, I think, 1996, Rhode Island Department of
8 Health put a fishing advisory on the Woonasquatucket
9 River below the Smithfield fishing device. So it's
10 catch and release only. And it's -- we've done surveys
11 of people along the river. It seems about everyone is
12 aware of it.

13 MS. GREENDLINGER: Yes.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Lori Johnson. Who exactly
15 is eating the fish, and how many people have been
16 sickened by the fish?

17 MS. GREENDLINGER: So we don't have data
18 from -- in terms of who's eating the fish. I wish Bob
19 Vanderslice from the health department was here. And
20 he's answered that question before. I think you may
21 have asked him that question before. I certainly don't
22 have the expertise that Bob does. So the answer that
23 he gave you at the last meeting --

24 MS. JOHNSON: Could you just repeat his
25 answer?

1 MS. GREENDLINGER: To the best of my
2 ability, I will, because I certainly am not the health
3 expert that he is, and we don't have ours with us. Bob
4 was basically saying that we don't have health data on
5 that. But he was -- and I think he also was saying
6 that there aren't blood tests, or things that you can
7 take to be able to show the direct cause to it.

8 I also know that our health -- our risk assessor
9 has based it on 30 years of consumption. I don't know
10 -- in the proposed plan, I don't recall the numbers
11 offhand in terms of how much fish you need to consume
12 over a 30-year time period to be able to have a
13 potential health concern. So it's a significant amount
14 that you have to eat for a long duration. It's not one
15 of those --

16 MS. JOHNSON: So no one has come to the
17 department of the health to say I have eaten fish from
18 this river and it has made me sick?

19 MS. GREENDLINGER: I'm not aware of
20 anybody going to the department of public health and
21 saying that they're sick from eating the fish. So,
22 again, I'm going to ask that -- I want to be conscious
23 of allowing people to have comment time. So, again,
24 clarifying questions.

25 MR. CANZONIERI: My name's David

1 Canzonieri, and I worked on a job in 2009. There
2 wasn't any problems. They had a water truck to keep
3 the dust down. They had a hygienists all the time.
4 And EPA was there every single day taking samples.

5 There was so many barrels that they took out.
6 Even that little area, I think it was about 1200 --
7 maybe not even 1200 feet long. They put piles in.
8 They took the water out, and then they took the dirt
9 out, and took it away. And they put new dirt in.

10 MS. GREENDLINGER: Thank you for
11 sharing.

12 MR. CANZONIERI: And they put a whole
13 new parking lot in. Right over here.

14 MS. GREENDLINGER: Brook Village.

15 MR. CANZONIERI: I think it's Sal
16 Mancini.

17 MS. GREENDLINGER: Brook Village
18 Apartments.

19 MR. CANZONIERI: Is that Brook Village,
20 the name of it?

21 MS. GREENDLINGER: Yep. So thank you
22 for sharing that.

23 MS. CARLINO: My name is Marie Carlino,
24 C-A-R-L-I-N-O. My question has to do with that
25 permanent cap. Now, I'm thinking not five years from

1 now or ten years from now, I'm thinking 15 to 20 years
2 down the road, the EPA is primarily responsible for
3 long-term maintenance, as I think I heard that. What
4 does that mean? Does that mean testing that facility,
5 that upland containment facility for any odors that are
6 emitted? Is there a venting system on this? Does
7 there need to be a venting system? Because I'm
8 thinking about the problems with the landfill right
9 now, the smell. I'm thinking 20 years down the line
10 where there's an issue who is responsible, is it EPA,
11 is it DEM? And I just want to clarify that.

12 MS. GREENDLINGER: Yep. I can clarify
13 that, and Anna can add anything she wants to add.
14 Whatever waste is left in place, which in this case
15 we're proposing that that be the case, the US
16 Environmental Protection Agency must, on a five-year
17 basis, go in and do a five -- what's called a five-year
18 review to make sure that the cleanup tank is
19 functioning the way we expected it to.

20 The specifics of what we would do for that, I'll
21 let Anna answer. But it is EPA that's responsible
22 every five years to do that. After a certain period of
23 time, the -- what's called operation and maintenance of
24 the site, meaning, the long-term monitoring, does
25 switch over to the state. But EPA still is involved

1 even when the operation and maintenance goes on,
2 because we have to do those five-year reviews. So we
3 don't go away, either, even when the operation and
4 maintenance goes -- that responsibility goes to the
5 state. Do you want to speak to what would be typically
6 involved in the five-year review?

7 MS. KRASKO: Sure. In addition to the
8 five-year review, there is usually an annual
9 monitoring. And there will be a monitoring plan
10 developed as the facility is being constructed. And it
11 will be available, obviously, to the public. It will
12 be in the public domain. And that will spell exactly
13 what will be monitored, and in what frequency.

14 Usually it involves monitoring groundwater, you
15 know, water underneath and around the facility, for
16 contaminants that may be present. We don't expect any
17 off-gases, or any volatilization, or need for vents,
18 because there is no solid waste going into this
19 facility.

20 And what we see on the landfill over there is when
21 the solid waste is decomposed it generates methane and
22 other gases. And that's why you get the smell. Here
23 it's going to be basically a soil, just like soil we
24 see on the street. Because after the sediment is
25 processed, it's going to become soil. Basically, it's

1 going to be a pile of soil, and you don't need to vent
2 it.

3 There will be a liner on the bottom, like this on
4 the table. There is an example of a liner. It's high
5 density polyethylene. It's 40 millimeters thick on the
6 bottom. There will be similar plastic on the top.
7 There will be a drainage layer to move water away from
8 the facility. There will be a leachate collection
9 system, if necessary. So if any water gets into the
10 facility, it's collected and directed away. And it's
11 basically done in perpetuity on at least a yearly
12 basis. With this facility there is really no reason to
13 expect any serious problems.

14 MS. GREENDLINGER: Yes, Michael.

15 MR. MICHAEL SABITONI: Michael Sabitoni.
16 I heard your presentation using the time frame of five
17 years for construction of this to start, and the
18 potential of delays to that time frame. So my question
19 is: If there is the potential of delays out further
20 than that five years that you had mentioned, would that
21 potentially trigger the potential that this project
22 never happens because of the particular amount of
23 resources that went into -- and the studies that have
24 formed to get us to this point?

25 And in addition to that, contained on page 9, if

1 you look, it says that the stated goal for the Rhode
2 Island Rivers Council policy and plan that was amended
3 in 2004 says that this river be deemed fishable and
4 swimmable, and return back to that place by 2020. If
5 we lose this opportunity now, could potentially the
6 taxpayers of the state and/or the municipalities be on
7 the hook in the future to clean up the river on its
8 own?

9 MS. GREENDLINGER: Let me answer that
10 with no, they're not. I can answer that one easy,
11 fast. No, the municipalities would not be on the hook
12 for the cleanup. So, in terms of potential delays, it,
13 you know, it's an estimate of the time frame because of
14 those discussions and negotiations that have to happen.
15 And we, you know, it's unfair of me to say, oh, this is
16 a definite thing to people. I don't want to mislead
17 you.

18 Those are negotiations and dialogue that have to
19 happen, that we can guesstimate as to how long they'll
20 take based on other experiences. But we won't know
21 until we're in it and it happens to know exactly how
22 long it takes.

23 Part of what I think you were getting at was, and
24 let me just say, our intent is to have potentially
25 responsible parties come to the table. We often get

1 the question of so what if that doesn't happen, or what
2 if it doesn't happen to the extent that we need it to,
3 which is part of your question, would it then fall
4 apart and never get cleaned up? It then happens at --
5 if we didn't get the, either, if we have didn't have
6 any kind of agreement with them, or if it was only a
7 partial agreement, no, we would not go back to the
8 municipalities and ask them for it. It would go to the
9 US EPA to be funded and be what's called a fund lead
10 site, where we would do -- take responsibility for
11 doing the cleanup.

12 Now, having said that, there are other sites in
13 the country in the Superfund program that are in that
14 predicament where, maybe, there aren't responsible
15 parties, or they are looking to have EPA funding. So
16 EPA has a process where different sites that are like
17 that have to get ranked with each other in terms of who
18 gets the funding first. So it's not a question of if
19 you'll get funding, it's just a question of in what
20 order, because there are other sites that are in the
21 queue. So that's what would happen. It's just a
22 matter of when.

23 MR. CORRENTE: Lenny Corrente. My
24 question, also, is, too, on the start of the date of
25 the construction. The money's there. The project's

1 there. The contaminants are there. The longer we
2 wait, the longer it goes downstream. And every time
3 there's a flood, it goes into yards. I mean, there's
4 no way of streamlining this, you know?

5 MS. GREENDLINGER: Wish us luck with
6 negotiations.

7 MR. CORRENTE: I think it's a win-win
8 situation with the City of North Providence and
9 Johnston. It's going to create jobs. It's going to
10 clean up our area.

11 MS. GREENDLINGER: We hear you. We
12 certainly hope that it's faster than five years. And,
13 again, we hope that we have fruitful conversations with
14 the potentially responsible parties so that we can get
15 on to doing the work.

16 I'm going to hold for just one second in case
17 there are others who haven't asked a question and want
18 to ask a question.

19 MS. BISSANTI: Carol Bissanti. I'm kind
20 of responding to what this gentleman said about how
21 things went well when they resurfaced the parking lot.
22 As I understood what he said, there were a variety of
23 people with a variety of roles at that site. I'm
24 assuming that's for monitoring the process. But I'm
25 also anticipating that there's anticipation about

1 potential risks when the processes are in place. Could
2 you address what those potential risks are to the
3 residents?

4 MS. GREENDLINGER: To the residents, um,
5 I -- yeah, I'm going to let Anna answer that. I know
6 that she was looking -- just to say, first, workers are
7 closer to it than residents are. So they're, you know,
8 things are based on what would the workers' risk be,
9 because they have the highest risks. I'm going to have
10 Anna answer it. I don't know if you have the authority
11 to answer that.

12 MS. KRASKO: I'm going to say about
13 workers' risk, I think we've run a calculation on
14 workers thinking that they are in the soil, and they
15 come into contact with groundwater and soil. And as
16 far as the residents, it's noise. It's the dust. It's
17 light pollution, lighting. And those types of
18 activities can be controlled by engineering.

19 So we have monitors, and there were monitors at
20 the environmental construction site to monitor for
21 dust, or to monitor for any emissions. I don't believe
22 there was any detected, any contamination detected. It
23 was monitored. As far as dust, you can use like foam,
24 or you can use like water from water truck to keep the
25 dust down. As far as noise, you can also put controls

1 on the machinery, and control the hours of operations.
2 So that -- in those engineering plans that support the
3 proposed plan, there is a section that is called
4 short-term impact, and it describes all those types of
5 impacts. And it says that basically that there are
6 means available to control the impacts on -- just like
7 we do on construction sites, plus potential emissions
8 that we will be monitoring for contamination.

9 MS. GREENDLINGER: I'm conscious of
10 time, and the fact that the primary purpose of tonight
11 is to have a formal hearing. I know more of you may
12 have questions. We'll be here afterwards to -- I'd
13 like to be able to shift us to the formal hearing.
14 And, again, comment period goes to February 13th. So
15 tonight is not your only opportunity to be able to
16 submit comments. So, yes, you.

17 MR. CANZONIERI: Before they do
18 anything, every piece of dirt is tested and sent out,
19 and they know how much is in there. I'm working on one
20 now in Newport. So if the people want to see what
21 one's like, they can go to Newport, or send somebody to
22 film it and show them. That's what we do. We fill the
23 trucks. We tape the trucks. They close the trucks.
24 And they take the dirt to Vermont.

25 MS. GREENDLINGER: And it's true, we've

1 done a lot of this at other sites. I'd be happy to
2 share that after the meeting, what happened at other
3 sites where we had trucks going right through the
4 neighborhood, very narrow streets, an elementary school
5 a block away, a bike path that they had to go over to
6 be able to get to the site. So we had a lot of other
7 experiences that deal with a lot. Here, we can share
8 with you what we did there.

9 I am going to have us switch to the formal
10 hearing. Again, we can't respond during this time.
11 I'm going to ask Larry Brill to come up. He's going to
12 be our hearing officer for tonight's hearing portion.

13 HEARING OFFICER BRILL: Thank you. My
14 name's Larry Brill. I'm the chief of the Superfund
15 branch at the US Environmental Protection Agency's
16 regional office in Boston, Mass., and I'll be serving
17 as the hearing officer tonight. I would like to be
18 able to start the process. I'll try not to be
19 redundant, because Stacy mentioned most of this. This
20 is the official hearing part of the process where all
21 your comments will become part of the record, and we
22 will have to respond to those comments.

23 Again, the purpose for tonight is to accept,
24 either, your oral comments, if you want to give them,
25 on our proposed plan centered at Centerdale, and that

1 is the Superfund site, and become part of the formal
2 record.

3 During the hearing, we will not be responding to
4 oral comments, but we will have to respond to all of
5 them in writing, and that will become part of the final
6 document of our cleanup and how we're going to address
7 the site. And that is hopefully targeted to be done by
8 September of this fiscal year, September 2012. And
9 that information will be available at both the Johnston
10 and North Providence libraries, and at EPA's office.

11 After the oral comments have been recorded, I'll
12 close the formal hearing. If you don't feel
13 comfortable speaking tonight in public, feel free, as
14 we said, you can send any comments in writing or e-mail
15 to Anna Krasko. And then those will become part of the
16 permanent record about the site.

17 And then EPA's responsibility is that we will have
18 to respond to those and address those. Any comments
19 about safety, any issues, we'll address those in our
20 responsiveness summary.

21 Again, it has to be submitted by February 13th.
22 After that, we can no longer accept the comments. So I
23 guess if there's any questions on the purpose of the
24 format of the hearing, I can take that. Otherwise, if
25 you would please raise your hand. I'll call you to

1 speak. Again, if you can give us your full name for
2 the stenographer. She's going to have to capture it
3 for the sake of the record. And, please, identify
4 yourself, and provide us with your name and address.
5 I'll open it to public comments.

6 MR. ASLYN: My name my name is Don Aslyn
7 (phonetic). I live along the river, and your objective
8 for this river is to make it swimmable and fishable; is
9 that correct?

10 HEARING OFFICER BRILL: Unfortunately, I
11 know it's bizarre. I cannot answer. In this process,
12 I can't answer. We will answer that question in
13 writing and identify the answer. But I -- I will talk
14 to you after the meeting. But I can't -- this part of
15 the hearing I can't answer questions.

16 MR. ASLYN: You can't answer that
17 question?

18 HEARING OFFICER BRILL: I'm sorry.
19 That's the process.

20 MR. ASLYN: Okay. All right. Well,
21 that's the thing that I'm hearing, you want to make it
22 swimmable and fishable, correct?

23 HEARING OFFICER BRILL: I'm going to
24 talk to you after this. Obviously, that's the goal of
25 the federal government and the Clean Water Act.

1 MR. ASLYN: And you're going to spend
2 \$101 million to accomplish this, and it's going to take
3 years and years of construction work, and possibly
4 threaten the health of the people that live along the
5 river by digging up all this contaminated soil and
6 spreading it all over the neighborhood.

7 That's a very realistic possibility that could
8 happen. This is pretty nasty chemicals. Dioxin is
9 used in Agent Orange based on war. Okay. It's serious
10 stuff. And you're just going to dig it all up and
11 truck it through the neighbors, and it's going to get
12 spilled all over the place. And there's going to be
13 stuff blowing around in the area.

14 It gets very windy on that river. And the wind
15 can pick up 30, 40 miles an hour in no time. It's a
16 wide open area. And you're talking like 42 acres.

17 You've also got a problem -- even if you did spend
18 the 101 million and you cleaned it all up, and dug it
19 all out, and went through all that, what's to stop it
20 from getting recontaminated by another chemical mill,
21 or some other manufacturing plant upstream accidentally
22 dumping chemicals into the river and repolluting the
23 whole area after it's been cleaned up. There's no way
24 of forecasting if that's going to happen, correct?
25 It's a possibly. All right.

1 Number two, you've got a problem with sewage
2 getting into the river. You've got the Smithfield
3 sewer plant upstream. What happens when it rains like
4 hell? It overflows. Where does it go? Into the
5 Woonasquatucket River.

6 You've got highways, huge parking lots, all kinds
7 of roads where the water runs off, goes into the river.
8 That's full of pollutants. So this river is
9 consistently polluted. Not just the chemicals you've
10 got dumped in there 60 years ago, you've got constant
11 pollution going in there. And my thought is I wouldn't
12 swim in that river if you paid me. Would you swim in
13 it? I don't think so. Thank you, very much.

14 HEARING OFFICER BRILL: Thank you.

15 Anyone else?

16 MS. GREENDLINGER: Is this working now?
17 Okay. Can you hear it now?

18 MR. JOSEPH SABITONI: My name's Joseph
19 Sabitoni. I live at 126 Hawkins Boulevard in North
20 Providence. I grew up in Johnston. Spent a lot of my
21 childhood along the Woonasquatucket River. Presently,
22 I'm a member of Local 271. I work for the New England
23 Laborer's Training Academy in Pomfret, Connecticut,
24 where we provide the best hazardous waste training in
25 the country.

1 Our members are the safest and most productive
2 workers. They have experience in cleaning up ponds
3 like this. We have concern for the residents of these
4 areas who are facing the problem of -- worried about
5 the contamination that could spread. It's not going to
6 happen. The controls that are in place, the highly
7 trained individuals who perform this work can give
8 members of the community confidence that this will be
9 done right, on time, and on budget.

10 (APPLAUSE)

11 HEARING OFFICER BRILL: You, and then
12 you. Front to back.

13 MS. CARLINO: Marie Carlino. My comment
14 is I've heard a lot about the excavation of the ponds
15 and the lakes, but I've heard very little about how we
16 are going to -- whatever we need to plant, whatever we
17 need to stock the pond back up with fish, I heard
18 nothing about that. So in the five to ten years it's
19 going to take to excavate it, we're going to have a
20 bunch of water sitting in a dirty hole. That's what
21 I'm seeing.

22 Because right now there is plenty of wildlife back
23 there, and I have pictures to prove it. And I posted
24 some on the Watershed Council's site. So I would just
25 like to know at some point what are we going to do to

1 bring the wildlife back?

2 MS. ROMANO: Tara Romano, 34 A Stone
3 Trail. I personally support this project. Although I
4 don't live along the site, itself, I think there are a
5 slew of benefits to it. First and foremost, you're
6 creating an influx of jobs that will provide family
7 supporting incomes. These families can then in turn
8 invest their money in the local communities, services,
9 goods, creating this multiplier effect which the
10 economy needs.

11 Aside from that, you are removing contaminants.
12 Which the gentleman over there pointed out, dioxin, a
13 lot of these contaminants are classified carcinogenics.
14 They are also linked to cancers, and other -- other
15 diseases that are bad.

16 There is no financial burden on the municipality
17 being another benefit of this project. Just touching
18 upon the carcinogenics that are being removed, we don't
19 ultimately know if they sit there, if they're going to
20 just further contaminate, and it's going to get worse.
21 There's no way to predict the future here.

22 In my opinion, you're improving the environment,
23 the ecosystem, and the landscape, itself, and you're
24 putting people at work.

25 (APPLAUSE)

1 MR. BUTERA: I'll take it. My name is
2 David Butera. I have -- I have a lot of things that
3 are a problem. Yes, I understand jobs are necessary,
4 but we don't know, for one, that the company or
5 companies can pay for it. And if they can't pay for
6 it, the 101 million is a low estimate, or is a
7 ballpark. You're looking at 150 to \$200 million. If
8 the companies cannot pay for that, the taxpayers pay
9 for it. The EPA is the tax-funded entity in the United
10 States government. We pay for it.

11 So, yes, it benefits in the long run, but we pay
12 for it. I looked at these photographs. Do you know
13 every single one of these birds and wildlife on here
14 are back there. I've got photos of them. I sent it to
15 this gentleman right here. As a matter of fact, I just
16 took a picture of an otter two weeks ago, staring me in
17 the face from me to my wife. Beautiful.

18 You're going to take two feet, two and a half feet
19 in draining the pond, in draining the pond, two and a
20 half feet bulldozer all the way around. All the way
21 around this lake. See the blue? Two and a half feet
22 all the way around, killing everything, brush,
23 wildlife, fish, otters, everything. Wiping it clean.
24 Estimated, from what I could gather from what they're
25 showing us, 30 years before it comes back.

1 So if you're wiping out two and a half feet all
2 the way around, wiping it clean, you have no fish.
3 That means you have no birds. You have no otters. You
4 have no nesting areas. You have an environmental
5 cleanup that is fluffened up as you're hearing it now.

6 I live on the lake. I understand jobs. But 150
7 to \$200 million, they're going to have their thumb on
8 companies from now until eternity. Because if they
9 can't pay for it, guess what, I'm going back to you
10 again. I'm going to you again, and again, and again.
11 Over, and over, and over, they're going to keep going
12 back.

13 And if the site that we live on, or live next to,
14 does fail, they're going to go back again. And they're
15 going to put their thumb on companies from now until
16 the day I die, and further. Is that what this country
17 is living for? Is that how this country works?

18 Long-term effect, who is going to, A, take care of
19 that property, mow the lawn, take care of the
20 maintenance, make sure kids don't play on it? I know
21 it's not coming out of you or the EPA. It's got to
22 come somewhere. And it's coming out of the back
23 pockets right here. Right here. In this state, in
24 this town.

25 I agree with jobs. We need them. But do we need

1 it at this type of expense? Do we need this type of
2 impact in our communities?

3 (APPLAUSE AND BOOING)

4 HEARING OFFICER BRILL: Let's keep the
5 comments about the cleanup.

6 MR. CORRENTE: I understand there's
7 already been tests performed on the wildlife and on the
8 fish that they are already contaminated. And there is
9 -- at this precise moment now there is buried material
10 underground there, also, at this precise moment and
11 time. I mean, you do want this cleaned up. It would
12 be beneficial for everybody.

13 MR. CANZONIERI: Do people still want to
14 breathe what's in the area? If it doesn't get cleaned
15 up, they're still breathing it every day. Your life
16 gets shorter, and shorter, and shorter. They don't
17 know how much is out there if it hasn't been tested.

18 And, usually, when they take something away, they
19 usually put it back. Like I said, I'm working on a
20 site in Newport. They took out I don't know how many
21 tons, at least 500 truckloads. And they put
22 500 truckloads of clean fill back. You know, so it
23 just goes and it comes back.

24 And every truck gets sealed. It gets sealed. We
25 glue it, and we tape it. And then the truck gets cover

1 on it before it goes out. And every cartridge, they
2 have a cartridge on every site that we work at. And
3 ever day that cartridge gets read what's in it. And
4 they tell you the next morning what's in the cartridge.
5 And if it's, you know, too much whatever they're
6 looking for, they do something different. You know, if
7 it's not too much, they do less. And that's how it is.

8 But I wouldn't want to live there knowing that
9 this stuff is still coming out of the air every day.
10 People don't know what's over there. I mean, just by
11 smell, you can't tell by smell what you're smelling.
12 You might take ten years off your life.

13 HEARING OFFICER BRILL: Sir.

14 MR. GONNELLA: My name is Anthony
15 Gonnella. Did you want an address? I live on the
16 river. I'm one of the people that lives on the river.
17 And I'm one of the people that's going to be most
18 affected by whatever happens here. And I wrote a
19 letter to Stacy. And I want to thank Stacy. I think
20 you have a tough job, Stacy, and I think you're doing
21 it very well.

22 However, in the letter, I'll be brief, I won't
23 read the entire letter. What I wrote is the public
24 comment period ends long before the engineering plan
25 has been devised. And this means that the affected

1 community's comments will be based on highly incomplete
2 information. In informational meetings held by the EPA
3 at North Providence Town Hall, the community has been
4 informed about the objectives for the cleanup, but not
5 how these objectives will be accomplished. If the
6 river is to be drained, the bed exposed, and
7 8,000 truckloads of sediment removed over a two-year
8 period, as been presented at informational meetings, it
9 seems there's a potential for significant health
10 hazards, especially if the newly exposed dioxins, and
11 PCBs, furans, pesticides, VOCs, SVOCs, and metals
12 become airborne by the strong winds which are prevalent
13 along the river. This is an obvious concern. However,
14 having no experience in such matters, and being aware
15 that the devil's often in the details, I fear my
16 neighbors and I really can't anticipate how dangerous
17 and disruptive the cleanup will be.

18 The community can't know pertinent questions to
19 ask or comments to make until the engineering process
20 has been decided upon and clearly and simply
21 communicated. This letter has been signed by 18 people
22 in the neighborhood. I'd like that to go on the
23 record. Thank you.

24 HEARING OFFICER BRILL: Any others?

25 MR. RHODES: My name is Don Rhodes. I

1 was at the Centerdale Manor meeting earlier this
2 afternoon. And some of the concerns I have were when
3 the planner for Johnston, who was at that meeting, I
4 don't know if she's here tonight, but the only thing
5 that we heard about with moving of the sediment in the
6 soil was that would be done to Johnston, as long as --
7 and the only term I heard was win, win, win, win, win,
8 win, win. What does that -- what does that constitute?
9 Is it just jobs? Okay. Is it just more, more
10 opportunities for employment?

11 Ten years ago my wife and I looked into Johnston
12 to buy our second house. And at that time, if you go
13 up Atwood Avenue, and turn up to Star Avenue, where
14 Allendale is, we thought we found our dream house. It
15 was beautiful.

16 The next day, we went to a family event, and some
17 people said, well, why don't you take another drive and
18 go about five miles up that road from where you think
19 your dream house is. And on that road, there's nothing
20 but boarded-up house, recreational ball fields that
21 haven't been touched in years, and years, and years.
22 And if this is going to happen at Johnston, which
23 borders North Providence, what, you know, I hope
24 something has been done to address that.

25 MR. MICHAEL SABITONI: Michael Sabitoni.

1 No disrespect to the gentleman that just spoke, but I
2 live in that neighborhood. And that ball field is
3 probably one of the most used ball fields in the State
4 of Rhode Island, currently. Actually, it holds --
5 there's a whole housing in Johnston, girls' softball
6 league. There's been extensive reclamation in that
7 area. Those houses have been removed, along with in
8 addition with the Department of Environmental
9 Management, EPA, DEM, it makes the best of a difficult
10 situation where the trash in the State of Rhode Island
11 has to go somewhere. You ask the residents who live in
12 that community, including myself, I live three miles
13 from the landfill, would I wish to have a landfill
14 three miles from my home? Absolutely not. As I'm sure
15 all the residents that live along this river, would you
16 wish to live on the river that's contaminated with all
17 the things that are in this report? Absolutely not.

18 So what is the option? Nothing. It's there, to
19 leave it there. What about the quality of life of
20 people in the future? What about the property values
21 in the area? You have a potential to not only create
22 jobs. And, yeah, jobs are a big part of this. These
23 are members that live in this community right now
24 that's currently 50 percent unemployment.

25 Every time when they talk about constructing a

1 bridge, or cleaning up a project, or doing this, or
2 doing that, we always run into, in the construction
3 industry, which I work for -- I'm also president of the
4 building trade representing 10,000 construction men and
5 women in and around the State of Rhode Island -- of not
6 my backyard. And I understand that. Coming from the
7 area that I hail from. But looking at the long-term
8 potential impacts, the good impacts to the quality of
9 life in the future, yeah, it will be short-term pains
10 for long-term gains.

11 There will be inconveniences with construction.
12 They will be remediated and mitigated, as my colleague
13 and cousin had mentioned, where this isn't just a
14 flashing of hand. The Environmental Protection Agency
15 has been around for a little bit. We've done some
16 cleanups, I imagine. This isn't your first time at the
17 merry-go-round. So we're not the guinea pig to do this
18 type of cleanup. I'm sure we've tackled bigger fish,
19 to use a pun. And it's all about the quality of life
20 for the residents of this state, the residents of this
21 community, the Towns of Johnston and North Providence.

22 I understand the concerns. I live with the
23 concerns. I raise a family three miles from that
24 landfill. So it's not I'm coming into a different
25 community. As my cousin and colleague had mentioned, I

1 also grew up along the Woonasquatucket River. I also
2 played ball on Heinz Field, which now houses the
3 Johnston DPW, and played along that industrial park.
4 And we used to run around down the railroad tracks.
5 And I'd squeal on you when you used to shoot the
6 squirrels with the BB gun.

7 So this is our community, also, and we understand
8 that. I don't live right on the river, but I spent a
9 lot of time in and around these communities. And we
10 represent a substantial amount of people in these
11 communities that are looking for a quality of life, a
12 better future, not only for your local community
13 directly on that river, but both communities as a
14 whole.

15 I know both Mayor Lombardi and Mayor Polisena
16 support this. And one of their big supports of this is
17 not only about the long-term quality of life, but for
18 the immediate residents, but also the long-term quality
19 of life and economic impacts it will have on both
20 communities going forward. To put these communities as
21 not known as a landfill and dirty river, but
22 communities that are taking steps to mitigate years of
23 pollution, and to wrong a right [sic]. Which isn't
24 going to be easy. The easiest thing to do is to stare
25 at those fish, to stare at those birds, but don't touch

1 those birds, don't touch those fish. Admire from afar.
2 Don't get too close. Don't get too close.

3 So we wholeheartedly support this project. We
4 have hundreds, if not thousands of residents in these
5 communities that will support this project, and
6 projects like this that will not only be a two-for.
7 Clean up the community. Clean up the quality of life
8 in the existing community, with some short-term pain.
9 That will happen. There'll be some inconvenience. But
10 the long-term gain, not only for the existing
11 residents, but the future residents of that
12 neighborhood for years to come. Thank you.

13 (APPLAUSE)

14 MS. FEDEROWICZ: Hi. Yvonne Federowicz,
15 36 Hawthorn Street. And I have a cold, sorry. So I
16 have friends who played in that river in spite of all
17 the fencing and everything as kids. So, you know, I --
18 I think you had an excellent comment, the gentleman who
19 just spoke before me. I'm happy to see the long-term
20 planning that the EPA has put together here. I think
21 it's a good plan. It makes it safer for our community,
22 and our children, and grandchildren, long-term.

23 Right now it is not safe. You might think, oh,
24 it's sitting there at the bottom of the pond. But
25 that's no guarantee. It's like having buried land

1 mines, or something, that, you know, you're never going
2 to know if there's going to be some future flood that's
3 going to be bigger, and some dioxin is going to be, you
4 know, right down the stream into the path of some kid
5 who's playing outside of the fenced area. And, you
6 know, kids aren't going to respect those fences anyway.

7 So I'm happy that there's a long-term plan that
8 has, you know, the best chance that the technologists
9 can give it, anyway, to keep it upland and away from
10 the floodplain. I think that's an excellent idea. And
11 I think -- and, also, there's fish, you know, those
12 fish aren't going to stay right there. Those little
13 fish that get the dioxin in them, they're going to go
14 downstream. And some bigger fish are going to eat
15 them. And it's going to end up in your sandwich if you
16 leave that sitting there. So it's not safe just
17 sitting there. Thank you.

18 MS. BISSANTI: Carol Bissanti, 518
19 Woonasquatucket Avenue. I guess what I would like us
20 to consider in terms of this cleanup is that as we
21 begin to deal with decades of abuse in our area, that
22 we also consider what the current threats are in our
23 area. And right now we have an asphalt plant across
24 from the Allendale Dam that commits many of the list of
25 environmental contaminants that I saw at a meeting here

1 several months ago.

2 No one has done a formal study about how that is
3 currently impacted. And that is, I think, about
4 \$101 million. If this cleanup is successful, and
5 hopefully it will be, if that is not addressed, how
6 will that continue to emit toxins or contaminants that
7 may affect the long-term cleanup of that river, and the
8 environment, and its effect on the residents of our
9 community?

10 HEARING OFFICER BRILL: Any other
11 comments?

12 MS. JOHNSON: My name is Lori Johnson,
13 and I am a taxpayer of the Town of Johnston. I am
14 totally against this super site fund [sic]. I feel
15 that it provides potential hazards with no immediate
16 hazards until the work begins and we start moving
17 around the sediment. I do not want my town to hold
18 three sediment containers. The Town of Johnston
19 already hosts a dump that smells to high heaven.

20 And I hate to tell all of you people, but the
21 town, the taxpayers of North Providence and Johnston
22 are not going to get jobs. They are not going to be
23 hired. The companies who already do this type of work
24 already have all the people that they need to do this
25 type of work. So no new jobs are going to be created

1 from this super site fund that I will work every day to
2 make sure never happens in my town. Thank you, very
3 much.

4 HEARING OFFICER BRILL: Anybody?

5 MR. MICHAEL SABITONI: Just as a
6 comment, just on the potential construction jobs that
7 will be created to give you a for-instance in different
8 areas around the state, the Newport Navy Base, as my
9 member Mr. Canzonieri is working on currently, does a
10 substantial amount of cleanup on that base due to old
11 emissions, dumps, tank compounds, et cetera. And the
12 companies that do come in, some of which are from Rhode
13 Island, subcontractors, or large remedial firms that
14 come in from out of state, when they do come in here,
15 they hire a local workforce.

16 As you heard, the training that goes into the
17 hazardous waste remedial field is not something easily
18 -- that you can be transparent, or transfer from state
19 to state to different regulations and licenses. So we
20 have the workforce that's here and trained through
21 hazardous waste, radiation, remediation, asbestos,
22 lead, all of the technical aspects that we need to
23 conduct this type of construction.

24 Same thing with the bridge and road construction,
25 the same workforce. Sometimes you do have contractors

1 that come in from other areas. I know we would like to
2 see the maximization of local employers, local
3 contractors, local haulers, to conduct and inform this
4 project. But the workforce will be the local
5 workforce.

6 And that's the history of the building trades for
7 well over a hundred years, where any major construction
8 project of this magnitude, any single one, you can
9 point it out and you can bring it up, the workforce
10 that's completed that, including the second phase of
11 what we're doing now further on down the
12 Woonasquatucket River, which is the Narragansett Bay
13 combined sewer overflow project that you might see
14 DiGregorio Corporation now just as you get to the
15 Providence line, is a local workforce.

16 I'll give you the last one, in interest of time,
17 when we constructed a three-mile tunnel 275 feet
18 beneath the City of Providence with one of the largest
19 tunnel boring machines ever used in the World, the
20 company came from Los Angeles, California. 85 percent
21 of the tradesmen and women, Teamsters, electricians,
22 laborers, operating engineers, came from the Rhode
23 Island Building Trades. They didn't come from
24 California. They came from right here.

25 We have one of the best, most sophisticated

1 building trade organizations in the country. And we
2 will perform this work for whatever contractor is lucky
3 enough to win the project, and that's the true track
4 record.

5 (APPLAUSE)

6 HEARING OFFICER BRILL: Let's try to
7 keep the comments about the cleanup, and try to keep us
8 on schedule. Any comments we get, we will address and
9 try to respond in writing. It will be good to try to
10 stay focused on the cleanup plan. That's what we're
11 going to be commenting on.

12 MR. CORRENTE: Lenny Corrente. I
13 understand about the local hiring very well. I'm the
14 community organizer, organize union workers and
15 nonunion workers. I understand when these companies
16 come into the area, they sign project labor agreements,
17 community benefit agreements, contractor -- responsible
18 contractor policies. In these community benefit
19 agreements it states -- it stipulates you have to hire
20 local help, plain and simple. Local help will be here.
21 There's no doubt about it. I mean, when the main
22 Lowe's was built, local help. It's a proven fact.

23 MS. JOHNSON: Local help, not new hires.

24 HEARING OFFICER BRILL: Any more
25 comments about the proposed EPA state cleanup plan?

1 That's the key reason for the meeting. If not, I want
2 to thank you all for coming. This will conclude the
3 formal public hearing process. If you have any other
4 comments you want to submit, February 13th. Thank you.

5 (HEARING CONCLUDED AT 8:22 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 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

	2012 (3) 6:5;12:21;35:8		8:16;27:7;28:25;47:8	Allendale (5) 8:8;17:9,13;46:14; 51:24
\$	2020 (1) 29:4	9	additional (3) 12:8;22:12,14	allow (1) 17:15
\$100 (1) 9:3	21 (1) 9:16	9 (1) 28:25	address (10) 8:3;21:8;32:2;35:6,18, 19;36:4;44:15;46:24; 55:8	allowing (1) 24:23
\$101 (2) 37:2;52:4	271 (1) 38:22	90 (1) 15:1	addressed (1) 52:5	allows (1) 17:16
\$200 (2) 41:7;42:7	275 (1) 54:17	A	addressing (1) 8:17	alluded (1) 13:15
[	3	abbreviated (1) 3:17	adjacent (1) 8:11	along (16) 5:17;13:25;14:22,25; 21:2;22:25;23:11;36:7; 37:4;38:21;40:4;45:13; 47:7,15;49:1,3
[sic] (2) 49:23;52:14	30 (5) 12:8;15:1;24:9;37:15; 41:25	ability (1) 24:2	administrative (1) 18:22	Although (4) 11:3;14:6,20;40:3
1	30-year (1) 24:12	able (25) 3:19;4:8;10:16;11:13, 18,20,22,24;12:8;14:13; 15:22,24;17:12;19:24; 20:7,8,9;21:6;23:4;24:7, 12;33:13,15;34:6,18	Admire (1) 50:1	always (2) 21:4;48:2
10,000 (1) 48:4	34 (1) 40:2	above (1) 20:14	advantage (1) 11:18	amended (1) 29:2
100 (1) 15:3	36 (1) 50:15	absolutely (4) 19:14;21:10;47:14,17	advisory (1) 23:8	amount (4) 24:13;28:22;49:10; 53:10
101 (2) 37:18;41:6	4	abuse (1) 51:21	afar (1) 50:1	and/or (2) 21:25;29:6
110,000 (2) 9:1,10	40 (2) 28:5;37:15	Academy (1) 38:23	affect (1) 52:7	Angeles (1) 54:20
1200 (2) 25:6,7	42 (1) 37:16	accept (2) 34:23;35:22	affected (2) 44:18,25	Anna (11) 8:1;12:24;13:15;17:4; 20:8;23:5;26:13,21; 32:5,10;35:15
126 (1) 38:19	44 (1) 8:6	accidental (2) 7:13,16	afternoon (1) 46:2	annual (1) 27:8
12th (1) 6:2	5	accidents (1) 37:21	afterwards (3) 15:20,20;33:12	answered (1) 23:20
13th (8) 6:5;12:7;14:20;15:7; 16:4;33:14;35:21;56:4	50 (1) 47:24	accommodating (1) 20:23	again (18) 2:19;4:6;16:3;19:23; 22:17;24:22,23;31:13; 33:14;34:10,23;35:21; 36:1;42:10,10,10,10,14	Anthony (1) 44:14
14th (1) 5:25	500 (2) 43:21,22	accomplish (1) 37:2	against (1) 52:14	anticipate (1) 45:16
15 (1) 26:1	518 (1) 51:18	accomplished (1) 45:5	Agency (3) 2:21;26:16;48:14	anticipating (2) 19:22;31:25
150 (2) 41:7;42:6	6	acres (2) 6:21;37:16	Agency's (1) 34:15	anticipation (1) 31:25
18 (1) 45:21	60 (2) 15:1;38:10	across (1) 51:23	agenda (1) 3:13	apart (1) 30:4
184,000 (1) 8:21	7	act (2) 6:7;36:25	agent (1) 37:9	Apartments (1) 25:18
1996 (1) 23:7	7:02 (1) 2:1	acting (1) 6:10	ago (4) 38:10;41:16;46:11; 52:1	APPLAUSE (5) 39:10;40:25;43:3; 50:13;55:5
2	7:30 (1) 4:3	action (6) 6:13,16;7:6,25;20:12, 14	agree (1) 42:25	appreciate (3) 2:14;4:17,21
20 (2) 26:1,9	7:35 (1) 4:5	actions (1) 13:20	agreement (3) 11:6;30:6,7	approaches (1) 3:11
2001 (1) 17:10	8	activities (2) 22:18;32:18	agreements (3) 55:16,17,19	appropriate (1) 5:10
2004 (1) 29:3	8,000 (1) 45:7	actual (1) 7:23	ahead (1) 2:3	approximately (2) 6:21;13:15
2007 (1) 10:25	8:22 (1) 56:5	actually (9) 7:5;13:19;21:8;22:5, 10,13,22;23:3;47:4	air (2) 20:13;44:9	area (19) 3:1;6:19;8:5,14,24; 14:22;25:6;31:10;37:13,
2009 (1) 25:1	85 (1) 54:20	add (3) 23:6;26:13,13	airborne (1) 45:12	
2009/2010 (1) 20:20		addition (4)	Alicia (2) 15:17,19	
2010 (1) 20:20				

16,23;43:14;47:7,21; 48:7;51:5,21,23;55:16 areas (8) 5:2;20:19;22:14;23:2; 39:4;42:4;53:8;54:1 around (13) 11:5;27:15;37:13; 41:20,21,22;42:2;48:5; 15:49;4,9;52:17;53:8 asbestos (1) 53:21 Aside (1) 40:11 ASLYN (5) 36:6,6,16,20;37:1 aspects (1) 53:22 asphalt (1) 51:23 assess (1) 6:8 assessing (2) 5:3,11 assessor (1) 24:8 assistance (1) 15:13 assuming (1) 31:24 Atwood (1) 46:13 authority (1) 32:10 available (3) 27:11;33:6;35:9 Avenue (3) 46:13,13;51:19 aware (3) 23:12;24:19;45:14 away (10) 14:16,19;15:6;25:9; 27:3;28:7,10;34:5; 43:18;51:9 awesome (2) 2:8;3:4	barrels (1) 25:5 Base (2) 53:8,10 based (8) 5:20;6:3;7:11;24:9; 29:20;32:8;37:9;45:1 basically (7) 9:12;10:5;24:4;27:23, 25;28:11;33:5 basis (2) 26:17;28:12 Bay (1) 54:12 BB (1) 49:6 beautiful (3) 2:13;41:17;46:15 become (6) 27:25;34:21;35:1,5, 15;45:12 bed (1) 45:6 begin (2) 4:13;51:21 beginning (1) 3:15 begins (1) 52:16 behind (2) 13:1;18:25 belong (2) 5:3,4 below (1) 23:9 beneath (1) 54:18 beneficial (3) 10:15;11:8;43:12 benefit (3) 40:17;55:17,18 benefits (2) 40:5;41:11 best (5) 24:1;38:24;47:9;51:8; 54:25 better (1) 49:12 beyond (1) 11:4 big (2) 47:22;49:16 bigger (3) 48:18;51:3,14 biggest (1) 22:6 bike (2) 22:19;34:5 birds (4) 41:13;42:3;49:25;50:1 BISSANTI (4) 31:19,19;51:18,18 bit (3)	4:4;12:6;48:15 bizarre (1) 36:11 block (1) 34:5 blood (1) 24:6 blowing (1) 37:13 blue (1) 41:21 boarded-up (1) 46:20 Bob (3) 23:18,22;24:3 BOOING (1) 43:3 borders (1) 46:23 boring (1) 54:19 Boston (1) 34:16 both (6) 10:18;18:23;35:9; 49:13,15,19 bottom (3) 28:3,6;50:24 Boulevard (1) 38:19 branch (1) 34:15 breathe (2) 7:18;43:14 breathing (1) 43:15 bridge (2) 48:1;53:24 brief (1) 44:22 briefly (1) 4:24 Brill (15) 34:11,13,14;36:10,18, 23;38:14;39:11;43:4; 44:13;45:24;52:10;53:4; 55:6,24 bring (3) 10:1;40:1;54:9 bringing (1) 10:20 broad (1) 14:7 brochure (1) 22:16 broken (1) 5:2 Brook (6) 2:25;6:20;20:19; 25:14,17,19 brush (1) 41:22 budget (1)	39:9 build (1) 13:9 building (4) 48:4;54:6,23;55:1 built (3) 10:22;11:1;55:22 bulldozer (1) 41:20 bunch (1) 39:20 burden (1) 40:16 buried (2) 43:9;50:25 Bursie (2) 4:19,20 business (1) 15:18 BUTERA (5) 21:11,11,20;41:1,2 buy (1) 46:12	4:8,11;11:24;36:2 carcinogenics (2) 40:13,18 card (1) 15:18 care (2) 42:18,19 Carlino (4) 25:23,23;39:13,13 C-A-R-L-I-N-O (1) 25:24 Carol (2) 31:19;51:18 carrying (1) 18:3 cars (1) 20:24 cartridge (4) 44:1,2,3,4 case (4) 18:10;26:14,15;31:16 catch (1) 23:10 cause (1) 24:7 CDF (3) 10:6,18,22 cell (1) 3:2 Centerdale (6) 2:22;3:1,6;6:20;34:25; 46:1 centered (1) 34:25 certain (1) 26:22 certainly (4) 14:2;23:21;24:2;31:12 cetera (2) 22:19;53:11 chance (2) 16:11;51:8 chemical (2) 6:22;37:20 chemicals (3) 37:8,22;38:9 chief (1) 34:14 childhood (1) 38:21 children (1) 50:22 choose (1) 19:7 chose (1) 19:8 cigarette (1) 7:15 City (2) 31:8;54:18 clarification (3) 14:15;16:17,18 clarify (4)
B			C	
back (19) 12:1,15;16:7,11;29:4; 30:7;39:12,17,22;40:1; 41:14,25;42:9,12,14,22; 43:19,22,23 backyard (1) 48:6 bad (1) 40:15 ball (4) 46:20;47:2,3;49:2 ballpark (1) 41:7 bank (1) 20:22			calculation (1) 32:13 California (2) 54:20,24 call (3) 6:19;12:18;35:25 called (7) 12:16;15:13;22:16; 26:17,23;30:9;33:3 came (5) 3:7;12:6;54:20,22,24 Camilla (1) 10:23 can (52) 2:16;3:3,23,25;5:16; 6:6;7:11;10:17;11:24; 12:4,11,23;13:15;14:2; 15:19,20;16:6,7,20,20; 18:6,22;19:7,12,14,20; 21:6;24:6;26:12,13; 29:10,19;31:14;32:18, 23,24,25;33:21;34:7; 35:14,22,24;36:1;37:15; 38:17;39:7;40:7;41:5; 51:9;53:18;54:8,9 cancers (1) 40:14 canoe (1) 22:19 CANZONIERI (8) 24:25;25:1,12,15,19; 33:17;43:13;53:9 cap (1) 25:25 capacity (1) 13:11 capture (4)	

13:23;15:7;26:11,12 clarifying (2) 17:17;24:24 classified (1) 40:13 clean (9) 21:14;29:7;31:10; 36:25;41:23;42:2;43:22; 50:7,7 cleaned (5) 30:4;37:18,23;43:11, 14 cleaning (4) 3:11;4:25;39:2;48:1 cleanup (34) 2:23;4:9;7:4;11:4,16; 12:18,20,22;13:5,18; 14:9,13;18:3,15;19:5,13, 25,25;26:18;29:12; 30:11;35:6;42:5;43:5; 45:4,17;48:18;51:20; 52:4,7;53:10;55:7,10,25 cleanups (3) 19:21;20:18;48:16 clearer (1) 2:17 Clearly (2) 11:21;45:20 close (8) 6:4,7;14:12;18:6; 33:23;35:12;50:2,2 closer (1) 32:7 closes (2) 5:18;12:13 cold (1) 50:15 colleague (2) 48:12,25 collected (1) 28:10 collection (1) 28:8 combination (3) 9:17;19:9,9 combined (1) 54:13 comfortable (1) 35:13 coming (10) 2:13,19;4:16;12:21; 42:21,22;44:9;48:6,24; 56:2 COMMENCED (1) 2:1 comment (28) 5:25;6:2,4,4,6;11:10, 16;12:6,13;14:12,21; 17:21;18:14,18;19:2,3, 11,12,15,19;21:10,18; 24:23;33:14;39:13; 44:24;50:18;53:6 commenting (1)	55:11 comments (29) 4:8;6:7;11:14,19,21, 23;12:4,8,14,15;16:16; 33:16;34:21,22,24;35:4, 11,14,18,22;36:5;43:5; 45:1,19;52:11;55:7,8,25; 56:4 commits (1) 51:24 communicated (1) 45:21 communities (9) 40:8;43:2;49:9,11,13, 20,20,22;50:5 community (19) 13:20;15:4,6;39:8; 45:3,18;47:12,23;48:21, 25;49:7,12;50:7,8,21; 52:9;55:14,17,18 community's (1) 45:1 companies (7) 41:5,8;42:8,15;52:23; 53:12;55:15 company (2) 41:4;54:20 complete (1) 15:2 completed (2) 9:19;54:10 compounds (1) 53:11 concentrated (1) 20:18 concern (6) 19:20;22:6,7;24:13; 39:3;45:13 concerning (1) 20:5 concerns (5) 14:19;17:24;46:2; 48:22,23 conclude (3) 4:3;6:15;56:2 concluded (2) 13:6;56:5 conclusion (1) 7:24 conduct (3) 13:5;53:23;54:3 confidence (1) 39:8 confined (4) 9:11,24;10:3,22 confines (1) 10:4 connected (1) 18:3 Connecticut (1) 38:23 conscious (2) 24:22;33:9	consider (3) 21:19;51:20,22 consistently (1) 38:9 constant (1) 38:10 constitute (1) 46:8 construct (3) 10:16;11:3,7 constructed (6) 9:13,20;10:25;17:10; 27:10;54:17 constructing (1) 47:25 construction (15) 9:4,19;20:11;28:17; 30:25;32:20;33:7;37:3; 48:2,4,11;53:6,23,24; 54:7 consume (1) 24:11 consumption (1) 24:9 contact (5) 7:13;10:10;22:6,21; 32:15 contained (1) 28:25 containers (1) 52:18 containing (1) 10:20 containment (3) 9:20;10:5;26:5 contaminants (10) 7:2,21;10:7,25;27:16; 31:1;40:11,13;51:25; 52:6 contaminate (1) 40:20 contaminated (10) 7:12;8:9,11,21;9:7; 22:5,8;37:5;43:8;47:16 contamination (15) 5:13,14;6:24;7:1,4,8; 8:3,13,18;10:13;17:16; 22:3;32:22;33:8;39:5 continue (1) 52:6 contractor (4) 15:14;55:2,17,18 contractors (3) 21:7;53:25;54:3 control (4) 17:9,15;33:1,6 controlled (1) 32:18 controlling (1) 20:6 controls (2) 32:25;39:6 conversations (1)	31:13 copy (1) 3:8 Corporation (1) 54:14 Corrente (6) 30:23,23;31:7;43:6; 55:12,12 correspondence (1) 17:23 cost (2) 9:2;10:19 council (6) 15:12,12,21;22:11,17; 29:2 Council's (1) 39:24 country (7) 5:1;11:5;30:13;38:25; 42:16,17;55:1 couple (1) 18:12 cousin (2) 48:13,25 cover (1) 43:25 covered (1) 22:22 create (2) 31:9;47:21 created (2) 52:25;53:7 creating (2) 40:6,9 criteria (1) 10:18 cubic (3) 8:21;9:1,11 cue (1) 3:2 culminates (1) 5:19 curious (1) 17:20 current (1) 51:22 currently (7) 6:19;9:2,14;47:4,24; 52:3;53:9	25:4;42:16;43:15; 44:3,9;46:16;53:1 days (1) 12:8 deal (2) 34:7;51:21 dealing (1) 5:15 decades (1) 51:21 decide (1) 7:14 decided (1) 45:20 decision (6) 5:23;11:16;12:19,20; 19:25;20:2 deck (1) 13:9 decomposed (1) 27:21 deemed (1) 29:3 deep (1) 13:11 definite (1) 29:16 delays (3) 28:18,19;29:12 delegation (2) 4:16,17 DEM (2) 26:11;47:9 density (1) 28:5 Department (6) 5:5;23:7,19;24:17,20; 47:8 depth (1) 17:15 describes (1) 33:4 design (9) 13:7,13,14;14:8,25; 15:1,1,2,3 details (5) 13:12;14:1,6,8;45:15 detected (2) 32:22,22 determine (1) 14:9 developed (1) 27:10 device (1) 23:9 devil's (1) 45:15 devised (1) 44:25 dewatered (1) 8:25 dialogue (2) 21:4;29:18
				D
				Dam (3) 17:9,13;51:24 dangerous (1) 45:16 data (2) 23:17;24:4 date (1) 30:24 David (3) 21:11;24:25;41:2 day (7)

die (1) 42:16	5:16;6:13;8:20;13:14; 17:14;19:8;21:2,14; 23:10;28:11;34:1;35:7; 39:9;46:6,24;48:15;52:2	E	engineers (1) 54:22	9:8,8;13:22;14:4; 16:23;17:2,6,7,14,15; 20:6;39:14
difference (3) 16:24;17:3,7	don'ts (2) 22:16,24	earlier (2) 12:5;46:1	England (1) 38:22	excavations (1) 13:20
different (8) 6:5;22:18;23:5;30:16; 44:6;48:24;53:7,19	dos (2) 22:16,24	ears (1) 4:17	enough (4) 15:4;20:6;21:13;55:3	excellent (2) 50:18;51:10
difficult (1) 47:9	doubt (1) 55:21	easiest (1) 49:24	entering (2) 16:16;18:4	executive (1) 15:17
dig (2) 13:12;37:10	down (14) 3:1;5:18;6:25;8:6; 18:6;20:15;22:1;25:3; 26:2,9;32:25;49:4;51:4; 54:11	easily (1) 53:17	entire (1) 44:23	exercise (1) 18:7
digging (1) 37:5	downstream (3) 17:16;31:2;51:14	easy (2) 29:10;49:24	entity (1) 41:9	existing (2) 50:8,10
DiGregorio (1) 54:14	downtown (1) 10:23	eat (2) 24:14;51:14	environment (3) 7:8;40:22;52:8	exists (2) 6:24;7:20
dioxin (5) 10:7;37:8;40:12;51:3, 13	DPW (1) 49:3	eaten (1) 24:17	Environmental (10) 2:20;5:6;8:15;26:16; 32:20;34:15;42:4;47:8; 48:14;51:25	expect (4) 9:4;12:19;27:16;28:13
dioxins (4) 7:2,3;10:24;45:10	drain (1) 17:12	eating (6) 7:11;22:5,7;23:15,18; 24:21	EPA (19) 9:20;10:19;11:3; 14:16;15:14;25:4;26:2, 10,21,25;30:9,15,16; 41:9;42:21;45:2;47:9; 50:20;55:25	expected (1) 26:19
direct (3) 7:13;22:6;24:7	drainage (1) 28:7	economic (1) 49:19	EPAs (1) 11:12	expecting (1) 8:25
directed (1) 28:10	drained (1) 45:6	economy (1) 40:10	EPA's (6) 3:11;4:9,25;19:5; 35:10,17	expense (1) 43:1
directly (1) 49:13	draining (3) 17:8;41:19,19	ecosystem (2) 7:20;40:23	especially (2) 12:5;45:10	experience (2) 39:2;45:14
director (1) 15:17	dream (2) 46:14,19	effect (3) 40:9;42:18;52:8	estimate (2) 29:13;41:6	experiences (2) 29:20;34:7
dirt (4) 25:8,9;33:18,24	dredging (5) 13:22;16:23;17:2,7,8	effort (1) 22:13	estimated (2) 9:2;41:24	expert (1) 24:3
dirty (2) 39:20;49:21	drive (1) 46:17	either (3) 27:3;30:5;34:24	et (2) 22:19;53:11	expertise (1) 23:22
disagree (1) 19:7	driving (1) 7:3	electricians (1) 54:21	eternity (1) 42:8	explain (1) 9:6
discourage (1) 21:25	drum (1) 6:23	elementary (3) 2:5,8;34:4	evaporate (1) 10:8	explained (1) 10:11
discuss (1) 12:2	dry (3) 17:7,13,14	else (1) 38:15	Even (5) 25:6,7;27:1,3;37:17	exposed (5) 7:7,8;22:2;45:6,10
discussions (1) 29:14	due (1) 53:10	e-mail (4) 12:4,9;17:25;35:14	evening (6) 2:2,12,13;3:13;4:21; 11:21	exposure (4) 7:6,10,23;21:24
diseases (1) 40:15	dug (1) 37:18	emissions (3) 32:21;33:7;53:11	event (1) 46:16	extended (2) 6:2;12:7
disposal (5) 9:11,24,25;10:3,22	dump (1) 52:19	emit (1) 52:6	everybody (5) 2:3,12,18;16:9;43:12	extension (1) 13:9
dispose (1) 9:1	dumped (1) 38:10	emitted (1) 26:6	everyone (1) 23:11	extensive (1) 47:6
disrespect (1) 47:1	dumping (1) 37:22	employers (1) 54:2	exactly (8) 13:13;14:6;15:23; 17:3;18:11;23:14;27:12; 29:21	extent (2) 5:13;30:2
disruptive (1) 45:17	dumps (1) 53:11	employment (1) 46:10	example (2) 13:8;28:4	face (1) 41:17
dissolve (1) 10:8	duration (1) 24:14	encourage (2) 11:17;21:5	excavate (1) 39:19	facilities (1) 11:4
distributes (1) 22:18	during (8) 2:15;3:24;4:6,10; 18:13;20:6;34:10;35:3	end (3) 6:1;14:19;51:15	excavating (1) 20:22	facility (18) 6:22,23;9:12,12,24; 10:3,17,22;11:2,7;26:4, 5;27:10,15,19;28:8,10, 12
document (2) 12:17;35:6	dust (8) 18:3;20:6,13;25:3; 32:16,21,23,25	ends (1) 44:24	excavation (12)	facing (1) 39:4
documents (5) 18:20,21,25;19:1,21		engage (2) 12:23;13:3		fact (3) 33:10;41:15;55:22
domain (1) 27:12		engaging (2) 14:21,22		
Don (2) 36:6;45:25		engineering (4) 32:18;33:2;44:24; 45:19		
done (17)				

fail (1) 42:14	finish (1) 11:9	format (1) 35:24	4:4,6	48:17
fair (3) 19:10,16,18	firms (1) 53:13	formed (1) 28:24	generates (1) 27:21	gun (1) 49:6
fall (1) 30:3	first (9) 3:21;5:11;6:8;13:23; 18:18;30:18;32:6;40:5; 48:16	forward (4) 5:22;6:12;19:6;49:20	gentleman (5) 31:20;40:12;41:15; 47:1;50:18	guys (1) 2:4
families (1) 40:7	fiscal (1) 35:8	found (5) 6:15;7:9,21;18:2; 46:14	Georgia (1) 10:23	H
family (3) 40:6;46:16;48:23	fish (20) 7:12;22:5,8;23:15,16, 18;24:11,17,21;39:17; 41:23;42:2;43:8;48:18; 49:25;50:1;51:11,12,13, 14	four (2) 9:4;20:17	gets (9) 22:22;28:9;30:18; 37:14;43:16,24,24,25; 44:3	habitats (1) 8:16
far (3) 32:16,23,25	fishable (3) 29:3;36:8,22	frame (3) 28:16,18;29:13	girls' (1) 47:5	hail (1) 48:7
fast (1) 29:11	fishing (3) 21:25;23:8,9	Frank (2) 4:19,20	glue (1) 43:25	half (8) 2:24;3:1;6:25;8:7; 41:18,20,21;42:1
faster (1) 31:12	five (10) 9:5;13:15;25:25; 26:17,22;28:16,20; 31:12;39:18;46:18	free (1) 35:13	goal (2) 29:1;36:24	Hall (1) 45:3
fax (2) 12:4,9	five-year (5) 26:16,17;27:2,6,8	frequency (1) 27:13	goes (12) 2:7;14:25;27:1,4,4; 31:2,3;33:14;38:7; 43:23;44:1;53:16	hallway (1) 2:9
fear (1) 45:15	flag (1) 2:16	friends (1) 50:16	Gonnella (4) 17:19,19;44:14,15	hand (6) 2:6;12:23;13:18; 14:10;35:25;48:14
February (9) 6:5;12:7,13;14:20; 15:7;16:4;33:14;35:21; 56:4	flashing (1) 48:14	front (2) 15:18;39:12	Good (6) 2:2,12;23:1;48:8; 50:21;55:9	hands (1) 7:14
federal (3) 4:25;5:7;36:25	flood (2) 31:3;51:2	fruitful (1) 31:13	goods (1) 40:9	happen (12) 8:6;20:12;29:14,19; 30:1,2,21;37:8,24;39:6; 46:22;50:9
Federowicz (2) 50:14,14	floodgate (1) 17:11	full (6) 4:15,17;9:25;13:1; 36:1;38:8	gosh (1) 13:25	happened (2) 14:10;34:2
feedback (1) 13:24	floodplain (4) 8:11,23;10:14;51:10	functioning (1) 26:19	government (2) 36:25;41:10	happening (1) 20:4
feel (5) 2:4;20:5;35:12,13; 52:14	fluff (2) 21:12,21	fund (3) 30:9;52:14;53:1	grandchildren (1) 50:22	happens (8) 12:22;13:13;28:22; 29:21;30:4;38:3;44:18; 53:2
feet (7) 25:7;41:18,18,20,21; 42:1;54:17	fluffened (1) 42:5	funded (1) 30:9	grant (2) 15:13,14	happy (3) 34:1;50:19;51:7
fenced (1) 51:5	foam (1) 32:23	funding (3) 30:15,18,19	great (2) 3:2;22:4	hate (1) 52:20
fences (3) 22:25;23:3;51:6	focused (1) 55:10	furans (1) 45:11	green (1) 8:14	haulers (1) 54:3
fencing (1) 50:17	folks (3) 2:10;12:3;13:23	further (4) 28:19;40:20;42:16; 54:11	GREENDLINGER (25) 2:2,20;11:12;16:25; 17:17;18:9;21:17;22:4; 23:13,17;24:1,19;25:10, 14,17,21;26:12;28:14; 29:9;31:5,11;32:4;33:9, 25;38:16	Hawkins (1) 38:19
field (3) 47:2;49:2;53:17	follow (1) 3:13	future (10) 19:13,22;20:4;29:7; 40:21;47:20;48:9;49:12; 50:11;51:2	grew (2) 38:20;49:1	Hawthorn (1) 50:15
fields (2) 46:20;47:3	footings (1) 13:12	G	groundwater (2) 27:14;32:15	hazard (1) 18:2
figure (1) 20:15	forecasting (1) 37:24	gain (1) 50:10	group (1) 5:7	hazardous (4) 5:1;38:24;53:17,21
fill (2) 33:22;43:22	foremost (1) 40:5	gains (1) 48:10	guarantee (1) 50:25	hazards (3) 45:10;52:15,16
film (1) 33:22	for-instance (1) 53:7	game (3) 19:10,16,18	guess (3) 35:23;42:9;51:19	health (11) 7:20;23:8,19;24:2,4,8, 13,17,20;37:4;45:9
final (7) 5:23;11:16;12:20,22; 14:13;19:25;35:5	formal (15) 3:20;4:6,7,10;11:25; 14:20;16:15,16;33:11, 13;34:9;35:1,12;52:2; 56:3	gases (1) 27:22	guesstimate (1) 29:19	hear (7) 2:16;3:19;11:15; 18:10;21:12;31:11; 38:17
finally (1) 15:2	formally (2) 3:19;19:16	gather (1) 41:24	guide (1) 20:1	heard (12) 13:8,24,24;18:12; 26:3;28:16;39:14,15,17; 46:5,7;53:16
financial (1) 40:16		gathering (1) 5:24	guinea (1)	
finding (1) 18:15		gave (1) 23:23		
fine (1) 16:21		gears (2)		

HEARING (35) 2:1;3:20;4:6,7,11; 16:15;18:17;33:11,13; 34:10,12,12,13,17,20; 35:3,12,24;36:10,15,18, 21,23;38:14;39:11;42:5; 43:4;44:13;45:24;52:10; 53:4;55:6,24;56:3,5	4:20 hosts (1) 52:19 hour (1) 37:15 hours (2) 14:5;33:1 house (6) 13:9,10;46:12,14,19, 20 houses (2) 47:7;49:2 housing (1) 47:5 huge (1) 38:6 human (2) 7:19;10:10 hundred (1) 54:7 hundreds (1) 50:4 hydrocarbons (1) 10:24 hygienists (1) 25:3	45:1 inconvenience (1) 50:9 inconveniences (1) 48:11 indeed (2) 7:10,24 individuals (1) 39:7 industrial (2) 6:17;49:3 industry (1) 48:3 influx (1) 40:6 inform (1) 54:3 information (6) 3:18;6:15;15:4,15; 35:9;45:2 informational (6) 3:15,22,24;4:12;45:2, 8 informed (2) 14:23;45:4 ingestion (4) 7:13,16;21:24;22:6 input (4) 5:24;14:18;15:5;20:1 instance (2) 18:3;20:19 intent (1) 29:24 interest (1) 54:16 interested (1) 14:2 into (26) 3:20;4:8,11;5:2,9; 9:11;11:24;12:16;16:16; 19:22;22:21;27:18;28:9, 23;31:3;32:15;37:22; 38:2,4,7;46:11;48:2,24; 51:4;53:16;55:16 inventory (1) 22:11 invest (1) 40:8 investigate (1) 6:9 investigating (1) 5:12 investigation (3) 5:17,18;6:14 investigations (2) 5:21;7:9 investigative (1) 5:15 involved (2) 26:25;27:6 involves (1) 27:14 Island (10)	5:5;8:16;19:18;23:7; 29:2;47:4,10;48:5; 53:13;54:23 issue (6) 5:19;12:19;14:13; 21:8;22:21;26:10 issues (2) 18:15;35:19 J January (1) 6:2 job (2) 25:1;44:20 jobs (11) 31:9;40:6;41:3;42:6, 25;46:9;47:22,22;52:22, 25;53:6 Johnson (7) 23:14,14,24;24:16; 52:12,12;55:23 Johnston (17) 9:15;10:16,17;18:24; 31:9;35:9;38:20;46:3,6, 11,22;47:5;48:21;49:3; 52:13,18,21 joining (1) 23:2 Joseph (4) 21:22,22;38:18,18 K keep (7) 25:2;32:24;42:11; 43:4;51:9;55:7,7 key (1) 56:1 kicked (1) 5:9 kid (1) 51:4 kids (3) 42:20;50:17;51:6 killing (1) 41:22 kind (7) 5:2,12,13;18:12,25; 30:6;31:19 kinds (1) 38:6 knowing (1) 44:8 known (1) 49:21 Krasko (7) 8:1,4;17:5;23:6;27:7; 32:12;35:15 L labor (2)	19:18;55:16 laborers (1) 54:22 Laborer's (1) 38:23 lake (3) 21:15;41:21;42:6 lakes (1) 39:15 land (1) 50:25 landfill (6) 26:8;27:20;47:13,13; 48:24;49:21 landscape (1) 40:23 Langrall (1) 4:14 large (5) 8:14,22;14:4;16:8; 53:13 largely (1) 7:3 largest (1) 54:18 Larry (2) 34:11,14 last (3) 8:15;23:23;54:16 later (4) 4:5;6:5;12:6;18:14 lawn (1) 42:19 layer (1) 28:7 laying (1) 19:4 leachate (1) 28:8 lead (2) 30:9;53:22 leads (1) 6:15 league (1) 47:6 least (2) 28:11;43:21 leave (3) 10:4;47:19;51:16 led (1) 7:24 left (3) 6:17;8:25;26:14 legacy (1) 6:17 Lehrer (1) 15:17 Lenny (2) 30:23;55:12 less (1) 44:7 letter (4) 44:19,22,23;45:21
heaven (1) 52:19 Heinz (1) 49:2 held (1) 45:2 hell (1) 38:4 Hello (1) 23:1 help (6) 4:21;20:1;55:20,20, 22,23 Hi (4) 2:2,4;17:18;50:14 high (3) 20:14;28:4;52:19 highest (2) 10:12;32:9 highly (4) 9:7;10:19;39:6;45:1 highways (1) 38:6 hire (2) 53:15;55:19 hired (2) 15:23;52:23 hires (1) 55:23 hiring (1) 55:13 history (1) 54:6 hold (4) 3:25;16:10;31:16; 52:17 holds (1) 47:4 hole (1) 39:20 Holly (1) 16:22 home (1) 47:14 homes (1) 18:4 honest (1) 21:12 hook (2) 29:7,11 hope (3) 31:12,13;46:23 Hopefully (4) 3:7,12;35:7;52:5 hosting (1)	I idea (1) 51:10 ideal (1) 10:6 identified (1) 21:23 identify (2) 36:3,13 imagine (1) 48:16 immediate (2) 49:18;52:15 impact (2) 33:4;43:2 impacted (1) 52:3 impacts (5) 33:5,6;48:8,8;49:19 important (5) 11:14,17;13:2;19:15, 18 improving (1) 40:22 incinerator (2) 10:2,20 included (1) 3:12 includes (1) 8:8 including (2) 47:12;54:10 incomes (1) 40:7 incomplete (1)			

letting (1) 16:1	19,22;51:7;52:7	42:20	39:1,8;47:23	Most (8) 9:7;10:7;22:20;34:19; 39:1;44:17;47:3;54:25
levels (3) 10:12;20:12,14	look (6) 8:5,17;15:15;18:22; 22:11;29:1	major (2) 10:24;54:7	men (1) 48:4	move (4) 6:11;16:5,14;28:7
libraries (1) 35:10	looked (3) 9:24;41:12;46:11	makes (2) 47:9;50:21	mentioned (4) 28:20;34:19;48:13,25	moving (3) 5:22;46:5;52:16
library (1) 18:23	looking (9) 9:14;20:1,3;30:15; 32:6;41:7;44:6;48:7; 49:11	making (1) 20:2	merry-go-round (1) 48:17	mow (1) 42:19
licenses (1) 53:19	Lori (2) 23:14;52:12	Management (2) 5:6;47:9	metals (1) 45:11	much (13) 2:13,25;4:19;13:7,11; 18:7;24:11;33:19;38:13; 43:17;44:5,7;53:3
life (9) 43:15;44:12;47:19; 48:9,19;49:11,17,19; 50:7	Los (1) 54:20	manager (1) 8:1	methane (1) 27:21	multiplier (1) 40:9
light (2) 8:14;32:17	lose (1) 29:5	Mancini (1) 25:16	Michael (6) 28:14,15,15;46:25,25; 53:5	municipalities (5) 11:6;14:21;29:6,11; 30:8
lighting (1) 32:17	lot (19) 6:13;18:24;19:17; 20:20,21,22;21:12,20; 22:18;25:13;31:21;34:1, 6,7;38:20;39:14;40:13; 41:2;49:9	Manor (4) 2:22;3:6;6:20;46:1	might (5) 14:7;20:17;44:12; 50:23;54:13	municipality (2) 11:1;40:16
likely (1) 22:21	lots (1) 38:6	manufacturing (2) 6:22;37:21	mile (3) 2:24;3:1;6:25	must (1) 26:16
line (2) 26:9;54:15	Lou (2) 5:4;20:9	many (6) 2:4;14:3;23:15;25:5; 43:20;51:24	miles (6) 8:7;37:15;46:18; 47:12,14;48:23	myself (1) 47:12
liner (2) 28:3,4	louder (1) 2:18	map (1) 8:5	Mill (3) 8:8;17:11;37:20	N
linked (1) 40:14	Lou's (1) 5:7	Marie (2) 25:23;39:13	millimeters (1) 28:5	name (14) 2:19;16:20;17:19; 21:11;25:20,23;36:1,4,6, 6;41:1;44:14;45:25; 52:12
list (1) 51:24	low (1) 41:6	Mass (1) 34:16	million (7) 9:3;37:2,18;41:6,7; 42:7;52:4	name's (3) 24:25;34:14;38:18
little (6) 4:4;12:6;25:6;39:15; 48:15;51:12	lower (1) 10:19	material (8) 8:22;9:7,19,23;10:1,2, 4;43:9	mines (1) 51:1	Nancy (2) 4:14,16
live (19) 14:17,22;36:7;37:4; 38:19;40:4;42:6,13,13; 44:8,15;47:2,11,12,15, 16,23;48:22;49:8	Lowe's (1) 55:22	materials (1) 18:4	minimize (1) 17:16	Narragansett (1) 54:12
lives (1) 44:16	luck (1) 31:5	matter (2) 30:22;41:15	minute (1) 2:11	narrow (1) 34:4
living (3) 13:25;20:23;42:17	lucky (1) 55:2	matters (1) 45:14	mislead (1) 29:16	nasty (1) 37:8
load (1) 13:10	lumber (1) 13:11	maximization (1) 54:2	mitigate (1) 49:22	Navy (1) 53:8
Local (14) 38:22;40:8;49:12; 53:15;54:2,2,3,4,15; 55:13,20,20,22,23	lungs (1) 18:5	may (6) 10:16;14:20;23:20; 27:16;33:11;52:7	mitigated (1) 48:12	near (1) 10:2
located (2) 6:20;8:10	Lyman (2) 8:8;17:11	maybe (4) 4:4;9:17;25:7;30:14	moment (2) 43:9,10	nearby (1) 9:18
location (1) 21:2	M	Mayor (3) 23:1;49:15,15	money (1) 40:8	near-shore (1) 10:5
locations (2) 9:16,18	Maccarone (1) 5:5	mean (9) 7:5;18:2,6;26:4,4; 31:3;43:11;44:10;55:21	money's (1) 30:25	necessarily (1) 7:5
Lombardi (1) 49:15	machinery (1) 33:1	meaning (1) 26:24	monitor (2) 32:20,21	necessary (2) 28:9;41:3
long (9) 5:16;14:4;24:14;25:7; 29:19,22;41:11;44:24; 46:6	machines (1) 54:19	means (3) 33:6;42:3;44:25	monitors (2) 32:19,19	need (22) 6:16;7:5,25;13:10,11, 12;16:18;19:24;20:16; 22:12;24:11;26:7;27:17; 28:1;30:2;39:16,17; 42:25,25;43:1;52:24; 53:22
longer (3) 31:1,2;35:22	magnitude (1) 54:8	measures (2) 21:24;23:5	months (1) 52:1	needs (2) 20:12;40:10
long-term (13) 9:21;26:3,24;42:18; 48:7,10;49:17,18;50:10,	mail (2) 12:5,9	meet (1) 10:18	more (8) 6:10;12:2,3;17:15; 33:11;46:9,9;55:24	
	main (2) 11:21;55:21	meeting (8) 3:7;23:23;34:2;36:14; 46:1,3;51:25;56:1	morning (1) 44:4	
	maintenance (6) 9:22;26:3,23;27:1,4;	meetings (5) 3:15,16,18;45:2,8		
		member (2) 38:22;53:9		
		members (3)		

negotiate (2) 12:25;13:16 negotiations (6) 13:6;14:10,14;29:14, 18;31:6 neighborhood (5) 34:4;37:6;45:22;47:2; 50:12 neighbors (4) 17:23;18:6;37:11; 45:16 nesting (1) 42:4 new (6) 6:3;25:9,13;38:22; 52:25;55:23 newly (1) 45:10 Newport (4) 33:20,21;43:20;53:8 newspapers (1) 22:23 next (8) 6:11;9:9,13;12:10; 13:18;42:13;44:4;46:16 nine (1) 6:21 noise (2) 32:16,25 non-Superfund (1) 5:8 nonunion (1) 55:15 North (9) 4:20;18:23;31:8; 35:10;38:19;45:3;46:23; 48:21;52:21 notice (1) 6:1 November (2) 3:16;5:25 number (3) 16:8;17:23;38:1 numbers (1) 24:10	9:9;10:1,12,20;38:7; 44:12 offer (1) 14:14 off-gases (1) 27:17 offhand (1) 24:11 office (3) 4:15;34:16;35:10 officer (15) 34:12,13,17;36:10,18, 23;38:14;39:11;43:4; 44:13;45:24;52:10;53:4; 55:6,24 official (1) 34:20 often (2) 29:25;45:15 old (1) 53:10 Once (10) 4:3;5:18;6:7;10:9; 12:22;13:6,14;16:14; 20:3,4 one (30) 3:9,12;8:7,15;9:17,25; 10:1,4;16:6,10;17:12; 18:13,18;19:6;24:14,16; 29:10;31:16;33:19;41:4, 13;44:16,17;47:3;49:16; 52:2;54:8,16,18,25 one's (1) 33:21 online (1) 18:22 only (11) 3:8;23:10;30:6;33:15; 46:4,7;47:21;49:12,17; 50:6,10 on-site (1) 9:11 open (5) 11:10;19:1;21:4;36:5; 37:16 operates (1) 11:1 operating (1) 54:22 operation (5) 9:21;14:5;26:23;27:1, 3 operations (1) 33:1 opinion (3) 19:4,20;40:22 opinions (1) 11:15 opportunities (1) 46:10 opportunity (11) 3:23;10:15;11:13,22; 12:3;14:17,18;15:6;	16:9;29:5;33:15 opposed (1) 13:22 option (2) 10:3;47:18 oral (3) 34:24;35:4,11 orally (1) 11:22 Orange (1) 37:9 order (1) 30:20 organizations (1) 55:1 organize (1) 55:14 organizer (1) 55:14 origins (1) 6:23 others (2) 31:17;45:24 Otherwise (1) 35:24 otter (1) 41:16 otters (2) 41:23;42:3 ours (1) 24:3 out (29) 2:13,19;4:16;5:9,19; 10:13;13:19;14:8;15:9; 16:1;19:4;20:15;22:19; 25:5,8,9;28:19;33:18; 37:19;40:12;42:1,21,22; 43:17,20;44:1,9;53:14; 54:9 outside (1) 51:5 over (17) 8:21;9:3;17:15;24:12; 25:13;26:25;27:20;34:5; 37:6,12;40:12;42:11,11, 11;44:10;45:7;54:7 overflow (1) 54:13 overflows (1) 38:4 own (1) 29:8	pains (1) 48:9 parameters (1) 20:11 park (2) 11:1;49:3 parking (6) 20:20,21,22;25:13; 31:21;38:6 part (21) 3:15,21;5:11,12,18; 6:9;8:16;12:12,18; 16:15;17:12;20:3;29:23; 30:3;34:20,21;35:1,5,15; 36:14;47:22 partial (1) 30:7 participation (1) 16:3 particular (3) 18:14;21:1;28:22 particularly (1) 14:1 parties (8) 12:24,24;13:3,17; 14:11;29:25;30:15; 31:14 parts (1) 3:21 past (1) 6:18 path (2) 34:5;51:4 pathway (1) 7:6 pathways (3) 7:10,19,23 pay (8) 11:3;41:5,5,8,8,10,11; 42:9 pays (1) 13:2 PCBs (4) 7:2,3;10:7;45:11 people (37) 2:5,8;5:24;12:11;13:7; 14:17,22;15:18;16:6,8, 19;18:10;19:17;21:5,13, 25;22:20,23;23:3,11,15; 24:23;29:16;31:23; 33:20;37:4;40:24;43:13; 44:10,16,17;45:21; 46:17;47:20;49:10; 52:20,24 percent (7) 9:8;15:1,1,1,3;47:24; 54:20 perform (2) 39:7;55:2 performed (1) 43:7 period (21) 4:1;5:25;6:3,4,4;9:3;	11:16;12:6,13;14:12,21; 16:5;17:21;18:14,19; 19:19;24:12;26:22; 33:14;44:24;45:8 permanent (5) 9:12;10:9,14;25:25; 35:16 perpetuity (1) 28:11 personally (1) 40:3 pertinent (1) 45:18 pesticides (1) 45:11 phase (1) 54:10 phones (1) 3:3 phonetic (2) 17:20;36:7 photographs (1) 41:12 photos (1) 41:14 pick (1) 37:15 picked (3) 3:8,13;22:23 picture (1) 41:16 pictures (1) 39:23 piece (1) 33:18 pig (1) 48:17 pile (1) 28:1 piles (1) 25:7 place (8) 20:10,25;21:4;26:14; 29:4;32:1;37:12;39:6 places (1) 22:12 plain (1) 55:20 plan (23) 3:9;4:24;5:19;9:17; 12:2,18,20,22;13:18; 14:9,13;19:25;20:1; 24:10;27:9;29:2;33:3; 34:25;44:24;50:21;51:7; 55:10,25 planner (1) 46:3 planning (1) 50:20 plans (1) 33:2 plant (4) 37:21;38:3;39:16;
O objective (2) 13:4;36:7 objectives (2) 45:4,5 obvious (1) 45:13 obviously (2) 27:11;36:24 occurring (1) 13:21 O'Connor (1) 15:10 odors (2) 10:8;26:5 off (6)	operates (1) 11:1 operating (1) 54:22 operation (5) 9:21;14:5;26:23;27:1, 3 operations (1) 33:1 opinion (3) 19:4,20;40:22 opinions (1) 11:15 opportunities (1) 46:10 opportunity (11) 3:23;10:15;11:13,22; 12:3;14:17,18;15:6;	P paddles (1) 22:19 page (2) 9:16;28:25 paid (1) 38:12 pain (1) 50:8	pains (1) 48:9 parameters (1) 20:11 park (2) 11:1;49:3 parking (6) 20:20,21,22;25:13; 31:21;38:6 part (21) 3:15,21;5:11,12,18; 6:9;8:16;12:12,18; 16:15;17:12;20:3;29:23; 30:3;34:20,21;35:1,5,15; 36:14;47:22 partial (1) 30:7 participation (1) 16:3 particular (3) 18:14;21:1;28:22 particularly (1) 14:1 parties (8) 12:24,24;13:3,17; 14:11;29:25;30:15; 31:14 parts (1) 3:21 past (1) 6:18 path (2) 34:5;51:4 pathway (1) 7:6 pathways (3) 7:10,19,23 pay (8) 11:3;41:5,5,8,8,10,11; 42:9 pays (1) 13:2 PCBs (4) 7:2,3;10:7;45:11 people (37) 2:5,8;5:24;12:11;13:7; 14:17,22;15:18;16:6,8, 19;18:10;19:17;21:5,13, 25;22:20,23;23:3,11,15; 24:23;29:16;31:23; 33:20;37:4;40:24;43:13; 44:10,16,17;45:21; 46:17;47:20;49:10; 52:20,24 percent (7) 9:8;15:1,1,1,3;47:24; 54:20 perform (2) 39:7;55:2 performed (1) 43:7 period (21) 4:1;5:25;6:3,4,4;9:3;	11:16;12:6,13;14:12,21; 16:5;17:21;18:14,19; 19:19;24:12;26:22; 33:14;44:24;45:8 permanent (5) 9:12;10:9,14;25:25; 35:16 perpetuity (1) 28:11 personally (1) 40:3 pertinent (1) 45:18 pesticides (1) 45:11 phase (1) 54:10 phones (1) 3:3 phonetic (2) 17:20;36:7 photographs (1) 41:12 photos (1) 41:14 pick (1) 37:15 picked (3) 3:8,13;22:23 picture (1) 41:16 pictures (1) 39:23 piece (1) 33:18 pig (1) 48:17 pile (1) 28:1 piles (1) 25:7 place (8) 20:10,25;21:4;26:14; 29:4;32:1;37:12;39:6 places (1) 22:12 plain (1) 55:20 plan (23) 3:9;4:24;5:19;9:17; 12:2,18,20,22;13:18; 14:9,13;19:25;20:1; 24:10;27:9;29:2;33:3; 34:25;44:24;50:21;51:7; 55:10,25 planner (1) 46:3 planning (1) 50:20 plans (1) 33:2 plant (4) 37:21;38:3;39:16;

51:23 plastic (1) 28:6 play (1) 42:20 played (3) 49:2,3;50:16 playing (1) 51:5 please (3) 3:25;35:25;36:3 plenty (1) 39:22 plus (2) 9:10;33:7 PM (2) 2:1;56:5 pockets (1) 42:23 point (11) 2:15;5:9,24;14:15; 15:3,9,25;18:16;28:24; 39:25;54:9 pointed (1) 40:12 policies (1) 55:18 policy (1) 29:2 Polisena (1) 49:15 pollutants (1) 38:8 polluted (1) 38:9 polluter (1) 13:2 pollution (4) 6:24;32:17;38:11; 49:23 polyaromatic (1) 10:24 polyethylene (1) 28:5 Pomfret (1) 38:23 Pond (8) 8:8,8;17:8,12;39:17; 41:19,19;50:24 ponds (3) 8:12;39:2,14 portable (1) 10:2 portion (6) 3:20;4:10;12:11;20:7; 22:25;34:12 portions (1) 3:6 possibility (1) 37:7 possible (2) 5:14;7:23 possibly (3)	10:10;37:3,25 posted (2) 22:13;39:23 potential (17) 7:19;9:14,16,25; 24:13;28:18,19,21; 29:12;32:1,2;33:7,45;9; 47:21;48:8;52:15;53:6 potentially (9) 12:23;13:3,17;14:11; 22:2;28:21;29:5,24; 31:14 power (1) 18:7 precise (2) 43:9,10 predicament (1) 30:14 predict (1) 40:21 predominantly (1) 7:1 preferred (1) 3:12 present (1) 27:16 presentation (2) 11:9;28:16 presented (1) 45:8 Presently (1) 38:21 president (1) 48:3 press (1) 22:21 pretty (2) 2:25;37:8 prevalent (1) 45:12 prevent (1) 21:25 preventing (1) 23:3 primarily (3) 8:10;22:7;26:2 primary (3) 3:18;21:23;33:10 principle (1) 13:1 private (2) 11:7;12:24 probably (1) 47:3 problem (4) 37:17;38:1;39:4;41:3 problems (5) 5:12;18:16;25:2;26:8; 28:13 procedures (3) 20:10,16,25 proceedings (1) 2:16	process (9) 12:12;30:16;31:24; 34:18,20;36:11,19; 45:19;56:3 processed (1) 27:25 processes (1) 32:1 productive (1) 39:1 program (10) 4:25;5:4,6,7,8,10; 6:10;8:19;13:1;30:13 project (14) 2:22;8:1;11:5;28:21; 40:3,17;48:1;50:3,5; 54:4,8,13;55:3,16 projects (2) 11:5;50:6 project's (1) 30:25 propelling (1) 6:18 proper (1) 10:2 properties (1) 11:7 property (2) 42:19;47:20 proposal (1) 11:10 proposed (12) 3:9;4:9,24;5:19;9:16; 16:12;2:19;5:24;10; 33:3;34:25;55:25 proposing (9) 8:3,9,13,20;9:10,23; 17:6,10;26:15 Protection (4) 2:21;26:16;34:15; 48:14 protective (1) 10:19 prove (1) 39:23 proven (1) 55:22 provide (11) 8:18;11:14,18,20,23; 12:4,8;15:24;36:4; 38:24;40:6 provided (1) 4:22 Providence (11) 4:20;18:24;31:8; 35:10;38:20;45:3;46:23; 48:21;52:21;54:15,18 provides (3) 10:14,15;52:15 public (21) 3:14,20;5:20,22,25; 11:13;12:17;14:17;16:3; 17:21;18:11;19:2,10,19;	24:20;27:11,12;35:13; 36:5;44:23;56:3 pun (1) 48:19 purpose (7) 3:18;4:7;11:21;19:24; 33:10;34:23;35:23 put (20) 3:3;9:23;10:9;12:16; 15:10;16:1;19:12,14; 21:9,17;23:8;25:7,9,12; 32:25;42:15;43:19,21; 49:20;50:20 putting (2) 19:6;40:24 Q quality (7) 47:19;48:8,19;49:11, 17,18;50:7 queue (1) 30:21 quite (1) 18:9 R radiation (1) 53:21 railroad (1) 49:4 rains (1) 38:3 raise (2) 35:25;48:23 raises (1) 2:6 ran (1) 3:14 ranked (1) 30:17 reach (3) 20:8,8,9 react (1) 21:6 read (3) 12:2;44:3,23 realistic (1) 37:7 really (14) 2:14;5:2,15;7:11,17; 11:14,16,17;14:8;15:7; 17:20;22:7;28:12;45:16 realtime (1) 21:6 reason (2) 28:12;56:1 recall (1) 24:10 received (1) 12:14 reclamation (1)	47:6 reconstruct (1) 17:11 recontaminated (1) 37:20 record (14) 3:20;4:8,12;11:25; 12:19,20;16:17;18:22; 34:21;35:2,16;36:3; 45:23;55:4 recorded (1) 35:11 recourse (5) 18:5,16;19:14;20:7; 21:9 recreational (1) 46:20 recycling (1) 6:23 redundant (1) 34:19 Reed's (1) 4:15 referred (2) 12:25;17:22 regarding (1) 17:25 regional (1) 34:16 regulations (1) 53:19 release (2) 22:22;23:10 remaining (1) 8:15 remedial (2) 53:13,17 remediated (1) 48:12 remediation (1) 53:21 remedy (1) 9:2 remember (1) 2:5 remind (1) 22:23 remove (3) 8:9,13,21 removed (3) 40:18;45:7;47:7 removing (1) 40:11 repeat (2) 17:1;23:24 repolluting (1) 37:22 report (1) 47:17 represent (1) 49:10 representing (2) 4:15;48:4
---	---	---	--	--

requests (1) 6:3	7:20;10:11;24:8;32:8, 13	5:20;19:12;24:4,5,21	shipped (2) 9:9;10:12	skin (1) 7:13
research (1) 5:20	risks (4) 7:20;32:1,2,9	scale (1) 21:1	shoot (1) 49:5	slated (1) 6:1
residents (15) 10:17;32:3,4,7,16; 39:3;47:11,15;48:20,20; 49:18;50:4,11,11;52:8	River (52) 2:24;3:11;5:17;6:25; 7:12;8:7,17,23;9:10,15; 10:5,13;13:21;14:1; 15:11,21;20:22;21:3; 22:9,10,17,25;23:4,9,11; 24:18;29:3,7;36:7,8; 37:5,14,22;38:2,5,7,8,12, 21;44:16,16;45:6,13; 47:15,16;49:1,8,13,21; 50:16;52:7;54:12	schedule (1) 55:8	short (1) 3:22	slew (2) 18:21;40:5
resource (4) 15:9,16,21;22:20	Rivers (1) 29:2	school (4) 2:4,5,8;34:4	shorter (3) 43:16,16,16	slide (1) 21:23
resources (2) 15:25;28:23	road (4) 26:2;46:18,19;53:24	sealed (2) 43:24,24	short-term (4) 20:17;33:4;48:9;50:8	smaller (1) 21:1
respect (1) 51:6	roads (1) 38:7	second (7) 5:11;6:8;16:15;20:3; 31:16;46:12;54:10	show (2) 24:7;33:22	smell (4) 26:9;27:22;44:11,11
respond (8) 4:10;12:15;19:16; 34:10,22;35:4,18;55:9	role (3) 18:1,11,13	section (1) 33:3	showing (1) 41:25	smelling (1) 44:11
responding (2) 31:20;35:3	roles (1) 31:23	secure (1) 10:9	shown (1) 8:14	smells (1) 52:19
response (1) 12:16	Romano (2) 40:2,2	sediment (8) 7:14;8:9,24;27:24; 45:7;46:5;52:17,18	shows (1) 20:13	Smithfield (2) 23:9;38:2
responsibility (3) 27:4;30:10;35:17	room (2) 2:6;21:13	seeing (1) 39:21	shut (1) 20:15	softball (1) 47:5
responsible (12) 9:20;12:24;13:3,17; 14:11;26:2,10,21;29:25; 30:14;31:14;55:17	Route (2) 8:6;21:23	seems (2) 23:11;45:9	sick (2) 24:18,21	soil (9) 8:11;27:23,23,25; 28:1;32:14,15;37:5;46:6
responsiveness (2) 12:17;35:20	run (5) 22:23;32:13;41:11; 48:2;49:4	Senator (1) 4:14	sickened (1) 23:16	solid (2) 27:18,21
restoration (2) 2:22;9:3	runs (1) 38:7	send (2) 33:21;35:14	side (1) 9:15	solution (2) 8:19;10:14
resulting (1) 7:1	S	sense (1) 14:7	sign (2) 2:10;55:16	somebody (1) 33:21
resurfaced (1) 31:21		sent (3) 17:24;33:18;41:14	signed (2) 3:8;45:21	somehow (1) 9:1
return (1) 29:4	Sabitoni (9) 21:22,22;28:15,15; 38:18,19;46:25,25;53:5	September (4) 12:21;13:18;35:8,8	significant (3) 22:25;24:13;45:9	Sometimes (1) 53:25
reuse (2) 10:15;11:8		series (2) 3:10,14	signing (1) 2:9	somewhere (2) 42:22;47:11
review (4) 12:14;26:18;27:6,8	safe (2) 50:23;51:16	serious (4) 18:8,10;28:13;37:9	signs (3) 22:9,12,14	sophisticated (1) 54:25
reviews (1) 27:2	safer (1) 50:21	seriously (1) 11:13	silent (1) 2:7	sorry (3) 16:19;36:18;50:15
Reynolds (2) 16:22,22	safest (1) 39:1	services (1) 40:8	similar (1) 28:6	source (3) 6:19;8:18,24
Rhode (10) 5:5;8:16;19:18;23:7; 29:1;47:4,10;48:5; 53:12;54:22	safety (1) 35:19	serving (1) 34:16	simple (1) 55:20	speak (3) 2:17;27:5;36:1
Rhodes (2) 45:25,25	sake (1) 36:3	session (3) 3:22,25;4:13	simply (1) 45:20	speaking (1) 35:13
rides (1) 22:19	Sal (1) 25:15	set (1) 20:10	single (3) 25:4;41:13;54:8	specific (1) 11:3
right (23) 11:7;16:15;17:5; 21:13;23:4;25:13;26:8; 34:3;36:20;37:25;39:9; 22;41:15;42:23,23; 47:23;49:8,23;50:23; 51:4,12,23;54:24	Same (2) 53:24,25	several (2) 13:19;52:1	sit (1) 40:19	specifics (1) 26:20
ripped (1) 20:21	samples (1) 25:4	sewage (1) 38:1	site (34) 2:23;6:14,16,21;7:10, 17,25;9:9,13,25;10:1,2, 6,12,20,21,23;11:4; 20:18;26:24;30:10; 31:23;32:20;34:6;35:1, 7,16;39:24;40:4;42:13; 43:20;44:2;52:14;53:1	spell (1) 27:12
risk (5)	sandwich (2) 7:15;51:15	sewer (2) 38:3;54:13	sites (8) 5:1;9:14;30:12,16,20; 33:7;34:1,3	spend (2) 37:1,17
	saw (1) 51:25	share (5) 14:18,18;15:5;34:2,7	sitting (4) 39:20;50:24;51:16,17	Spent (2) 38:20;49:8
	saying (5)	shared (1) 17:24	situation (3) 5:3;31:8;47:10	spilled (1) 37:12
		shifting (2) 25:11,22		spite (1) 50:16
		ship (1) 10:1		spoke (2) 47:1;50:19
				spot (2) 15:11;16:1

spread (1) 39:5 spreading (1) 37:6 squeal (1) 49:5 squirrels (1) 49:6 Stacy (8) 2:20;10:11;11:9;17:5; 34:19;44:19,19,20 stage (4) 5:16;6:8;13:13;14:8 stand (1) 16:20 Star (1) 46:13 stare (2) 49:24,25 staring (1) 41:16 start (5) 13:14;28:17;30:24; 34:18;52:16 started (5) 2:3,10,15;4:13;5:25 starting (2) 4:5;9:5 state (17) 5:4,6;10:18;16:20; 26:25;27:5;29:6;42:23; 47:3,10;48:5,20;53:8,14, 18,19;55:25 stated (2) 17:1;29:1 States (2) 41:10;55:19 stay (2) 51:12;55:10 stenographer (3) 11:23;16:19;36:2 step (1) 6:11 steps (3) 12:10;20:16;49:22 still (5) 2:7;26:25;43:13,15; 44:9 stipulates (1) 55:19 stock (1) 39:17 Stone (1) 40:2 stop (2) 16:3;37:19 storage (2) 9:12;10:10 store (2) 9:9,18 stream (1) 51:4 streamlining (1)	31:4 street (2) 27:24;50:15 streets (1) 34:4 stretch (1) 2:25 strong (1) 45:12 studies (1) 28:23 study (1) 52:2 stuff (3) 37:10,13;44:9 subcontractors (1) 53:13 submit (2) 33:16;56:4 submitted (1) 35:21 substantial (2) 49:10;53:10 successful (1) 52:4 sudden (1) 2:6 suggested (1) 3:10 summary (3) 12:17;19:1;35:20 super (2) 52:14;53:1 Superfund (12) 2:23;4:24,25;5:3;6:9; 9:21;11:4;12:12;13:1; 30:13;34:14;35:1 support (6) 18:20;33:2;40:3; 49:16;50:3,5 supporting (1) 40:7 supports (1) 49:16 sure (10) 2:17;14:23;16:9;21:1; 26:18;27:7;42:20;47:14; 48:18;53:2 surface (1) 8:10 surveys (1) 23:10 SVOCs (1) 45:11 swim (2) 38:12,12 swimmable (3) 29:4;36:8,22 swimming (1) 22:1 switch (4) 4:4,6;26:25;34:9 system (3)	26:6,7;28:9	28:5	49:4
		T	thinking (5) 25:25;26:1,8,9;32:14 third (1) 6:9 thought (2) 38:11;46:14 thousands (1) 50:4 threaten (1) 37:4 threats (1) 51:22 three (8) 3:14;5:2;9:15;19:9; 47:12,14;48:23;52:18 three-mile (1) 54:17 throughout (2) 5:1;22:9 thumb (2) 42:7,15 Tim (7) 15:10,10,11,13,19,23; 16:2 together (2) 17:24;50:20 tonight (11) 2:21;3:5,17,19;12:1; 33:10,15;34:17,23; 35:13;46:4 tonight's (3) 2:15;3:7;34:12 tons (1) 43:21 Tony (3) 17:19;18:10,12 took (6) 25:5,8,8,9;41:16; 43:20 top (3) 10:17;11:1;28:6 totally (1) 52:14 touch (3) 12:10;49:25;50:1 touched (1) 46:21 touching (1) 40:17 tough (1) 44:20 Town (9) 10:16;21:24;42:24; 45:3;52:13,17,18,21; 53:2 Towns (1) 48:21 toxins (1) 52:6 track (1) 55:3 tracks (1)	trade (2) 48:4;55:1 trades (2) 54:6,23 tradesmen (1) 54:21 Trail (1) 40:3 trained (2) 39:7;53:20 Training (3) 38:23,24;53:16 transfer (1) 53:18 transparent (1) 53:18 trash (1) 47:10 trigger (1) 28:21 truck (5) 25:2;32:24;37:11; 43:24,25 truckloads (3) 43:21,22;45:7 trucks (6) 14:3,5;33:23,23,23; 34:3 true (2) 33:25;55:3 try (5) 34:18;55:6,7,9,9 tunnel (2) 54:17,19 turn (2) 40:7;46:13 two (12) 3:6,21;17:3;18:17; 19:9;38:1;41:16,18,18, 19,21;42:1 two-for (1) 50:6 two-year (1) 45:7 type (7) 14:6;43:1,1;48:18; 52:23,25;53:23 types (4) 13:12;20:24;32:17; 33:4 typically (1) 27:5
				ultimately (1) 40:19 um (1) 32:4 under (3) 9:21;18:15;20:4 underground (1)

43:10 underneath (2) 8:10;27:15 understood (1) 31:22 underway (1) 19:13 unemployment (1) 47:24 unfair (1) 29:15 Unfortunately (1) 36:10 union (1) 55:14 United (1) 41:9 up (34) 3:8,11,13;4:25;16:20; 20:21;21:15;22:23;23:1, 3;29:7;30:4;31:10; 34:11;37:5,10,15,18,23; 38:20;39:2,17;42:5; 43:11,15;46:13,13,18; 48:1;49:1;50:7,7;51:15; 54:9 upland (5) 9:24;10:3,6;26:5;51:9 upon (2) 40:18;45:20 upstream (2) 37:21;38:3 use (6) 13:8;19:17;22:20; 32:23,24;48:19 used (8) 6:21;9:18;10:17;37:9; 47:3;49:4,5;54:19 uses (1) 6:18 using (1) 28:16 usually (4) 27:8,14;43:18,19	version (1) 3:17 vibrate (1) 3:3 Village (6) 2:25;6:20;20:19; 25:14,17,19 VOCs (1) 45:11 voices (1) 11:15 volatilization (1) 27:17 volatilize (1) 7:18 volume (1) 8:22	25:12;37:23;47:5; 49:14 wholeheartedly (1) 50:3 who's (2) 23:18;51:5 wide (1) 37:16 wife (2) 41:17;46:11 wildlife (5) 39:22;40:1;41:13,23; 43:7 win (8) 46:7,7,7,7,7,8,8;55:3 wind (1) 37:14 winds (1) 45:12 windy (1) 37:14 win-win (1) 31:7 Wiping (3) 41:23;42:1,2 wish (4) 23:18;31:5;47:13,16 within (2) 10:4;20:11 without (1) 17:8 women (2) 48:5;54:21 Woonasquatucket (13) 2:24;8:7;15:11,21; 21:3;22:10,17;23:8; 38:5,21;49:1;51:19; 54:12 words (1) 17:22 work (13) 21:8;31:15;37:3; 38:22;39:7;40:24;44:2; 48:3;52:16,23,25;53:1; 55:2 worked (3) 20:19;22:10;25:1 workers (5) 32:6,14;39:2;55:14,15 workers' (2) 32:8,13 workforce (7) 53:15,20,25;54:4,5,9, 15 working (5) 21:7;33:19;38:16; 43:19;53:9 works (3) 2:7;15:11;42:17 World (1) 54:19 worried (3) 19:12,13;39:4	worse (1) 40:20 worth (1) 5:17 Wow (1) 2:7 writing (4) 35:5,14;36:13;55:9 wrong (1) 49:23 wrote (2) 44:18,23
	W		Y
	wait (1) 31:2 walk (1) 8:2 wants (2) 23:5;26:13 war (1) 37:9 waste (7) 5:1;26:14;27:18,21; 38:24;53:17,21 water (11) 8:10;25:2,8;27:15; 28:7,9;32:24,24;36:25; 38:7;39:20 waters (1) 22:1 Watershed (4) 15:12,21;22:11;39:24 way (13) 7:7;13:21;18:15,23; 20:4;26:19;31:4;37:23; 40:21;41:20,20,22;42:2 ways (5) 5:14;6:6;7:17;11:10, 20 weeks (1) 41:16 Welcome (3) 2:12;21:9,17 west (1) 9:15 wetland (1) 8:14 what's (18) 5:13;6:10,17;7:3; 12:16;13:10;14:23; 15:13;20:15;21:5;26:17, 23;30:9;37:19;43:14; 44:3,4,10 where's (1) 4:19 whole (4)		yards (5) 8:21;9:1,11;18:4;31:3 year (1) 35:8 yearly (1) 28:11 years (27) 5:17;9:4,5;13:15,19; 24:9;25:25;26:1,1,9,22; 28:17,20;31:12;37:3,3; 38:10;39:18;41:25; 44:12;46:11,21,21,21; 49:22;50:12;54:7 Yep (2) 25:21;26:12 Yvonne (1) 50:14
V			
values (1) 47:20 Vanderslice (1) 23:19 variety (2) 31:22,23 various (1) 11:20 vent (1) 28:1 venting (2) 26:6,7 vents (1) 27:17 Vermont (1) 33:24			

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