

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

In The Matter Of:

EPA Hearing

Proposed Plan Amendment Informational Meeting July 30, 2012



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1 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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4 HEARING IN RE: Proposed Plan Amendment
Informational Meeting

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9 DATE: July 30, 2012
TIME: 7:00 pm.
10 PLACE: Pocasset Bay Retirement Living
11 12 Old Pocasset Lane
12 Johnston, Rhode Island

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16 FACILITATED BY: STACY GREENLINGER, ANNA KRASKO
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1 accurate so that we can get the information out to
2 you. And by the way, if you don't traditionally
3 write an e-mail address and you do use e-mail, I
4 would love to be able to get ahold of that, too.
5 So, okay, why are we here tonight? This is the
6 agenda that you have in front of you. Again, we'll
7 go over it in more detail, but after we came out
8 with our proposed plan for the Wannasquatucket River
9 cleanup, headquarters came out with a final dioxin
10 reassessment specifically for non-cancer health
11 impacts. And we were required by headquarters to go
12 back, as was every other site in the country that
13 has dioxin, to go back and take a look at our human
14 health risks assessment and our cleanup levels, and
15 to take this new toxicity value, and plug it into
16 that specific to the site. When we did that, we did
17 indeed come out with some changes in human health
18 risks, as well as our cleanup level. So we'll talk
19 more specifically about that. But those changes is
20 what prompted us to issue the amendment that you
21 have in your hands today. And the public comment
22 period which started on the 19th of July runs
23 through August 17th. And that comment period is
24 specifically on the modifications due to the new
25 dioxin reassessment. It's not opening up comment on

1 (Hearing commenced at 7:10 p.m.)
2 MS. GREENLINGER: Thank you very much for
3 coming out. I see we have representatives from the
4 Wannasquatucket River Watershed Council, which is
5 awesome. And Nancy, thank you so much for coming
6 and representing the full congressional delegation.
7 We appreciate that. And I know the delegation has
8 really kept an ear to the ground, and we appreciate
9 your continued interest in it.
10 And as most of you know, Bob from the
11 Department of Health, the Rhode Island Department of
12 Health, is also here. Bob, thanks for your time.
13 So, I'm Stacy Greenlinger from the U.S.
14 Environmental Protection Agency, and hopefully
15 you've picked up a copy of the proposed plan
16 amendment. Never thought I would be back saying
17 those words to you, since it seems like just
18 yesterday we were talking about the proposed plan.
19 But we are back, and we will explain why we are, and
20 what the amendment has to cover, and what the
21 current comment period also has to cover. So, and
22 hopefully you grabbed an agenda as well, but no
23 need, we'll go over it all together. If you didn't
24 sign in, I will ask you to sign in, because it
25 always help me make sure that my mailing list is

1 the proposed planned cleanup alternative. We closed
2 that 120-day comment period. We're in the process
3 of responding to comments on that. We expect to
4 issue the final cleanup plan this fall. So, this
5 comment period is, again, specifically on the
6 amendment and the modifications due to the new
7 toxicity value. So, just wanted to make sure that
8 we had all of that.
9 I know most of you in this room, because I know
10 most of you in this room have the overview, so I'm
11 going to go through this really fast, because you'
12 are a sophisticated group with this site. But just
13 in case you had a momentary lapse, the past uses at
14 the site were for chemical manufacturing and drum
15 recycling was at what we call the source area, where
16 currently Brook Village and Centredale Manor
17 Apartments reside. The resulting contamination was
18 dioxin, PCBs, PAHs and metals. Our biggest driver
19 concern are dioxins, but it's certainly not the only
20 contaminant at the site.
21 Important to note that there are other
22 industrial and urban sources that are a challenge to
23 the river, and there are other contamination issues
24 going on. People will often say to us, "When you're
25 done with this cleanup, does that mean we get to

Page 5 1 swim in the river?" And no, not as far as the 2 health department is concerned; there are bacterial 3 issues and other contamination issues that continue 4 to challenge the river, but dioxin, certainly 5 addressed that will take care of one big challenge. 6 So, as I just went over, why are we issuing 7 this? As I said, we had to take the new 8 reassessment numbers and plug it back in. Once it 9 came out in February, we started that work. Chau 10 was very busy redoing the human health risks 11 assessment, and Anna and her contractors were 12 working really hard on taking a look at the 13 residential soil. And I do want to note that 14 specifically for residential soil, we also modified 15 our recreational cleanup levels as well. 16 So, and again, for those who may not -- the 17 non-cancer health impact is new. We did, before we 18 had, we were able to assess for cancer risks, but 19 not for non-cancer health risks. So, this 20 information is the first time that we really have 21 been able to calculate what those non-cancer risks 22 might be. And for exposure for dioxin, reproductive 23 effects and destruction to the endocrine system are 24 the most sensitive impacts that happen from dioxin. 25 I know if people have questions later, I'm going to	Page 7 1 I am going to turn it over to Anna for the 2 site-specific person, and make sure she is mic'd. 3 MS. KRASKO: Good evening. So, I need a 4 microphone. Stacy is lucky, she doesn't. I hope 5 everybody can hear me, because the fan is 6 interfering. So, as Stacy said, every one of us has 7 a little bit of dioxin in us because we eat 8 animal-based products, and we also can get exposed 9 to soil and sediment through everyday activities. 10 People who live near Superfund sites that have 11 dioxin contamination like Centredale can get 12 additional exposure by eating contaminated fish from 13 Wannasquatucket River, and accidentally ingesting 14 contaminated soil by doing recreational activities 15 in the large wetlands that we know exist at the 16 site, or just going about their daily life, or on 17 the North Providence side, where residents are 18 located in a floodplain, and those areas are prone 19 to flooding. 20 So, how does Superfund go about establishing 21 the exposures and risks at the site? First we 22 collect a lot of samples. We investigate sediment, 23 soil, water, collect fish and wildlife samples to 24 determine what levels of contaminants, including 25 dioxin, are present in the environment. But it's
Page 6 1 get Bob up later to answer them for you. 2 And dioxin in the environment, again, it's 3 important to remind people that dioxin in terms of 4 how it behaves, it does not readily vaporize in the 5 air, it doesn't dissolve in the water. So, again, 6 when people ask us about swimming in the river, when 7 we say, "Don't swim in the river," it's not from a 8 dioxin point of view, because putting your fingers 9 in the water is not a dioxin issue; it's churning up 10 the sediment that has the dioxin adhering to it and 11 holding onto it, that's more of an issue. But, and 12 also in terms of gardens, people have asked us that, 13 too; it doesn't readily uptake through the plants. 14 Getting on the leaves or on the fruit or the 15 vegetables, that's a different issue, because it's 16 going into the mouth. 17 So, where is dioxin found? It accumulates into 18 fish and wildlife, especially in the fat. Another 19 reason why the department of health has issued the 20 "Don't Eat The Fish From The River." And that 21 really is the biggest concern that we're faced with 22 at the river. And again, it adheres to the soil and 23 sediment particles. It really wants to hold on and 24 bind to the particles, which is in part why it 25 doesn't volatilize into the air.	Page 8 1 not enough just for chemicals to be present; a 2 person needs to come in contact with a chemical, or 3 in contact with sediment or soil or water that has 4 chemicals in it in order to get exposed. 5 For Superfund, as you can see, we evaluate 6 exposure for residents and recreational visitors to 7 the site, assuming frequent exposure over a long 8 period of time, over decades, sometimes over a 9 person's lifetime. So, we look at activities such 10 as swimming and wading in the river, eating fish and 11 other wildlife, visiting recreational areas, and 12 just residing in the floodplain. If we find that 13 those exposures to the current levels that we 14 measure in the environment pose unacceptable risk or 15 risks that are elevated, Superfund is required to 16 take an action to clean up those areas. 17 So, what happened when dioxin reassessment came 18 out from headquarters, from EPA headquarters in 19 February 2012? We went back and looked at risk 20 assessments that were done for all the areas at the 21 site; and the major change was lowering the soil 22 cleanup levels in residential properties on North 23 Providence side from 1,000 parts per trillion to 50 24 parts per trillion. There is also a change, as 25 Stacy alluded early on, in the cleanup level also

Page 9 1 for area for THE large wetlands. For recreational 2 users in that area, the level became 680 parts per 3 trillion rather than 1,000; and at that level we may 4 see potential health effects. 5 So, this is the first time we can actually see 6 the site map. Just to remind you, we have five 7 action areas. The pink areas are the additional 8 cleanup areas that need to be addressed when we 9 issue the cleanup plan in September. As you can 10 see, most of those additional areas on the eastern 11 shore of the Allendale and Lyman Mill pond areas, as 12 well as in the Source Area, and that was actually 13 the only area that hasn't been capped or previously 14 addressed. 15 So, let's go and look a little bit closer at 16 each action area and how it's changed with a new 17 risk assessment. In addition to those areas that 18 you saw in pink, we also determined that there are 19 additional potential health effects from exposure to 20 sediment in the ponds. And we'll come back to that 21 a little bit later. 22 The additional cleanup may result in about 23 10,000 cubic yards of soil being excavated. That's 24 about five to ten percent more than the total volume 25 of material that was in the original October	Page 11 1 cleanup is not expected to occur for at least the 2 next five/six years. And those interim measures are 3 expected to stay in place for a prolonged period of 4 time. 5 Because when your cleanup level of 50 parts per 6 trillion is so low, it is basically very close to 7 what you see in the background soil in urban areas 8 like North Providence, there is a likelihood of 9 recontamination from flood events from the river 10 when sediment, contaminated sediment can be 11 deposited in those low-lying areas. So, it means 12 that, if there is any cleanup to be happen on this 13 river, it has to be done simultaneously. The 14 sediment and the floodplain soils on people's back 15 yards have to be cleaned up at the same time, 16 because just cleaning up a floodplain soil, and 17 leaving contamination in the sediment, will increase 18 the likelihood of recontamination. Just to give you 19 an idea, what we see in the sediment in the 20 Allendale Pond is the maximum contamination, it's 21 about 100,000 parts per trillion, and an average is 22 1,000. In the floodplain soil we're trying to 23 achieve 50, so of course when you have 100,000 parts 24 per trillion area next to 50 parts per trillion 25 area, there is a likelihood of recontamination, and
Page 10 1 proposed plan. Depending on the alternative being 2 evaluated, the cost increase would be between \$4 3 million and \$12 million. EPA Region One still plans 4 to issue the record of decision, which will outline 5 our cleanup plan this fall, so the schedule is not 6 impacted by this dioxin reassessment. 7 Let's look at each action area separately, and 8 how they are impacted. Again, in the source area 9 there is about one-third additional acre that needs 10 to be either capped or excavated. And if we look at 11 the map, which is the next slide, it's right south 12 of Route 44. It's a landscaped area right at the 13 entrance to the apartment complexes. 14 For sediment, we looked and evaluated 15 non-cancer health effects based on exposure for 16 residents and recreational users; and we found that 17 the originally proposed 15 parts per trillion 18 cleanup level is low enough to address 19 newly-evaluated health hazards, so there is no 20 change in the scope of the sediment cleanup. 21 Again, the biggest impact is on the floodplain 22 soil in the North Providence, and these areas along 23 Allendale Mill and Lyman Mill pond would need to be 24 evaluated, and precautionary measures would need to 25 be taken while we're awaiting final cleanup. Final	Page 12 1 the whole area needs to be looked at and addressed 2 at the same time. 3 So, let's look at a couple maps. This is 4 across from Allendale. Again, the pink shows the 5 additional areas. There is a little bit of area on 6 the Johnston side, right across from the source 7 area. The rest is the areas in North Providence, 8 and pink is where we likely have concentrations 9 above 50 parts per trillion in the floodplain soil. 10 And the next slide is the same information for 11 the Lyman Mill. Again, just about the whole eastern 12 shore of Lyman Mill is pink, which means it all 13 needs to be evaluated, and there is a likelihood 14 that all those areas are above the new cleanup level 15 of 50 parts per trillion in floodplain soil. 16 So, I'm going to give the mic, or to give the 17 floor back to Stacy, and she's going to talk about 18 what precautionary measures EPA is proposing to do, 19 and also what precautionary measures the residents 20 and visitors can do themselves while the planning 21 and design of the final cleanup is underway. 22 MS. GREENLINGER: So, as Anna mentioned, it's 23 going to be likely six years or so before shoveling 24 the ground, so to speak, actually happens. So, what 25 do we do in the meantime? And as Anna pointed out,

Page 13 1 the risk of contamination or recontamination to 2 neighbors is fairly high. So that really throws a 3 curve ball in in terms of, well, do you go out and 4 sample now for those areas? If we were to have a 5 heavy rain or floods, just those numbers that Anna 6 mentioned, I think she said 100,000 in the middle of 7 the pond, to go from that to 50, if we were to 8 sample, it really would call into question those 9 sample results. If we were to excavate, the same 10 issue would happen. And we have a fairly lengthy 11 time before we expect to start the long-term 12 cleanup. 13 So, what do we do in the meantime? We don't 14 want people to be at potential risk of exposure, 15 since health risk comes from exposure, or at least 16 the potential for it. So, we are suggesting some 17 precautionary interim measures. Once we have the 18 final cleanup plan issued this fall, we will be in a 19 position to go back and work with all of the 20 property owners that could potentially be impacted 21 to take a look at what measures you could take. For 22 instance, an obvious one, particularly for those in 23 Allendale Pond, where a fences exist right now, is 24 to take a look at where that fence line is in 25 comparison to what we believe to the 100-year	Page 15 1 just never ventures down to the waterfront. So, we 2 need to engage in that interaction and that process 3 once we have the cleanup plan finalized. 4 Residents also can participate in what it is 5 that they can do to prevent exposure. And we 6 actually just concluded about two weeks of an effort 7 of trying to individually reach out to all of the 8 property owners that could be potentially affected 9 here, to sit down and talk with them, one, so they 10 that they knew what's happening, and they had the 11 opportunity to provide comment during the comment 12 period. But two, to really stress that they can 13 take action now. Much of these type of activities 14 that you see listed here are things that people do 15 anyhow. It's good hygiene to wash your hands before 16 you eat. It's a good way to control and prevent for 17 a flu, or for any other type of sickness or 18 exposure. So, that's a common one that people do. 19 Also common is when your shoes get muddy from doing 20 yard work out back, that you don't walk all through 21 your house. Because who wants to clean up after 22 that. So, that's also a typical thing that people 23 do in terms of behaviors, but this is an added 24 reason as to why they should did that, and be 25 vigilant in doing that.
Page 14 1 floodplain. Now, our maps of the 100-year 2 floodplain are not an exact science, and we 3 recognize that. We recognize that the folks who 4 live there know best in terms of, they know when it 5 floods, where does it flood, what's a typical flood, 6 what's an unusual flood. Especially since we all 7 just lived through that historic rain that happened 8 two years ago in Rhode Island. So, we would work 9 with the property owners, using the information that 10 we have in our maps, but also their knowledge from 11 living there, and to take a look at, does it make 12 sense to move the fence line. That might be a 13 really simple, easy solution to having a barrier to 14 people getting down to the floodplains that may be 15 contaminated for that interim period before we can 16 get there and do sampling and take action if action 17 is needed. 18 In some houses, that might not work. That 19 might be their driveway or their house. There are 20 some houses where they're awfully close to the 21 river. So, it really needs to be a 22 property-specific approach, and hence, we really 23 need to engage with the residents to figure out what 24 makes sense there, who lives there, are their 25 children that are there, or is it someone who really	Page 16 1 So, washing your clothing after you've done 2 yard work, instead of going and relaxing on your 3 sofa, keeping yourself clean, washing your fruits 4 and vegetables if you have a garden that's in the 5 area. Perhaps you might want to think about doing a 6 raised bed if you have a garden that's in the 7 floodplain that's in question. But clearly, so, as 8 we said before, the dioxin and its behavior is not 9 to be taken up through the plants, so it's really 10 just making sure that any soil or dirt that got on 11 the plants before you eat it or cook with it to wash 12 it. 13 So, those are pretty straightforward things 14 that residents can do now. They don't have to wait 15 for us to move the fence. These are things that 16 they can do now, and really potentially cut down on 17 any exposure that might be happening. 18 And of course, as we always stress, our "do's" 19 and "don'ts" for the Wannasquatucket River. Don't 20 eat the fish, the eels, the turtles, or wildlife or 21 other plants, don't swim or wade in it. Again, 22 that's not because of dioxin contamination, but for 23 other challenges. And don't dig into the riverbanks 24 so you're not stirring up potentially contaminated 25 soil and sediment.

Page 17 1 Do use the river wisely. We really encourage 2 the use of it, think the efforts that the 3 Wannasquatucket River Watershed Council is doing to 4 get people to get out and use this wonderful 5 resource are really great, so go partake in the 6 walking, running and biking along the trail that's 7 there, paddle or canoe or kayaking. I know from 8 talking with the residents, there are a lot of 9 people living there that do go out and use their 10 boats to paddle around the place. And of course, 11 just be smart, and wash up after you use and enjoy 12 the river. 13 We just threw a lot at you, and as we've 14 mentioned a couple of times, we do have a comment 15 period that's underway. As before, we really stress 16 the importance of your comments. We're in the 17 process of responding to all of the comments that we 18 received on the proposed plan. They truly are 19 important to us. We stress, again, we would 20 appreciate you taking the time to provide comment, 21 whether it's tonight at our formal hearing portion 22 of tonight's meeting, or via e-mail or fax or 23 regular mail to us. And these are the different 24 ways, it's in your proposed plan on page eleven has 25 the details of how you can provide comment to us in	Page 19 1 information, or it changes more often. 2 In those apartment buildings, I did see either 3 kids themselves, or evidence of kids. In terms of 4 the single-family homes or the two-family homes that 5 are along the river, I would say that the vast 6 majority of them that are -- and again, Eugenia, I'm 7 talking about directly on the floodplain, because 8 that's who we have the direct contact with -- the 9 vast majority of them are not of child-bearing age, 10 or have any children live with them. They may have 11 grandchildren that come and visit, but I would say 12 that the ages range from 50 to, actually the oldest 13 person I chatted with was 94. And a lot of folks 14 have lived there or have grown up in this area, or 15 at least their parents' house before them, they're 16 still in the same house or in the same area, so they 17 are not transients. But it's incredible, actually, 18 how long people have lived in the area. It's very 19 impressive. So, that's not to say that -- there's a 20 new couple to the neighborhood. I say new; they've 21 been here for three years, they have a 22 three-and-a-half year-old and a baby on the way. 23 Sat down and talked with them. It's the first time 24 they're hearing about the Superfund site. So, you 25 certainly have a range, but I would say on average
Page 18 1 the amendment. And again, can't stress enough how 2 important that is to get your comments so that we're 3 making a decision that reflects your opinions. 4 But before we get to the formal comment portion 5 of the formal hearing portion that's tonight, we do 6 want to be able to answer any questions that you 7 might have on the amendment, especially if you have 8 not had the opportunity to read it, and this is the 9 first time that you're hearing about the dioxin 10 reassessment and how its modification to the 11 proposed cleanup plan has caused us to issue this 12 amendment. 13 So, I'm going to stop and see if anybody has 14 any questions or thoughts that they would like to 15 share with us. Eugenia? 16 EUGENIA MARKS: How detailed is your 17 understanding of the demographics of the area in 18 terms of children in households? 19 MS. GREENLINGER: After this event, in terms of 20 my understanding of the demographic, I would say 21 that it's mixed. There are definitely a handful of 22 apartment buildings that have more transient folks 23 living there in terms of having lived there for a 24 very long time, or more likely to move, and harder 25 for us to reach, just because we don't have their	Page 20 1 it's between 55 and 70, I would say on average; and 2 no, there are not children there. And they all know 3 the deal with the river, and know the limitations 4 and the challenges it presents. 5 EUGENIA MARKS: But you have visited every 6 home, every resident within the site area that abuts 7 the river? 8 MS. GREENLINGER: That's who we reached out 9 for. So have I talked with every single one of 10 them, no. I wish it was a hundred percent. Every 11 single one of them received a letter inviting them 12 to call us, to meet with us. And they also, a vast 13 majority of them received a one-pager where we were 14 telling them about the changes and our desire to 15 come talk to them about some interim measures. So, 16 really, they all have that information. I would say 17 that out of about 48 properties, that I've had about 18 30 conversations with about 40 people. 19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Just a follow-up. What 20 reaction have you gotten by people in terms of the 21 changes that you've had to make in moving the 22 fences, and not using personal property, things like 23 that? 24 MS. GREENLINGER: Yes. I would say most of the 25 reaction, there wasn't really surprise, from that

Page 21 1 point of view. And most people, again, know what 2 the challenges are, and take a lot of these 3 precautions anyhow. It's not like they're eating 4 fish from the river, it's not like they're swimming 5 in it. So, I think most of them are like, it's not 6 really changing their day-to-day patterns of how 7 they use their properties. So, most people are 8 like, you need to do what you need to do, but 9 consult with us, because we will have opinions about 10 what kind of fence, where the fence goes. 11 Some people certainly are concerned about their 12 use of their property. It depends, because some 13 houses, when you talk about moving the fence, it 14 could eat up a lot of their lawn. So, for those 15 people, obviously they're a little bit more 16 concerned with the idea of moving the fence, because 17 it will directly impact them. And we will need to 18 work with those folks. 19 So, some of those people kind of said, "Wait a 20 minute, this is my property, I pay taxes on it, I 21 don't want to lose the use of my property." Most 22 people were kind of like, most properties it's not 23 quite as dire of an impact by moving the fence; and 24 so, they were just saying, "Okay, when you come 25 back, we'll engage and talk with you about it." A	Page 23 1 that. 2 MS. VU: Well, the number for the residential 3 scenario is also based on site specifics, and some 4 standard assumptions as well. So, for recreational 5 scenario we have different assumptions of how much 6 people, we assume that people are exposed, so that's 7 why we come out with different numbers. 8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But that's the other side of 9 your risk assessment. In other words, your standard 10 on both of them is 1,000 in each case. 11 MS. VU: Right. 12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But supposedly your 13 assumptions in both of those are still the same. 14 MS. VU: That was the standard in the past, the 15 1,000 parts per trillion that you're talking about. 16 Well, we wouldn't call it standard, but it was a 17 number that was based on, just call it "science" 18 that EPA used in the past. And it was used for 19 residential specifically. Back then we didn't 20 calculate the specific number for recreational 21 scenario, we also used the same number for 22 recreational as well, because there was no standard, 23 per se. 24 And then the numbers that we show here at this 25 time were the revised numbers, specifically for two
Page 22 1 lot of people were saying, "Can we get a fence, 2 because we want to clean the shrubs on the other -- 3 the overgrowth and trash that's there." 4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The condominiums at Allendale 5 Mill which are renovated now, are those among those 6 to whom you've spoken? 7 MS. GREENLINGER: No. And Anna can jump in, 8 too. My understanding of those mills is that's not 9 where -- the renovated mills, that that's not an 10 area that's impacted by contamination. 11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You were talking about, maybe 12 Anna, you were talking about this. Both the 13 residential and the recreational standard previously 14 were a thousand parts per trillion? 15 MS. GREENLINGER: Um-hmm. 16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And you say you changed the 17 residential to 50, but you didn't make it the same 18 extent for the recreational. In other words, if the 19 uses when you're doing a risk assessment with uses, 20 which is what you would be changing, but the 21 standard you're using, I wondered why you didn't 22 make the change in the same fashion for both of 23 them. In other words, it's a different parameter in 24 the equation. 25 MS. GREENLINGER: I'm going to have Chau answer	Page 24 1 separate scenarios. We don't call those standards; 2 they're site specific numbers we developed for 3 different scenarios. 4 EUGENIA MARKS: I want to go back to the 5 Allendale Mill Condominium and the tail race or the 6 head race or whatever, which is a part of that same 7 area that in 2011 was the proposed cleanup area. So 8 I understand that's not new. 9 MS. GREENLINGER: Right. 10 EUGENIA MARKS: So, we're waiting for the final 11 plan to know exactly what would be done there? 12 MS. GREENLINGER: Correct. 13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And you don't feel there's 14 any reason to notify residents at this time about -- 15 MS. GREENLINGER: Because again, where the 16 amendment is, what are the changes based on the most 17 current new science that we have, which is this new 18 non-cancer toxicity value, and what modifications 19 did it make to the 2011 proposed cleanup plan. 20 Those modifications is what the amendment is based 21 on. And the additional properties that before were 22 not considered for the cleanup, those were the 23 properties that we targeted in terms of reaching out 24 and talking to the residents. 25 EUGENIA MARKS: I have some concern, because I

Page 25 1 don't believe there's water in that tail race; and 2 it just seems like an attractive nuisance. And I 3 realize that those are condominiums, and we don't 4 know what the demographic on children living in 5 there is. 6 MS. GREENLINGER: Right. 7 EUGENIA MARKS: It just seems like there may be 8 should be some consideration about public education 9 in that area. 10 MS. GREENLINGER: Repeat yourself in the formal 11 hearing, so we can capture that on the formal 12 record. That way you hold us to respond to that. 13 It becomes part of the formal record. But I heard 14 you. 15 Are there any other questions before we switch 16 over to the formal hearing? So, I have to do a 17 little spiel. 18 We will conclude the informational portion of 19 this meeting; we will start the formal comment 20 period, the formal hearing. The purpose of this 21 hearing is for us to take your comments. EPA cannot 22 respond to your comment. We would be happy at the 23 conclusion of the formal hearing to stay around to 24 answer any other questions or thoughts that you 25 might have.	Page 27 1 continuously filled with water. And I think it's -- 2 I know it's in a lawn situation on the river side of 3 the complex. We don't know whether there are any 4 children who live in there. And my concern is 5 asking that a review of exposures that may be 6 applicable under this new standard be undertaken. 7 Thank you. 8 MS. GREENLINGER: Do you have any other 9 thoughts, Eugenia? I'll leave it open for another 10 minute in case anybody thinks of anything. 11 EUGENIA MARKS: Another thing that occurred to 12 me, Eugenia Marks, is that while the area under 13 consideration is all on the North Providence side, 14 that, in the Lyman Mill area, there is a residential 15 area accessible across the Lyman Mill Dam; and in 16 the past, having observed recreational use of 17 homemade rafts, kids clothing in that area, of 18 whether there has been adequate public information 19 provided on the Johnston side in that residential 20 area where there's some proximity to the Lyman Mill 21 Dam. 22 MS. GREENLINGER: Okay. With that, I'm going 23 to formally close the formal hearing. Again, the 24 comment period is open until August 17th. You can 25 e-mail, fax or send a letter addressed to Anna. On
Page 26 1 So, again, during the formal hearing, if you 2 can limit your comments to the proposed plan 3 amendment, that would be great. And if you can 4 state your name and your address so that the 5 stenographer can hear you and capture that. And 6 please provide us whatever comment you would like to 7 go into the formal record. At the close of the 8 comment period, we will take these comments, and 9 write responses to them, and incorporate them into 10 the final record of decision, which is EPA's Final 11 Cleanup Plan for the Centredale Manor Restoration 12 Project Superfund Site. 13 So, with that, I'm going to grab the mic for 14 anybody who may want to provide comment so the 15 stenographer can hear you. 16 Eugenia, do you want to start us off, since we 17 know you have one? 18 EUGENIA MARKS: My name is Eugenia Marks, 19 M-A-R-K-S. I'm the director for policy at the 20 Audubon Society of Rhode Island, and I'm a past 21 member of the board of the Wannasquatucket River 22 Watershed Council. I understand that this hearing 23 regards the new standard for residential exposure; 24 and I had concerns about the mill raceway at 25 Allendale Condominiums, which I believe not to be	Page 28 1 page eleven of your proposed plan amendment, you 2 will find that detailed information. And we thank 3 you very much for coming out tonight. 4 (Hearing adjourned at 7:52 p.m.) 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2
3 I, Jane F. Cormier, do hereby certify
4 that the foregoing contains a true, accurate
5 and complete transcript of my notes taken at
6 the above-entitled proceeding.

7
8 IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my
9 hand this 10th day of August, 2012.

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JANE F. CORMIER, CSR
NOTARY PUBLIC
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: 1/19/2014

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

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In The Matter Of:
EPA Hearing

Proposed Plan Amendment Informational Meeting
July 30, 2012



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

**HEARING IN RE: Proposed Plan Amendment
Informational Meeting**

**DATE: July 30, 2012
TIME: 7:00 pm.
PLACE: Pocasset Bay Retirement Living
12 Old Pocasset Lane
Johnston, Rhode Island**

FACILITATED BY: STACY GREENLINGER, ANNA KRASKO

1 (Hearing commenced at 7:10 p.m.)

2 MS. GREENLINGER: Thank you very much for
3 coming out. I see we have representatives from the
4 Wannasquatucket River Watershed Council, which is
5 awesome. And Nancy, thank you so much for coming
6 and representing the full congressional delegation.
7 We appreciate that. And I know the delegation has
8 really kept an ear to the ground, and we appreciate
9 your continued interest in it.

10 And as most of you know, Bob from the
11 Department of Health, the Rhode Island Department of
12 Health, is also here. Bob, thanks for your time.

13 So, I'm Stacy Greenlinger from the U.S.
14 Environmental Protection Agency, and hopefully
15 you've picked up a copy of the proposed plan
16 amendment. Never thought I would be back saying
17 those words to you, since it seems like just
18 yesterday we were talking about the proposed plan.
19 But we are back, and we will explain why we are, and
20 what the amendment has to cover, and what the
21 current comment period also has to cover. So, and
22 hopefully you grabbed an agenda as well, but no
23 need, we'll go over it all together. If you didn't
24 sign in, I will ask you to sign in, because it
25 always help me make sure that my mailing list is

1 accurate so that we can get the information out to
2 you. And by the way, if you don't traditionally
3 write an e-mail address and you do use e-mail, I
4 would love to be able to get ahold of that, too.

5 So, okay, why are we here tonight? This is the
6 agenda that you have in front of you. Again, we'll
7 go over it in more detail, but after we came out
8 with our proposed plan for the Wannasquatucket River
9 cleanup, headquarters came out with a final dioxin
10 reassessment specifically for non-cancer health
11 impacts. And we were required by headquarters to go
12 back, as was every other site in the country that
13 has dioxin, to go back and take a look at our human
14 health risks assessment and our cleanup levels, and
15 to take this new toxicity value, and plug it into
16 that specific to the site. When we did that, we did
17 indeed come out with some changes in human health
18 risks, as well as our cleanup level. So we'll talk
19 more specifically about that. But those changes is
20 what prompted us to issue the amendment that you
21 have in your hands today. And the public comment
22 period which started on the 19th of July runs
23 through August 17th. And that comment period is
24 specifically on the modifications due to the new
25 dioxin reassessment. It's not opening up comment on

1 the proposed planned cleanup alternative. We closed
2 that 120-day comment period. We're in the process
3 of responding to comments on that. We expect to
4 issue the final cleanup plan this fall. So, this
5 comment period is, again, specifically on the
6 amendment and the modifications due to the new
7 toxicity value. So, just wanted to make sure that
8 we had all of that.

9 I know most of you in this room, because I know
10 most of you in this room have the overview, so I'm
11 going to go through this really fast, because you'
12 are a sophisticated group with this site. But just
13 in case you had a momentary lapse, the past uses at
14 the site were for chemical manufacturing and drum
15 recycling was at what we call the source area, where
16 currently Brook Village and Centredale Manor
17 Apartments reside. The resulting contamination was
18 dioxin, PCBs, PAHs and metals. Our biggest driver
19 concern are dioxins, but it's certainly not the only
20 contaminant at the site.

21 Important to note that there are other
22 industrial and urban sources that are a challenge to
23 the river, and there are other contamination issues
24 going on. People will often say to us, "When you're
25 done with this cleanup, does that mean we get to

1 swim in the river?" And no, not as far as the
2 health department is concerned; there are bacterial
3 issues and other contamination issues that continue
4 to challenge the river, but dioxin, certainly
5 addressed that will take care of one big challenge.

6 So, as I just went over, why are we issuing
7 this? As I said, we had to take the new
8 reassessment numbers and plug it back in. Once it
9 came out in February, we started that work. Chau
10 was very busy redoing the human health risks
11 assessment, and Anna and her contractors were
12 working really hard on taking a look at the
13 residential soil. And I do want to note that
14 specifically for residential soil, we also modified
15 our recreational cleanup levels as well.

16 So, and again, for those who may not -- the
17 non-cancer health impact is new. We did, before we
18 had, we were able to assess for cancer risks, but
19 not for non-cancer health risks. So, this
20 information is the first time that we really have
21 been able to calculate what those non-cancer risks
22 might be. And for exposure for dioxin, reproductive
23 effects and destruction to the endocrine system are
24 the most sensitive impacts that happen from dioxin.
25 I know if people have questions later, I'm going to

1 get Bob up later to answer them for you.

2 And dioxin in the environment, again, it's
3 important to remind people that dioxin in terms of
4 how it behaves, it does not readily vaporize in the
5 air, it doesn't dissolve in the water. So, again,
6 when people ask us about swimming in the river, when
7 we say, "Don't swim in the river," it's not from a
8 dioxin point of view, because putting your fingers
9 in the water is not a dioxin issue; it's churning up
10 the sediment that has the dioxin adhering to it and
11 holding onto it, that's more of an issue. But, and
12 also in terms of gardens, people have asked us that,
13 too; it doesn't readily uptake through the plants.
14 Getting on the leaves or on the fruit or the
15 vegetables, that's a different issue, because it's
16 going into the mouth.

17 So, where is dioxin found? It accumulates into
18 fish and wildlife, especially in the fat. Another
19 reason why the department of health has issued the
20 "Don't Eat The Fish From The River." And that
21 really is the biggest concern that we're faced with
22 at the river. And again, it adheres to the soil and
23 sediment particles. It really wants to hold on and
24 bind to the particles, which is in part why it
25 doesn't volatilize into the air.

1 I am going to turn it over to Anna for the
2 site-specific person, and make sure she is mic'd.

3 MS. KRASKO: Good evening. So, I need a
4 microphone. Stacy is lucky, she doesn't. I hope
5 everybody can hear me, because the fan is
6 interfering. So, as Stacy said, every one of us has
7 a little bit of dioxin in us because we eat
8 animal-based products, and we also can get exposed
9 to soil and sediment through everyday activities.
10 People who live near Superfund sites that have
11 dioxin contamination like Centredale can get
12 additional exposure by eating contaminated fish from
13 Wannasquatucket River, and accidentally ingesting
14 contaminated soil by doing recreational activities
15 in the large wetlands that we know exist at the
16 site, or just going about their daily life, or on
17 the North Providence side, where residents are
18 located in a floodplain, and those areas are prone
19 to flooding.

20 So, how does Superfund go about establishing
21 the exposures and risks at the site? First we
22 collect a lot of samples. We investigate sediment,
23 soil, water, collect fish and wildlife samples to
24 determine what levels of contaminants, including
25 dioxin, are present in the environment. But it's

1 not enough just for chemicals to be present; a
2 person needs to come in contact with a chemical, or
3 in contact with sediment or soil or water that has
4 chemicals in it in order to get exposed.

5 For Superfund, as you can see, we evaluate
6 exposure for residents and recreational visitors to
7 the site, assuming frequent exposure over a long
8 period of time, over decades, sometimes over a
9 person's lifetime. So, we look at activities such
10 as swimming and wading in the river, eating fish and
11 other wildlife, visiting recreational areas, and
12 just residing in the floodplain. If we find that
13 those exposures to the current levels that we
14 measure in the environment pose unacceptable risk or
15 risks that are elevated, Superfund is required to
16 take an action to clean up those areas.

17 So, what happened when dioxin reassessment came
18 out from headquarters, from EPA headquarters in
19 February 2012? We went back and looked at risk
20 assessments that were done for all the areas at the
21 site; and the major change was lowering the soil
22 cleanup levels in residential properties on North
23 Providence side from 1,000 parts per trillion to 50
24 parts per trillion. There is also a change, as
25 Stacy alluded early on, in the cleanup level also

1 for area for THE large wetlands. For recreational
2 users in that area, the level became 680 parts per
3 trillion rather than 1,000; and at that level we may
4 see potential health effects.

5 So, this is the first time we can actually see
6 the site map. Just to remind you, we have five
7 action areas. The pink areas are the additional
8 cleanup areas that need to be addressed when we
9 issue the cleanup plan in September. As you can
10 see, most of those additional areas on the eastern
11 shore of the Allendale and Lyman Mill pond areas, as
12 well as in the Source Area, and that was actually
13 the only area that hasn't been capped or previously
14 addressed.

15 So, let's go and look a little bit closer at
16 each action area and how it's changed with a new
17 risk assessment. In addition to those areas that
18 you saw in pink, we also determined that there are
19 additional potential health effects from exposure to
20 sediment in the ponds. And we'll come back to that
21 a little bit later.

22 The additional cleanup may result in about
23 10,000 cubic yards of soil being excavated. That's
24 about five to ten percent more than the total volume
25 of material that was in the original October

1 proposed plan. Depending on the alternative being
2 evaluated, the cost increase would be between \$4
3 million and \$12 million. EPA Region One still plans
4 to issue the record of decision, which will outline
5 our cleanup plan this fall, so the schedule is not
6 impacted by this dioxin reassessment.

7 Let's look at each action area separately, and
8 how they are impacted. Again, in the source area
9 there is about one-third additional acre that needs
10 to be either capped or excavated. And if we look at
11 the map, which is the next slide, it's right south
12 of Route 44. It's a landscaped area right at the
13 entrance to the apartment complexes.

14 For sediment, we looked and evaluated
15 non-cancer health effects based on exposure for
16 residents and recreational users; and we found that
17 the originally proposed 15 parts per trillion
18 cleanup level is low enough to address
19 newly-evaluated health hazards, so there is no
20 change in the scope of the sediment cleanup.

21 Again, the biggest impact is on the floodplain
22 soil in the North Providence, and these areas along
23 Allendale Mill and Lyman Mill pond would need to be
24 evaluated, and precautionary measures would need to
25 be taken while we're awaiting final cleanup. Final

1 cleanup is not expected to occur for at least the
2 next five/six years. And those interim measures are
3 expected to stay in place for a prolonged period of
4 time.

5 Because when your cleanup level of 50 parts per
6 trillion is so low, it is basically very close to
7 what you see in the background soil in urban areas
8 like North Providence, there is a likelihood of
9 recontamination from flood events from the river
10 when sediment, contaminated sediment can be
11 deposited in those low-lying areas. So, it means
12 that, if there is any cleanup to be happen on this
13 river, it has to be done simultaneously. The
14 sediment and the floodplain soils on people's back
15 yards have to be cleaned up at the same time,
16 because just cleaning up a floodplain soil, and
17 leaving contamination in the sediment, will increase
18 the likelihood of recontamination. Just to give you
19 an idea, what we see in the sediment in the
20 Allendale Pond is the maximum contamination, it's
21 about 100,000 parts per trillion, and an average is
22 1,000. In the floodplain soil we're trying to
23 achieve 50, so of course when you have 100,000 parts
24 per trillion area next to 50 parts per trillion
25 area, there is a likelihood of recontamination, and

1 the whole area needs to be looked at and addressed
2 at the same time.

3 So, let's look at a couple maps. This is
4 across from Allendale. Again, the pink shows the
5 additional areas. There is a little bit of area on
6 the Johnston side, right across from the source
7 area. The rest is the areas in North Providence,
8 and pink is where we likely have concentrations
9 above 50 parts per trillion in the floodplain soil.

10 And the next slide is the same information for
11 the Lyman Mill. Again, just about the whole eastern
12 shore of Lyman Mill is pink, which means it all
13 needs to be evaluated, and there is a likelihood
14 that all those areas are above the new cleanup level
15 of 50 parts per trillion in floodplain soil.

16 So, I'm going to give the mic, or to give the
17 floor back to Stacy, and she's going to talk about
18 what precautionary measures EPA is proposing to do,
19 and also what precautionary measures the residents
20 and visitors can do themselves while the planning
21 and design of the final cleanup is underway.

22 MS. GREENLINGER: So, as Anna mentioned, it's
23 going to be likely six years or so before shoveling
24 the ground, so to speak, actually happens. So, what
25 do we do in the meantime? And as Anna pointed out,

1 the risk of contamination or recontamination to
2 neighbors is fairly high. So that really throws a
3 curve ball in in terms of, well, do you go out and
4 sample now for those areas? If we were to have a
5 heavy rain or floods, just those numbers that Anna
6 mentioned, I think she said 100,000 in the middle of
7 the pond, to go from that to 50, if we were to
8 sample, it really would call into question those
9 sample results. If we were to excavate, the same
10 issue would happen. And we have a fairly lengthy
11 time before we expect to start the long-term
12 cleanup.

13 So, what do we do in the meantime? We don't
14 want people to be at potential risk of exposure,
15 since health risk comes from exposure, or at least
16 the potential for it. So, we are suggesting some
17 precautionary interim measures. Once we have the
18 final cleanup plan issued this fall, we will be in a
19 position to go back and work with all of the
20 property owners that could potentially be impacted
21 to take a look at what measures you could take. For
22 instance, an obvious one, particularly for those in
23 Allendale Pond, where a fences exist right now, is
24 to take a look at where that fence line is in
25 comparison to what we believe to the 100-year

1 floodplain. Now, our maps of the 100-year
2 floodplain are not an exact science, and we
3 recognize that. We recognize that the folks who
4 live there know best in terms of, they know when it
5 floods, where does it flood, what's a typical flood,
6 what's an unusual flood. Especially since we all
7 just lived through that historic rain that happened
8 two years ago in Rhode Island. So, we would work
9 with the property owners, using the information that
10 we have in our maps, but also their knowledge from
11 living there, and to take a look at, does it make
12 sense to move the fence line. That might be a
13 really simple, easy solution to having a barrier to
14 people getting down to the floodplains that may be
15 contaminated for that interim period before we can
16 get there and do sampling and take action if action
17 is needed.

18 In some houses, that might not work. That
19 might be their driveway or their house. There are
20 some houses where they're awfully close to the
21 river. So, it really needs to be a
22 property-specific approach, and hence, we really
23 need to engage with the residents to figure out what
24 makes sense there, who lives there, are their
25 children that are there, or is it someone who really

1 just never ventures down to the waterfront. So, we
2 need to engage in that interaction and that process
3 once we have the cleanup plan finalized.

4 Residents also can participate in what it is
5 that they can do to prevent exposure. And we
6 actually just concluded about two weeks of an effort
7 of trying to individually reach out to all of the
8 property owners that could be potentially affected
9 here, to sit down and talk with them, one, so they
10 that they knew what's happening, and they had the
11 opportunity to provide comment during the comment
12 period. But two, to really stress that they can
13 take action now. Much of these type of activities
14 that you see listed here are things that people do
15 anyhow. It's good hygiene to wash your hands before
16 you eat. It's a good way to control and prevent for
17 a flu, or for any other type of sickness or
18 exposure. So, that's a common one that people do.
19 Also common is when your shoes get muddy from doing
20 yard work out back, that you don't walk all through
21 your house. Because who wants to clean up after
22 that. So, that's also a typical thing that people
23 do in terms of behaviors, but this is an added
24 reason as to why they should did that, and be
25 vigilant in doing that.

1 So, washing your clothing after you've done
2 yard work, instead of going and relaxing on your
3 sofa, keeping yourself clean, washing your fruits
4 and vegetables if you have a garden that's in the
5 area. Perhaps you might want to think about doing a
6 raised bed if you have a garden that's in the
7 floodplain that's in question. But clearly, so, as
8 we said before, the dioxin and its behavior is not
9 to be taken up through the plants, so it's really
10 just making sure that any soil or dirt that got on
11 the plants before you eat it or cook with it to wash
12 it.

13 So, those are pretty straightforward things
14 that residents can do now. They don't have to wait
15 for us to move the fence. These are things that
16 they can do now, and really potentially cut down on
17 any exposure that might be happening.

18 And of course, as we always stress, our "do's"
19 and "don'ts" for the Wannasquatucket River. Don't
20 eat the fish, the eels, the turtles, or wildlife or
21 other plants, don't swim or wade in it. Again,
22 that's not because of dioxin contamination, but for
23 other challenges. And don't dig into the riverbanks
24 so you're not stirring up potentially contaminated
25 soil and sediment.

1 Do use the river wisely. We really encourage
2 the use of it, think the efforts that the
3 Wannasquatucket River Watershed Council is doing to
4 get people to get out and use this wonderful
5 resource are really great, so go partake in the
6 walking, running and biking along the trail that's
7 there, paddle or canoe or kayaking. I know from
8 talking with the residents, there are a lot of
9 people living there that do go out and use their
10 boats to paddle around the place. And of course,
11 just be smart, and wash up after you use and enjoy
12 the river.

13 We just threw a lot at you, and as we've
14 mentioned a couple of times, we do have a comment
15 period that's underway. As before, we really stress
16 the importance of your comments. We're in the
17 process of responding to all of the comments that we
18 received on the proposed plan. They truly are
19 important to us. We stress, again, we would
20 appreciate you taking the time to provide comment,
21 whether it's tonight at our formal hearing portion
22 of tonight's meeting, or via e-mail or fax or
23 regular mail to us. And these are the different
24 ways, it's in your proposed plan on page eleven has
25 the details of how you can provide comment to us in

1 the amendment. And again, can't stress enough how
2 important that is to get your comments so that we're
3 making a decision that reflects your opinions.

4 But before we get to the formal comment portion
5 of the formal hearing portion that's tonight, we do
6 want to be able to answer any questions that you
7 might have on the amendment, especially if you have
8 not had the opportunity to read it, and this is the
9 first time that you're hearing about the dioxin
10 reassessment and how its modification to the
11 proposed cleanup plan has caused us to issue this
12 amendment.

13 So, I'm going to stop and see if anybody has
14 any questions or thoughts that they would like to
15 share with us. Eugenia?

16 EUGENIA MARKS: How detailed is your
17 understanding of the demographics of the area in
18 terms of children in households?

19 MS. GREENLINGER: After this event, in terms of
20 my understanding of the demographic, I would say
21 that it's mixed. There are definitely a handful of
22 apartment buildings that have more transient folks
23 living there in terms of having lived there for a
24 very long time, or more likely to move, and harder
25 for us to reach, just because we don't have their

1 information, or it changes more often.

2 In those apartment buildings, I did see either
3 kids themselves, or evidence of kids. In terms of
4 the single-family homes or the two-family homes that
5 are along the river, I would say that the vast
6 majority of them that are -- and again, Eugenia, I'm
7 talking about directly on the floodplain, because
8 that's who we have the direct contact with -- the
9 vast majority of them are not of child-bearing age,
10 or have any children live with them. They may have
11 grandchildren that come and visit, but I would say
12 that the ages range from 50 to, actually the oldest
13 person I chatted with was 94. And a lot of folks
14 have lived there or have grown up in this area, or
15 at least their parents' house before them, they're
16 still in the same house or in the same area, so they
17 are not transients. But it's incredible, actually,
18 how long people have lived in the area. It's very
19 impressive. So, that's not to say that -- there's a
20 new couple to the neighborhood. I say new; they've
21 been here for three years, they have a
22 three-and-a-half year-old and a baby on the way.
23 Sat down and talked with them. It's the first time
24 they're hearing about the Superfund site. So, you
25 certainly have a range, but I would say on average

1 it's between 55 and 70, I would say on average; and
2 no, there are not children there. And they all know
3 the deal with the river, and know the limitations
4 and the challenges it presents.

5 EUGENIA MARKS: But you have visited every
6 home, every resident within the site area that abuts
7 the river?

8 MS. GREENLINGER: That's who we reached out
9 for. So have I talked with every single one of
10 them, no. I wish it was a hundred percent. Every
11 single one of them received a letter inviting them
12 to call us, to meet with us. And they also, a vast
13 majority of them received a one-pager where we were
14 telling them about the changes and our desire to
15 come talk to them about some interim measures. So,
16 really, they all have that information. I would say
17 that out of about 48 properties, that I've had about
18 30 conversations with about 40 people.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Just a follow-up. What
20 reaction have you gotten by people in terms of the
21 changes that you've had to make in moving the
22 fences, and not using personal property, things like
23 that?

24 MS. GREENLINGER: Yes. I would say most of the
25 reaction, there wasn't really surprise, from that

1 point of view. And most people, again, know what
2 the challenges are, and take a lot of these
3 precautions anyhow. It's not like they're eating
4 fish from the river, it's not like they're swimming
5 in it. So, I think most of them are like, it's not
6 really changing their day-to-day patterns of how
7 they use their properties. So, most people are
8 like, you need to do what you need to do, but
9 consult with us, because we will have opinions about
10 what kind of fence, where the fence goes.

11 Some people certainly are concerned about their
12 use of their property. It depends, because some
13 houses, when you talk about moving the fence, it
14 could eat up a lot of their lawn. So, for those
15 people, obviously they're a little bit more
16 concerned with the idea of moving the fence, because
17 it will directly impact them. And we will need to
18 work with those folks.

19 So, some of those people kind of said, "Wait a
20 minute, this is my property, I pay taxes on it, I
21 don't want to lose the use of my property." Most
22 people were kind of like, most properties it's not
23 quite as dire of an impact by moving the fence; and
24 so, they were just saying, "Okay, when you come
25 back, we'll engage and talk with you about it." A

1 lot of people were saying, "Can we get a fence,
2 because we want to clean the shrubs on the other --
3 the overgrowth and trash that's there."

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The condominiums at Allendale
5 Mill which are renovated now, are those among those
6 to whom you've spoken?

7 MS. GREENLINGER: No. And Anna can jump in,
8 too. My understanding of those mills is that's not
9 where -- the renovated mills, that that's not an
10 area that's impacted by contamination.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You were talking about, maybe
12 Anna, you were talking about this. Both the
13 residential and the recreational standard previously
14 were a thousand parts per trillion?

15 MS. GREENLINGER: Um-hmm.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And you say you changed the
17 residential to 50, but you didn't make it the same
18 extent for the recreational. In other words, if the
19 uses when you're doing a risk assessment with uses,
20 which is what you would be changing, but the
21 standard you're using, I wondered why you didn't
22 make the change in the same fashion for both of
23 them. In other words, it's a different parameter in
24 the equation.

25 MS. GREENLINGER: I'm going to have Chau answer

1 that.

2 MS. VU: Well, the number for the residential
3 scenario is also based on site specifics, and some
4 standard assumptions as well. So, for recreational
5 scenario we have different assumptions of how much
6 people, we assume that people are exposed, so that's
7 why we come out with different numbers.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But that's the other side of
9 your risk assessment. In other words, your standard
10 on both of them is 1,000 in each case.

11 MS. VU: Right.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But supposedly your
13 assumptions in both of those are still the same.

14 MS. VU: That was the standard in the past, the
15 1,000 parts per trillion that you're talking about.
16 Well, we wouldn't call it standard, but it was a
17 number that was based on, just call it "science"
18 that EPA used in the past. And it was used for
19 residential specifically. Back then we didn't
20 calculate the specific number for recreational
21 scenario, we also used the same number for
22 recreational as well, because there was no standard,
23 per se.

24 And then the numbers that we show here at this
25 time were the revised numbers, specifically for two

1 separate scenarios. We don't call those standards;
2 they're site specific numbers we developed for
3 different scenarios.

4 EUGENIA MARKS: I want to go back to the
5 Allendale Mill Condominium and the tail race or the
6 head race or whatever, which is a part of that same
7 area that in 2011 was the proposed cleanup area. So
8 I understand that's not new.

9 MS. GREENLINGER: Right.

10 EUGENIA MARKS: So, we're waiting for the final
11 plan to know exactly what would be done there?

12 MS. GREENLINGER: Correct.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And you don't feel there's
14 any reason to notify residents at this time about --

15 MS. GREENLINGER: Because again, where the
16 amendment is, what are the changes based on the most
17 current new science that we have, which is this new
18 non-cancer toxicity value, and what modifications
19 did it make to the 2011 proposed cleanup plan.
20 Those modifications is what the amendment is based
21 on. And the additional properties that before were
22 not considered for the cleanup, those were the
23 properties that we targeted in terms of reaching out
24 and talking to the residents.

25 EUGENIA MARKS: I have some concern, because I

1 don't believe there's water in that tail race; and
2 it just seems like an attractive nuisance. And I
3 realize that those are condominiums, and we don't
4 know what the demographic on children living in
5 there is.

6 MS. GREENLINGER: Right.

7 EUGENIA MARKS: It just seems like there may be
8 should be some consideration about public education
9 in that area.

10 MS. GREENLINGER: Repeat yourself in the formal
11 hearing, so we can capture that on the formal
12 record. That way you hold us to respond to that.
13 It becomes part of the formal record. But I heard
14 you.

15 Are there any other questions before we switch
16 over to the formal hearing? So, I have to do a
17 little spiel.

18 We will conclude the informational portion of
19 this meeting; we will start the formal comment
20 period, the formal hearing. The purpose of this
21 hearing is for us to take your comments. EPA cannot
22 respond to your comment. We would be happy at the
23 conclusion of the formal hearing to stay around to
24 answer any other questions or thoughts that you
25 might have.

1 So, again, during the formal hearing, if you
2 can limit your comments to the proposed plan
3 amendment, that would be great. And if you can
4 state your name and your address so that the
5 stenographer can hear you and capture that. And
6 please provide us whatever comment you would like to
7 go into the formal record. At the close of the
8 comment period, we will take these comments, and
9 write responses to them, and incorporate them into
10 the final record of decision, which is EPA's Final
11 Cleanup Plan for the Centredale Manor Restoration
12 Project Superfund Site.

13 So, with that, I'm going to grab the mic for
14 anybody who may want to provide comment so the
15 stenographer can hear you.

16 Eugenia, do you want to start us off, since we
17 know you have one?

18 EUGENIA MARKS: My name is Eugenia Marks,
19 M-A-R-K-S. I'm the director for policy at the
20 Audubon Society of Rhode Island, and I'm a past
21 member of the board of the Wannasquatucket River
22 Watershed Council. I understand that this hearing
23 regards the new standard for residential exposure;
24 and I had concerns about the mill raceway at
25 Allendale Condominiums, which I believe not to be

1 continuously filled with water. And I think it's --
2 I know it's in a lawn situation on the river side of
3 the complex. We don't know whether there are any
4 children who live in there. And my concern is
5 asking that a review of exposures that may be
6 applicable under this new standard be undertaken.
7 Thank you.

8 MS. GREENLINGER: Do you have any other
9 thoughts, Eugenia? I'll leave it open for another
10 minute in case anybody thinks of anything.

11 EUGENIA MARKS: Another thing that occurred to
12 me, Eugenia Marks, is that while the area under
13 consideration is all on the North Providence side,
14 that, in the Lyman Mill area, there is a residential
15 area accessible across the Lyman Mill Dam; and in
16 the past, having observed recreational use of
17 homemade rafts, kids clothing in that area, of
18 whether there has been adequate public information
19 provided on the Johnston side in that residential
20 area where there's some proximity to the Lyman Mill
21 Dam.

22 MS. GREENLINGER: Okay. With that, I'm going
23 to formally close the formal hearing. Again, the
24 comment period is open until August 17th. You can
25 e-mail, fax or send a letter addressed to Anna. On

1 page eleven of your proposed plan amendment, you
2 will find that detailed information. And we thank
3 you very much for coming out tonight.

4 (Hearing adjourned at 7:52 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Jane F. Cormier, do hereby certify
that the foregoing contains a true, accurate
and complete transcript of my notes taken at
the above-entitled proceeding.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my
hand this 10th day of August, 2012.

JANE F. CORMIER, CSR
NOTARY PUBLIC
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: 1/19/2014

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1 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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4 HEARING IN RE: Proposed Plan Amendment
5 Informational Meeting

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10 DATE: July 30, 2012
11 TIME: 7:00 pm.
12 PLACE: Pocasset Bay Retirement Living
13 12 Old Pocasset Lane
14 Johnston, Rhode Island

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19 FACILITATED BY: STACY GREENLINGER, ANNA KRASKO

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1 (Hearing commenced at 7:10 p.m.)

2 MS. GREENLINGER: Thank you very much for
3 coming out. I see we have representatives from the
4 Wannasquatucket River Watershed Council, which is
5 awesome. And Nancy, thank you so much for coming
6 and representing the full congressional delegation.
7 We appreciate that. And I know the delegation has
8 really kept an ear to the ground, and we appreciate
9 your continued interest in it.

10 And as most of you know, Bob from the
11 Department of Health, the Rhode Island Department of
12 Health, is also here. Bob, thanks for your time.

13 So, I'm Stacy Greenlinger from the U.S.
14 Environmental Protection Agency, and hopefully
15 you've picked up a copy of the proposed plan
16 amendment. Never thought I would be back saying
17 those words to you, since it seems like just
18 yesterday we were talking about the proposed plan.
19 But we are back, and we will explain why we are, and
20 what the amendment has to cover, and what the
21 current comment period also has to cover. So, and
22 hopefully you grabbed an agenda as well, but no
23 need, we'll go over it all together. If you didn't
24 sign in, I will ask you to sign in, because it

25 always help me make sure that my mailing list is

3

1 accurate so that we can get the information out to
2 you. And by the way, if you don't traditionally
3 write an e-mail address and you do use e-mail, I
4 would love to be able to get ahold of that, too.

5 So, okay, why are we here tonight? This is the
6 agenda that you have in front of you. Again, we'll
7 go over it in more detail, but after we came out
8 with our proposed plan for the Wannasquatucket River
9 cleanup, headquarters came out with a final dioxin
10 reassessment specifically for non-cancer health
11 impacts. And we were required by headquarters to go
12 back, as was every other site in the country that
13 has dioxin, to go back and take a look at our human
14 health risks assessment and our cleanup levels, and
15 to take this new toxicity value, and plug it into
16 that specific to the site. When we did that, we did
17 indeed come out with some changes in human health
18 risks, as well as our cleanup level. So we'll talk
19 more specifically about that. But those changes is
20 what prompted us to issue the amendment that you
21 have in your hands today. And the public comment
22 period which started on the 19th of July runs
23 through August 17th. And that comment period is
24 specifically on the modifications due to the new

25 dioxin reassessment. It's not opening up comment on

4

1 the proposed planned cleanup alternative. We closed
2 that 120-day comment period. We're in the process
3 of responding to comments on that. We expect to
4 issue the final cleanup plan this fall. So, this
5 comment period is, again, specifically on the
6 amendment and the modifications due to the new
7 toxicity value. So, just wanted to make sure that
8 we had all of that.

9 I know most of you in this room, because I know
10 most of you in this room have the overview, so I'm
11 going to go through this really fast, because you'
12 are a sophisticated group with this site. But just
13 in case you had a momentary lapse, the past uses at
14 the site were for chemical manufacturing and drum
15 recycling was at what we call the source area, where
16 currently Brook Village and Centredale Manor
17 Apartments reside. The resulting contamination was
18 dioxin, PCBs, PAHs and metals. Our biggest driver
19 concern are dioxins, but it's certainly not the only
20 contaminant at the site.

21 Important to note that there are other
22 industrial and urban sources that are a challenge to
23 the river, and there are other contamination issues

24 going on. People will often say to us, "When you're
25 done with this cleanup, does that mean we get to

5

1 swim in the river?" And no, not as far as the
2 health department is concerned; there are bacterial
3 issues and other contamination issues that continue
4 to challenge the river, but dioxin, certainly
5 addressed that will take care of one big challenge.

6 So, as I just went over, why are we issuing
7 this? As I said, we had to take the new
8 reassessment numbers and plug it back in. Once it
9 came out in February, we started that work. Chau
10 was very busy redoing the human health risks
11 assessment, and Anna and her contractors were
12 working really hard on taking a look at the
13 residential soil. And I do want to note that
14 specifically for residential soil, we also modified
15 our recreational cleanup levels as well.

16 So, and again, for those who may not -- the
17 non-cancer health impact is new. We did, before we
18 had, we were able to assess for cancer risks, but
19 not for non-cancer health risks. So, this
20 information is the first time that we really have
21 been able to calculate what those non-cancer risks
22 might be. And for exposure for dioxin, reproductive
23 effects and destruction to the endocrine system are

24 the most sensitive impacts that happen from dioxin.

25 I know if people have questions later, I'm going to

6

1 get Bob up later to answer them for you.

2 And dioxin in the environment, again, it's
3 important to remind people that dioxin in terms of
4 how it behaves, it does not readily vaporize in the
5 air, it doesn't dissolve in the water. So, again,
6 when people ask us about swimming in the river, when
7 we say, "Don't swim in the river," it's not from a
8 dioxin point of view, because putting your fingers
9 in the water is not a dioxin issue; it's churning up
10 the sediment that has the dioxin adhering to it and
11 holding onto it, that's more of an issue. But, and
12 also in terms of gardens, people have asked us that,
13 too; it doesn't readily uptake through the plants.
14 Getting on the leaves or on the fruit or the
15 vegetables, that's a different issue, because it's
16 going into the mouth.

17 So, where is dioxin found? It accumulates into
18 fish and wildlife, especially in the fat. Another
19 reason why the department of health has issued the
20 "Don't Eat The Fish From The River." And that
21 really is the biggest concern that we're faced with
22 at the river. And again, it adheres to the soil and

23 sediment particles. It really wants to hold on and
24 bind to the particles, which is in part why it
25 doesn't volatilize into the air.

7

1 I am going to turn it over to Anna for the
2 site-specific person, and make sure she is mic'd.

3 MS. KRASKO: Good evening. So, I need a
4 microphone. Stacy is lucky, she doesn't. I hope
5 everybody can hear me, because the fan is
6 interfering. So, as Stacy said, every one of us has
7 a little bit of dioxin in us because we eat
8 animal-based products, and we also can get exposed
9 to soil and sediment through everyday activities.
10 People who live near Superfund sites that have
11 dioxin contamination like Centredale can get
12 additional exposure by eating contaminated fish from
13 Wannasquatucket River, and accidentally ingesting
14 contaminated soil by doing recreational activities
15 in the large wetlands that we know exist at the
16 site, or just going about their daily life, or on
17 the North Providence side, where residents are
18 located in a floodplain, and those areas are prone
19 to flooding.

20 So, how does Superfund go about establishing
21 the exposures and risks at the site? First we
22 collect a lot of samples. We investigate sediment,

23 soil, water, collect fish and wildlife samples to
24 determine what levels of contaminants, including
25 dioxin, are present in the environment. But it's

8

1 not enough just for chemicals to be present; a
2 person needs to come in contact with a chemical, or
3 in contact with sediment or soil or water that has
4 chemicals in it in order to get exposed.

5 For Superfund, as you can see, we evaluate
6 exposure for residents and recreational visitors to
7 the site, assuming frequent exposure over a long
8 period of time, over decades, sometimes over a
9 person's lifetime. So, we look at activities such
10 as swimming and wading in the river, eating fish and
11 other wildlife, visiting recreational areas, and
12 just residing in the floodplain. If we find that
13 those exposures to the current levels that we
14 measure in the environment pose unacceptable risk or
15 risks that are elevated, Superfund is required to
16 take an action to clean up those areas.

17 So, what happened when dioxin reassessment came
18 out from headquarters, from EPA headquarters in
19 February 2012? We went back and looked at risk
20 assessments that were done for all the areas at the
21 site; and the major change was lowering the soil

22 cleanup levels in residential properties on North
23 Providence side from 1,000 parts per trillion to 50
24 parts per trillion. There is also a change, as
25 Stacy alluded early on, in the cleanup level also

9

1 for area for THE large wetlands. For recreational
2 users in that area, the level became 680 parts per
3 trillion rather than 1,000; and at that level we may
4 see potential health effects.

5 So, this is the first time we can actually see
6 the site map. Just to remind you, we have five
7 action areas. The pink areas are the additional
8 cleanup areas that need to be addressed when we
9 issue the cleanup plan in September. As you can
10 see, most of those additional areas on the eastern
11 shore of the Allendale and Lyman Mill pond areas, as
12 well as in the Source Area, and that was actually
13 the only area that hasn't been capped or previously
14 addressed.

15 So, let's go and look a little bit closer at
16 each action area and how it's changed with a new
17 risk assessment. In addition to those areas that
18 you saw in pink, we also determined that there are
19 additional potential health effects from exposure to
20 sediment in the ponds. And we'll come back to that
21 a little bit later.

22 The additional cleanup may result in about
23 10,000 cubic yards of soil being excavated. That's
24 about five to ten percent more than the total volume
25 of material that was in the original October

10

1 proposed plan. Depending on the alternative being
2 evaluated, the cost increase would be between \$4
3 million and \$12 million. EPA Region One still plans
4 to issue the record of decision, which will outline
5 our cleanup plan this fall, so the schedule is not
6 impacted by this dioxin reassessment.

7 Let's look at each action area separately, and
8 how they are impacted. Again, in the source area
9 there is about one-third additional acre that needs
10 to be either capped or excavated. And if we look at
11 the map, which is the next slide, it's right south
12 of Route 44. It's a landscaped area right at the
13 entrance to the apartment complexes.

14 For sediment, we looked and evaluated
15 non-cancer health effects based on exposure for
16 residents and recreational users; and we found that
17 the originally proposed 15 parts per trillion
18 cleanup level is low enough to address
19 newly-evaluated health hazards, so there is no
20 change in the scope of the sediment cleanup.

21 Again, the biggest impact is on the floodplain
22 soil in the North Providence, and these areas along
23 Allendale Mill and Lyman Mill pond would need to be
24 evaluated, and precautionary measures would need to
25 be taken while we're awaiting final cleanup. Final

11

1 cleanup is not expected to occur for at least the
2 next five/six years. And those interim measures are
3 expected to stay in place for a prolonged period of
4 time.

5 Because when your cleanup level of 50 parts per
6 trillion is so low, it is basically very close to
7 what you see in the background soil in urban areas
8 like North Providence, there is a likelihood of
9 recontamination from flood events from the river
10 when sediment, contaminated sediment can be
11 deposited in those low-lying areas. So, it means
12 that, if there is any cleanup to be happen on this
13 river, it has to be done simultaneously. The
14 sediment and the floodplain soils on people's back
15 yards have to be cleaned up at the same time,
16 because just cleaning up a floodplain soil, and
17 leaving contamination in the sediment, will increase
18 the likelihood of recontamination. Just to give you
19 an idea, what we see in the sediment in the
20 Allendale Pond is the maximum contamination, it's

21 about 100,000 parts per trillion, and an average is
22 1,000. In the floodplain soil we're trying to
23 achieve 50, so of course when you have 100,000 parts
24 per trillion area next to 50 parts per trillion
25 area, there is a likelihood of recontamination, and

12

1 the whole area needs to be looked at and addressed
2 at the same time.

3 So, let's look at a couple maps. This is
4 across from Allendale. Again, the pink shows the
5 additional areas. There is a little bit of area on
6 the Johnston side, right across from the source
7 area. The rest is the areas in North Providence,
8 and pink is where we likely have concentrations
9 above 50 parts per trillion in the floodplain soil.

10 And the next slide is the same information for
11 the Lyman Mill. Again, just about the whole eastern
12 shore of Lyman Mill is pink, which means it all
13 needs to be evaluated, and there is a likelihood
14 that all those areas are above the new cleanup level
15 of 50 parts per trillion in floodplain soil.

16 So, I'm going to give the mic, or to give the
17 floor back to Stacy, and she's going to talk about
18 what precautionary measures EPA is proposing to do,
19 and also what precautionary measures the residents

20 and visitors can do themselves while the planning
21 and design of the final cleanup is underway.

22 MS. GREENLINGER: So, as Anna mentioned, it's
23 going to be likely six years or so before shoveling
24 the ground, so to speak, actually happens. So, what
25 do we do in the meantime? And as Anna pointed out,

13

1 the risk of contamination or recontamination to
2 neighbors is fairly high. So that really throws a
3 curve ball in in terms of, well, do you go out and
4 sample now for those areas? If we were to have a
5 heavy rain or floods, just those numbers that Anna
6 mentioned, I think she said 100,000 in the middle of
7 the pond, to go from that to 50, if we were to
8 sample, it really would call into question those
9 sample results. If we were to excavate, the same
10 issue would happen. And we have a fairly lengthy
11 time before we expect to start the long-term
12 cleanup.

13 So, what do we do in the meantime? We don't
14 want people to be at potential risk of exposure,
15 since health risk comes from exposure, or at least
16 the potential for it. So, we are suggesting some
17 precautionary interim measures. Once we have the
18 final cleanup plan issued this fall, we will be in a
19 position to go back and work with all of the

20 property owners that could potentially be impacted
21 to take a look at what measures you could take. For
22 instance, an obvious one, particularly for those in
23 Allendale Pond, where a fences exist right now, is
24 to take a look at where that fence line is in
25 comparison to what we believe to the 100-year

14

1 floodplain. Now, our maps of the 100-year
2 floodplain are not an exact science, and we
3 recognize that. We recognize that the folks who
4 live there know best in terms of, they know when it
5 floods, where does it flood, what's a typical flood,
6 what's an unusual flood. Especially since we all
7 just lived through that historic rain that happened
8 two years ago in Rhode Island. So, we would work
9 with the property owners, using the information that
10 we have in our maps, but also their knowledge from
11 living there, and to take a look at, does it make
12 sense to move the fence line. That might be a
13 really simple, easy solution to having a barrier to
14 people getting down to the floodplains that may be
15 contaminated for that interim period before we can
16 get there and do sampling and take action if action
17 is needed.

18 In some houses, that might not work. That

19 might be their driveway or their house. There are
20 some houses where they're awfully close to the
21 river. So, it really needs to be a
22 property-specific approach, and hence, we really
23 need to engage with the residents to figure out what
24 makes sense there, who lives there, are their
25 children that are there, or is it someone who really

15

1 just never ventures down to the waterfront. So, we
2 need to engage in that interaction and that process
3 once we have the cleanup plan finalized.
4 Residents also can participate in what it is
5 that they can do to prevent exposure. And we
6 actually just concluded about two weeks of an effort
7 of trying to individually reach out to all of the
8 property owners that could be potentially affected
9 here, to sit down and talk with them, one, so they
10 that they knew what's happening, and they had the
11 opportunity to provide comment during the comment
12 period. But two, to really stress that they can
13 take action now. Much of these type of activities
14 that you see listed here are things that people do
15 anyhow. It's good hygiene to wash your hands before
16 you eat. It's a good way to control and prevent for
17 a flu, or for any other type of sickness or
18 exposure. So, that's a common one that people do.

19 Also common is when your shoes get muddy from doing
20 yard work out back, that you don't walk all through
21 your house. Because who wants to clean up after
22 that. So, that's also a typical thing that people
23 do in terms of behaviors, but this is an added
24 reason as to why they should did that, and be
25 vigilant in doing that.

16

1 So, washing your clothing after you've done
2 yard work, instead of going and relaxing on your
3 sofa, keeping yourself clean, washing your fruits
4 and vegetables if you have a garden that's in the
5 area. Perhaps you might want to think about doing a
6 raised bed if you have a garden that's in the
7 floodplain that's in question. But clearly, so, as
8 we said before, the dioxin and its behavior is not
9 to be taken up through the plants, so it's really
10 just making sure that any soil or dirt that got on
11 the plants before you eat it or cook with it to wash
12 it.

13 So, those are pretty straightforward things
14 that residents can do now. They don't have to wait
15 for us to move the fence. These are things that
16 they can do now, and really potentially cut down on
17 any exposure that might be happening.

18 And of course, as we always stress, our "do's"
19 and "don'ts" for the Wannasquatucket River. Don't
20 eat the fish, the eels, the turtles, or wildlife or
21 other plants, don't swim or wade in it. Again,
22 that's not because of dioxin contamination, but for
23 other challenges. And don't dig into the riverbanks
24 so you're not stirring up potentially contaminated
25 soil and sediment.

17

1 Do use the river wisely. We really encourage
2 the use of it, think the efforts that the
3 Wannasquatucket River Watershed Council is doing to
4 get people to get out and use this wonderful
5 resource are really great, so go partake in the
6 walking, running and biking along the trail that's
7 there, paddle or canoe or kayaking. I know from
8 talking with the residents, there are a lot of
9 people living there that do go out and use their
10 boats to paddle around the place. And of course,
11 just be smart, and wash up after you use and enjoy
12 the river.

13 We just threw a lot at you, and as we've
14 mentioned a couple of times, we do have a comment
15 period that's underway. As before, we really stress
16 the importance of your comments. We're in the
17 process of responding to all of the comments that we

18 received on the proposed plan. They truly are
19 important to us. We stress, again, we would
20 appreciate you taking the time to provide comment,
21 whether it's tonight at our formal hearing portion
22 of tonight's meeting, or via e-mail or fax or
23 regular mail to us. And these are the different
24 ways, it's in your proposed plan on page eleven has
25 the details of how you can provide comment to us in

18

1 the amendment. And again, can't stress enough how
2 important that is to get your comments so that we're
3 making a decision that reflects your opinions.

4 But before we get to the formal comment portion
5 of the formal hearing portion that's tonight, we do
6 want to be able to answer any questions that you
7 might have on the amendment, especially if you have
8 not had the opportunity to read it, and this is the
9 first time that you're hearing about the dioxin
10 reassessment and how its modification to the
11 proposed cleanup plan has caused us to issue this
12 amendment.

13 So, I'm going to stop and see if anybody has
14 any questions or thoughts that they would like to
15 share with us. Eugenia?

16 EUGENIA MARKS: How detailed is your

17 understanding of the demographics of the area in
18 terms of children in households?

19 MS. GREENLINGER: After this event, in terms of
20 my understanding of the demographic, I would say
21 that it's mixed. There are definitely a handful of
22 apartment buildings that have more transient folks
23 living there in terms of having lived there for a
24 very long time, or more likely to move, and harder
25 for us to reach, just because we don't have their

19

1 information, or it changes more often.

2 In those apartment buildings, I did see either
3 kids themselves, or evidence of kids. In terms of
4 the single-family homes or the two-family homes that
5 are along the river, I would say that the vast
6 majority of them that are -- and again, Eugenia, I'm
7 talking about directly on the floodplain, because
8 that's who we have the direct contact with -- the
9 vast majority of them are not of child-bearing age,
10 or have any children live with them. They may have
11 grandchildren that come and visit, but I would say
12 that the ages range from 50 to, actually the oldest
13 person I chatted with was 94. And a lot of folks
14 have lived there or have grown up in this area, or
15 at least their parents' house before them, they're
16 still in the same house or in the same area, so they

17 are not transients. But it's incredible, actually,
18 how long people have lived in the area. It's very
19 impressive. So, that's not to say that -- there's a
20 new couple to the neighborhood. I say new; they've
21 been here for three years, they have a
22 three-and-a-half year-old and a baby on the way.
23 Sat down and talked with them. It's the first time
24 they're hearing about the Superfund site. So, you
25 certainly have a range, but I would say on average

20

1 it's between 55 and 70, I would say on average; and
2 no, there are not children there. And they all know
3 the deal with the river, and know the limitations
4 and the challenges it presents.

5 EUGENIA MARKS: But you have visited every
6 home, every resident within the site area that abuts
7 the river?

8 MS. GREENLINGER: That's who we reached out
9 for. So have I talked with every single one of
10 them, no. I wish it was a hundred percent. Every
11 single one of them received a letter inviting them
12 to call us, to meet with us. And they also, a vast
13 majority of them received a one-pager where we were
14 telling them about the changes and our desire to
15 come talk to them about some interim measures. So,

16 really, they all have that information. I would say
17 that out of about 48 properties, that I've had about
18 30 conversations with about 40 people.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Just a follow-up. What
20 reaction have you gotten by people in terms of the
21 changes that you've had to make in moving the
22 fences, and not using personal property, things like
23 that?

24 MS. GREENLINGER: Yes. I would say most of the
25 reaction, there wasn't really surprise, from that

21

1 point of view. And most people, again, know what
2 the challenges are, and take a lot of these
3 precautions anyhow. It's not like they're eating
4 fish from the river, it's not like they're swimming
5 in it. So, I think most of them are like, it's not
6 really changing their day-to-day patterns of how
7 they use their properties. So, most people are
8 like, you need to do what you need to do, but
9 consult with us, because we will have opinions about
10 what kind of fence, where the fence goes.

11 Some people certainly are concerned about their
12 use of their property. It depends, because some
13 houses, when you talk about moving the fence, it
14 could eat up a lot of their lawn. So, for those
15 people, obviously they're a little bit more

16 concerned with the idea of moving the fence, because
17 it will directly impact them. And we will need to
18 work with those folks.

19 So, some of those people kind of said, "Wait a
20 minute, this is my property, I pay taxes on it, I
21 don't want to lose the use of my property." Most
22 people were kind of like, most properties it's not
23 quite as dire of an impact by moving the fence; and
24 so, they were just saying, "Okay, when you come
25 back, we'll engage and talk with you about it." A

22

1 lot of people were saying, "Can we get a fence,
2 because we want to clean the shrubs on the other --
3 the overgrowth and trash that's there."

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The condominiums at Allendale
5 Mill which are renovated now, are those among those
6 to whom you've spoken?

7 MS. GREENLINGER: No. And Anna can jump in,
8 too. My understanding of those mills is that's not
9 where -- the renovated mills, that that's not an
10 area that's impacted by contamination.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You were talking about, maybe
12 Anna, you were talking about this. Both the
13 residential and the recreational standard previously
14 were a thousand parts per trillion?

15 MS. GREENLINGER: Um-hmm.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And you say you changed the
17 residential to 50, but you didn't make it the same
18 extent for the recreational. In other words, if the
19 uses when you're doing a risk assessment with uses,
20 which is what you would be changing, but the
21 standard you're using, I wondered why you didn't
22 make the change in the same fashion for both of
23 them. In other words, it's a different parameter in
24 the equation.

25 MS. GREENLINGER: I'm going to have Chau answer

23

1 that.

2 MS. VU: Well, the number for the residential
3 scenario is also based on site specifics, and some
4 standard assumptions as well. So, for recreational
5 scenario we have different assumptions of how much
6 people, we assume that people are exposed, so that's
7 why we come out with different numbers.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But that's the other side of
9 your risk assessment. In other words, your standard
10 on both of them is 1,000 in each case.

11 MS. VU: Right.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But supposedly your
13 assumptions in both of those are still the same.

14 MS. VU: That was the standard in the past, the

15 1,000 parts per trillion that you're talking about.
16 Well, we wouldn't call it standard, but it was a
17 number that was based on, just call it "science"
18 that EPA used in the past. And it was used for
19 residential specifically. Back then we didn't
20 calculate the specific number for recreational
21 scenario, we also used the same number for
22 recreational as well, because there was no standard,
23 per se.
24 And then the numbers that we show here at this
25 time were the revised numbers, specifically for two

24

1 separate scenarios. We don't call those standards;
2 they're site specific numbers we developed for
3 different scenarios.

4 EUGENIA MARKS: I want to go back to the
5 Allendale Mill Condominium and the tail race or the
6 head race or whatever, which is a part of that same
7 area that in 2011 was the proposed cleanup area. So
8 I understand that's not new.

9 MS. GREENLINGER: Right.

10 EUGENIA MARKS: So, we're waiting for the final
11 plan to know exactly what would be done there?

12 MS. GREENLINGER: Correct.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And you don't feel there's

14 any reason to notify residents at this time about --

15 MS. GREENLINGER: Because again, where the
16 amendment is, what are the changes based on the most
17 current new science that we have, which is this new
18 non-cancer toxicity value, and what modifications
19 did it make to the 2011 proposed cleanup plan.
20 Those modifications is what the amendment is based
21 on. And the additional properties that before were
22 not considered for the cleanup, those were the
23 properties that we targeted in terms of reaching out
24 and talking to the residents.

25 EUGENIA MARKS: I have some concern, because I

25

1 don't believe there's water in that tail race; and
2 it just seems like an attractive nuisance. And I
3 realize that those are condominiums, and we don't
4 know what the demographic on children living in
5 there is.

6 MS. GREENLINGER: Right.

7 EUGENIA MARKS: It just seems like there may be
8 should be some consideration about public education
9 in that area.

10 MS. GREENLINGER: Repeat yourself in the formal
11 hearing, so we can capture that on the formal
12 record. That way you hold us to respond to that.
13 It becomes part of the formal record. But I heard

14 you.

15 Are there any other questions before we switch
16 over to the formal hearing? So, I have to do a
17 little spiel.

18 We will conclude the informational portion of
19 this meeting; we will start the formal comment
20 period, the formal hearing. The purpose of this
21 hearing is for us to take your comments. EPA cannot
22 respond to your comment. We would be happy at the
23 conclusion of the formal hearing to stay around to
24 answer any other questions or thoughts that you
25 might have.

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1 So, again, during the formal hearing, if you
2 can limit your comments to the proposed plan
3 amendment, that would be great. And if you can
4 state your name and your address so that the
5 stenographer can hear you and capture that. And
6 please provide us whatever comment you would like to
7 go into the formal record. At the close of the
8 comment period, we will take these comments, and
9 write responses to them, and incorporate them into
10 the final record of decision, which is EPA's Final
11 Cleanup Plan for the Centredale Manor Restoration
12 Project Superfund Site.

13 So, with that, I'm going to grab the mic for
14 anybody who may want to provide comment so the
15 stenographer can hear you.

16 Eugenia, do you want to start us off, since we
17 know you have one?

18 EUGENIA MARKS: My name is Eugenia Marks,
19 M-A-R-K-S. I'm the director for policy at the
20 Audubon Society of Rhode Island, and I'm a past
21 member of the board of the Wannasquatucket River
22 Watershed Council. I understand that this hearing
23 regards the new standard for residential exposure;
24 and I had concerns about the mill raceway at
25 Allendale Condominiums, which I believe not to be

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1 continuously filled with water. And I think it's --
2 I know it's in a lawn situation on the river side of
3 the complex. We don't know whether there are any
4 children who live in there. And my concern is
5 asking that a review of exposures that may be
6 applicable under this new standard be undertaken.
7 Thank you.

8 MS. GREENLINGER: Do you have any other
9 thoughts, Eugenia? I'll leave it open for another
10 minute in case anybody thinks of anything.

11 EUGENIA MARKS: Another thing that occurred to
12 me, Eugenia Marks, is that while the area under

13 consideration is all on the North Providence side,
14 that, in the Lyman Mill area, there is a residential
15 area accessible across the Lyman Mill Dam; and in
16 the past, having observed recreational use of
17 homemade rafts, kids clothing in that area, of
18 whether there has been adequate public information
19 provided on the Johnston side in that residential
20 area where there's some proximity to the Lyman Mill
21 Dam.

22 MS. GREENLINGER: Okay. With that, I'm going
23 to formally close the formal hearing. Again, the
24 comment period is open until August 17th. You can
25 e-mail, fax or send a letter addressed to Anna. On

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1 page eleven of your proposed plan amendment, you
2 will find that detailed information. And we thank
3 you very much for coming out tonight.

4 (Hearing adjourned at 7:52 p.m.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 I, Jane F. Cormier, do hereby certify
4 that the foregoing contains a true, accurate
5 and complete transcript of my notes taken at
6 the above-entitled proceeding.

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8 IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my
9 hand this 10th day of August, 2012.

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JANE F. CORMIER, CSR
NOTARY PUBLIC
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: 1/19/2014

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