

## NEPA Public Scoping Meeting

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

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Public Scoping Meeting for the Great Lakes 01-11-2011

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Public Scoping Meetings for the Great Lakes  
and Mississippi River Interbasin Study

January 11, 2011

2:05 P.M.

Buffalo Conference Center,  
2 Fountain Plaza  
Buffalo, NY 14202

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1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI, Moderator

3 JIM BREDIN, CEQ

4 DAVID BERCEK, Deputy Commander USACE Chicago

5 DAVE WETHINGTON, GLMRIS Project Manager

6 JOHN ZIMMERMAN, Chief of Planning and Policy, Great  
Lakes and Ohio River Division

7 HIROSHI ETO, Interim Programs Director, Great Lakes  
and Ohio River Division

8 KATHLEEN COON, Court Reporter

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Good afternoon, ladies  
3 and gentlemen. If everybody could make your way to a  
4 seat, we could try to get started. Welcome to today's  
5 Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study, as  
6 we call it GLMRIS, public scoping meeting. My name is  
7 Kendall Zaborowski and I am from the US Army Corps of  
8 Engineers Chicago district and I will be your moderator  
9 today. I just want to let everybody know if you need  
10 to use the restroom if you go back out into the lobby,  
11 go to the right and then walk out to the open space the  
12 rest rooms are right on your left. When you arrived  
13 today, the following materials were available for you  
14 at the front desk, the welcome and registration desks.  
15 There's a green meeting agenda. It lets you know what  
16 is going on today, what our schedule is. There is a  
17 study overview which is this blue booklet and that has  
18 detailed information on the preliminary study. There  
19 is a trifold brochure which again is similar to the  
20 blue book. It gives information on the GLMRIS study.  
21 There are these white comment forms if you would like  
22 to make a written comment. It also has instructions on

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1 what to do if you mail in a comment, if you want to  
2 take your time and digest and write something out and  
3 send it in later. If you'd like to register to speak  
4 today, we have yellow comment forms that you would have  
5 filled out. We also have these purple sheets which are  
6 frequently asked questions related to GLMRIS, so if you  
7 want to take your time to read this it might answer  
8 some of your questions today. These peach sheets are  
9 frequently asked questions about other ANS or aquatic  
10 nuisance species efforts that the Corps of Engineers is  
11 undertaking. Then lastly if you brought a document  
12 today and you wish to submit it we have these blue  
13 document submittal forms, so please take your time to  
14 fill these out. Then also there's copies of portions  
15 of the presentation available today if you wanted to  
16 follow along for right now. If you are pre-registered  
17 on the project website to give an oral comment and  
18 have not checked in at the register to speak table  
19 which is out front, please feel free to do so. Our  
20 GLMRIS team has organized a public meeting to  
21 accomplish two goals. To present information about the  
22 GLMRIS study and also to solicit your comments on what

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1 you feel are the significant issues or what issues you  
2 feel are not significant in relation to the GLMRIS  
3 study. We are holding twelve public meetings  
4 throughout the study area in an effort to provide  
5 opportunities for those throughout the study area to  
6 learn about the study and provide oral comments. Please  
7 note that the public scoping period ends on March 31st  
8 of 2011. As indicated on the agenda, the public  
9 meeting is organized into two sessions. An identical  
10 presentation will be given at the beginning of each  
11 session. This is the beginning of the first session.  
12 Each presentation will be followed by an oral comment  
13 period. The first public comment period will end at  
14 5:00 today and the second session will begin at 5:30  
15 p.m. There will be a thirty minute break between the  
16 two sessions. The study staff will be available during  
17 the break for any informal questions and answers that  
18 you might have. Please note that during this time any  
19 questions or comments that you give will not be  
20 included in the scoping record. If you wish your  
21 comments to be included in the NEPA scoping record, you  
22 have to either speak here during the oral comment

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1 period today or fill out an oral comment form and leave  
2 that with us today and mail it in as instructions give  
3 or submit your comment on the public web site. If you  
4 have any questions or concerns, staff could be found in  
5 the lobby during the meeting and study members will be  
6 available during the break for questions. Please note  
7 you're welcome to speak to our panel, but again any  
8 comments that are not given in one of the prescribed  
9 ways will not be included in the NEPA scoping process.  
10 Now I would like to introduce the members of our panel.  
11 First we have Jim Bredin, the deputy Asian carp  
12 director from the Aquatic White House Council on  
13 Environmental Quality. Next is Lieutenant Colonel Dave  
14 Berczek who is the deputy commander of the Chicago  
15 district. Then we have David Wethington also from the  
16 Chicago district who is the GLMRIS Project Manager.  
17 Next to him is John Zimmerman, the chief of planning  
18 and policy for the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division.  
19 He is filling in for Michael Saffran who is the other  
20 pathways Project Manager. Then at the end of the table  
21 is Hiroshi Eto, the interim programs director of the  
22 Great Lakes and Ohio River Division who has oversight

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1 over military programs, planning and policy, project  
2 operations, real estate and regulatory functions. Mr.  
3 Eto is also formerly the chief of the civil works  
4 programs and will be taking any comments back to the  
5 division commander. Now I'm going to turn things over  
6 to Mr. Bredin and he will begin the presentation  
7 portion.

8           JIM BREDIN: Thank you very much and thank  
9 all of you for being here today. I think this is a  
10 great turnout and I look forward to a lively  
11 discussion. What I'd like to do is just take a couple  
12 of minutes before we get into the GLMRIS study and talk  
13 about Asian carp. Asian carp is one of the key species  
14 that we're going to be focusing on. I'm the deputy  
15 director for Asian carp, so it's something I deal with  
16 on a regular basis and I would just like to share with  
17 you where we're at right now with this issue. When it  
18 comes to protecting our Great Lakes from the spread of  
19 Asian carp, the Obama Administration has taken an  
20 aggressive, proactive and unprecedented approach to  
21 defeating these invasive species. On December 16th,  
22 2010, the Obama Administration released a 2011 Asian

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1 carp control strategy framework outlining a series of  
2 new projects to build on unprecedented, proactive  
3 efforts to protect the Great Lakes from invasive  
4 species. This updated framework outlines forty-five  
5 actions in an aggressive multi-tiered strategy to keep  
6 Asian carp from establishing a self-sustaining  
7 population in the Great Lakes. The migration of the  
8 Asian carp through the Chicago Area Waterway System,  
9 the Wabash River and the Grand Canal River is one of  
10 the most serious invasive threats facing the Great  
11 Lakes today. They have left a trail of destruction  
12 that has harmed the ecosystem, the economy,  
13 recreational and commercial boaters. Now this invasive  
14 species is threatening to enter the Great Lakes, the  
15 world's largest surface fresh water resource,  
16 potentially causing ecological and economic harm to the  
17 multi billion dollar commercial fishing industry. On  
18 February 10th, the Obama Administration announced  
19 committing seventy-eight million dollars to combat the  
20 spread of Asian carp and other invasive species into  
21 the Great Lakes. The scale of the effort described in  
22 the framework was unprecedented for invasive species

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1 control, unifying federal, state and local action. The  
2 original framework updated in May, 2010 established the  
3 Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee consisting  
4 of the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Fish and  
5 Wildlife, the US Geological Survey, the US EPA, the US  
6 Coast Guard and other relevant agencies to synchronize  
7 the better response to Asian carp. In September, 2010,  
8 the administration announced an Asian carp director  
9 based at the White House Council on Environmental  
10 Quality to coordinate and unify the federal, state and  
11 local responses to Asian carp. In November, 2010, each  
12 Great Lakes governor appointed a state representative  
13 to serve on the committee to continue this  
14 coordination. This framework also identifies a non-  
15 federal technical and policy group that will include  
16 multiple stakeholders looking at various Asian carp  
17 related issues and this just describes some of the  
18 interest groups that will be included in that policy.  
19 The 2010 framework included thirty-two federally funded  
20 initiatives in 2010, all which have been completed or  
21 are currently under way. Key accomplishments in 2010  
22 in response to the issue of carp threat include an

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1 enhanced fish barrier system that includes strengthened  
2 electrical barriers, physical barriers to stop  
3 migration during floods and closing off smaller  
4 waterway connections to the Great Lakes, also  
5 construction of a third electric fish barrier in  
6 Chicago waterways for extra protection from the primary  
7 pathway of concern for carp migration into Lake  
8 Michigan and also utilization of emergency authority  
9 provided through Section 126 of the Energy and Water  
10 Development Act of 2010 to block flood waters from the  
11 river with a thirteen mile fish barrier and a permanent  
12 block in Illinois, Michigan canal. In addition, the  
13 State of Indiana installed a fifteen hundred foot fish  
14 barrier fence at Eagle Marsh in Fort Wayne to block the  
15 advancement of Asian carp from the Wabash River to Lake  
16 Erie. Also through the GLMRIS project the US Army  
17 Corps of Engineers identified eighteen other potential  
18 pathways for potential transfer of aquatic species  
19 between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basin.  
20 That's what we're going to be discussing today. Other  
21 key 2010 accomplishments included we began implementing  
22 the Asian Carp Control Act following the President's

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1 signing of the bill on December 14th, 2010 prohibiting  
2 live big head carp from being shipped or being imported  
3 into the United States. We coordinated agencies to  
4 employ larger field crews to conduct electric shock and  
5 netting operations and increased eDNA testing to a  
6 hundred and twenty samples per week. We established  
7 asiancarp.org as the official Asian carp web site  
8 to provide up-to-date information about Asian carp  
9 efforts. The 2011 Asian carp control strategy framework  
10 adds thirteen new projects for a total of forty-five  
11 actions to prevent Asian carp from establishing self-  
12 sustaining populations in the Great Lakes. These  
13 projects include, first of all, validation of eDNA as  
14 an effective tool for monitoring and tracking Asian  
15 carp, development of eDNA genetic markers to more  
16 accurately and efficiently detect Asian carp  
17 concentrations and expansion of the US Fish and  
18 Wildlife service lab at Lacrosse, Wisconsin to increase  
19 capacity of eDNA testing for all the Great Lakes. The  
20 projects also include development of alternative trap  
21 and net designs for Asian carp, development of rapid  
22 genetic based methods to detect Asian carp to allow for

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1 faster results than eDNA. They also include evaluation  
2 of the affect of removing Asian carp food sources and  
3 assessment of the impacts of steel hold barges on the  
4 electrical barriers. Also included were projects to  
5 evaluate a permanent separation between the Wabash  
6 river watersheds through continuation of the GLMRIS  
7 study and development of permanent blockages for  
8 aquatic invasive speicies pathways throughout the Great  
9 Lakes states. In addition, the US Army Corps of  
10 Engineers will be conducting an evaluation of the  
11 electrical barrier effectiveness through fish tagging  
12 and utilization of sonar equipment to monitor, sample  
13 and capture Asian carp and we will be increasing  
14 enforcement of Asian carp inspections at bait shops,  
15 fish processors, fish markets and retail food  
16 establishments. In addition, we will be undertaking  
17 projects to enable American commercial fishermen to  
18 develop markets for Asian carp, thereby reducing Asian  
19 carp populations in the Illinois River and creating  
20 jobs. We will also be increasing public engagement  
21 through outreach and enforcement and collaborating with  
22 stakeholder groups, commercial fishermen, industry and

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1 recreational boaters to mitigate the damage Asian carp  
2 inflict upon waterway users. The framework also  
3 identifies the importance of investigating funds in  
4 research and development of long-term fish management  
5 strategies for Asian carp control controlling eDNA  
6 sampling and habitat. In addition to efforts under the  
7 framework, the US Coast Guard has an important role in  
8 committee operations involving waterway restrictions  
9 including establishing and enforcing a combination of  
10 safety and/or security zones to manage the movement of  
11 vessels through the affected areas of the Chicago area  
12 waterway, any activity that requires vessel movement  
13 restrictions and also managing resumption of the  
14 maritime transportation vector subsequent to any  
15 disruption including those caused by safety  
16 considerations. As part of our unprecedented and  
17 proactive approach to combat Asian carp, the  
18 administration has been working with our state partners  
19 to ramp up monitoring and population reduction for  
20 these invasive species. Environmental DNA testing is  
21 one of the tools we are using to assess distribution of  
22 Asian carp. Last fall our Asian carp monitoring crews

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1 collected a hundred twenty water samples each week in  
2 either the Chicago Area Waterway System or the Des  
3 Plaines River. At present, eDNA evidence cannot verify  
4 whether live Asian carp are present, whether the DNA  
5 may have come from a dead fish or whether water  
6 containing Asian carp DNA may have been transported  
7 from other sources. Since October, 2010, we have  
8 processed one thousand two hundred and sixty-eight  
9 samples above the barriers from both species of Asian  
10 carp. These samples have returned only seventeen  
11 positive results for Asian carp eDNA. Between August,  
12 2009 and June, 2010, the University of Notre Dame  
13 researchers under a US Army Corps of researchers  
14 cooperative agreement processed an additional two  
15 thousand two hundred and thirty-two samples for both  
16 species of carp. These samples returned only sixty  
17 positive results for Asian carp eDNA. eDNA testing is  
18 useful as a potential early indicating of Asian carp  
19 presence. However, there are many uncertainties about  
20 what a positive eDNA sample indicates. Its usefulness  
21 is limited and there are many other tools that we are  
22 employing to ensure we are combating the advancement of

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1 Asian carp. In summing this up, the Obama  
2 Administration is committed to protecting our Great  
3 Lakes and the people who depend on them. We are  
4 proactively addressing all possible pathways that are  
5 at risk for the advancement of Asian carp. We are  
6 working together to implement an unprecedented  
7 framework to protect the ecosystem and our environment  
8 over the Great Lakes from these invasive species. Again  
9 I would like to thank you. If you have any questions  
10 at all regarding Asian carp, this is the address for  
11 our Asian carp web site and we'd invite you to go to  
12 that web site if you have any other issues or there are  
13 buttons on there that you could click to get additional  
14 information. We'd be more than happy to hear any  
15 comments you have and also any additional information  
16 you'd like. Thank you very much.

17                   DAVID BERCEK: Welcome, everyone. Again,  
18 good afternoon and thank you for taking the time to be  
19 here today to listen and learn a little bit what is  
20 involved with this Great Lakes and Mississippi River  
21 Interbasin Study. We told you today that this is a  
22 public scoping meeting and a lot of you might not

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1 necessarily know what is involved with the study and  
2 whether you wish to comment or not, so that's part of  
3 the process of what we're going to do today is help you  
4 understand and explain what's going on. I'm David  
5 Berczek, deputy commander of the Chicago district for  
6 the US Army Corps of Engineers. I have a tendency to  
7 like to talk, so I'm going to put this here because  
8 it's not about me today. It's about listening what you  
9 want to say. If you would be so kind to give me a  
10 little bit of your time, about twenty-five or thirty  
11 minutes or so, to explain what the study is involved,  
12 what it is we're looking at. Jim mentioned a little  
13 bit or quite a bit, a lot, about Asian carp and this  
14 study here thought of -- I have a three year old  
15 daughter, so I thought a little bit about going to  
16 Disney type cartoons and thought this is Asian carp and  
17 beyond. The study authority came from the Water  
18 Resources Development Act of 2007 and you could see  
19 highlighted there in blue specifically what it is that  
20 you're looking at in the course of this study. Options  
21 and technologies available to prevent the spread of  
22 aquatic nuisance species between the Great Lakes and

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1 Mississippi River basins through the Chicago Sanitary  
2 and Ship Canal and other aquatic pathways. There are  
3 two courses of study. That's why you heard in the  
4 introduction with Mr. Wethington talking about the  
5 Chicago Area Waterways Systems and also Mr. Zimmerman  
6 here is the Project Manager looking at the other  
7 alternative pathways. We are looking at a couple of --  
8 two pronged approach to this. I'll show you a little  
9 bit about the structure and how we're considering this.  
10 Special considerations of this study we consider the  
11 impacts of each alternative that is being looked at and  
12 what comes up that would potentially prevent the  
13 interbasin transport of aquatic species. In this  
14 study, we talk about prevention and in an effort to go  
15 ahead and expand a little bit on that in our  
16 instructions to the team members we talk a little bit  
17 about reduction of risk to the maximum extent possible.  
18 We received some criticism for the use of that word and  
19 everything and I think part of it is we don't want to  
20 limit our study members and people to ignore activities  
21 and technologies or alternatives that could have some  
22 positive return short of one hundred percent

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1 effectiveness, so not to take anything off the table,  
2 but consider looking at options and alternatives along  
3 the way. The GLMRIS study area is rather large in its  
4 scope. When you start talking about this Mississippi  
5 River watershed, you could see that all of those  
6 states highlighted in all three of those colors, the  
7 Great Lakes states in the brown up above and these  
8 states that constitute the upper Mississippi River  
9 watershed and then the rest of the states heading out  
10 into the Rocky Mountain and Continental divide. The  
11 primary focus on the study are these seventeen states  
12 and they would constitute this region as part of the  
13 watershed here is really where the focus is along this  
14 roughly fifteen hundred miles of water shed divide.  
15 Water to the north of that area is what we consider the  
16 Great Lakes basin. Below that line is what we consider  
17 the upper Mississippi River watershed basin. What's  
18 included in the study? The study goes back to -- the  
19 original language talks beyond Asian carp. It goes  
20 beyond any type of an individual species and again I'll  
21 go back. It talks about aquatic nuisance species  
22 between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins.

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1 The National Aquatic and Atmosphere Association website  
2 categorizes and tracks non-native or invasive  
3 species in the Great Lakes area. It has a list of I  
4 think a hundred and eighty-nine different organisms in  
5 those categories and we have study members beginning to  
6 work New York I think forty or so that would fall into  
7 that nuisance range that have the potential to transfer  
8 pretty readily or rapidly between those water basins.  
9 We're not looking at the potential that somebody could  
10 have a fish in their possession and throw it overboard  
11 or something that might make its way into a bait  
12 bucket. It does not look at the terrestrial and  
13 airborne type of transfer of nuisance species or  
14 organisms. . It does not include looking further  
15 eastward into the Atlantic slope and the Saint Lawrence  
16 Seaway and of course being a study being authorized by  
17 our US Congress it does not include Canada and what is  
18 happening there. Our Canadian partners have studies  
19 that they're doing as well in their areas that would go  
20 ahead and feed and support the actions that we're doing  
21 here. We will be doing original economic modeling and  
22 you could see the other things there. This will result

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1 in an Environmental Impact Statement. I mentioned once  
2 when I talked about the authority where it talked about  
3 the two areas that kind of lead themselves into some  
4 sort of separate strategies to go ahead and achieve and  
5 we're looking at geographically the oriented focuses.  
6 The primary area being looked at is the Chicago Area  
7 Waterway System. Why? Well, that's right now through  
8 the evaluation of the types of waterways and  
9 connections that are there that's the known continual  
10 connection between the Great Lakes and Mississippi  
11 River. It's a navigation channel. It's always open to  
12 water flowing primarily downward in cases of flood  
13 releases and flooding events. Water does backflow into  
14 that from Lake Michigan, but primarily it's from Lake  
15 Michigan into the Mississippi River, but right now it  
16 does open that pathway for organisms to come upstream.  
17 Then looking at the other pathways across the other  
18 Chicago waterways. We have a couple slides that will  
19 show a little bit about some of the focus areas of  
20 those. Being such a broad area and looking at this, we  
21 had to organize for success, first of all, and we had  
22 to look with the Corps of Engineers this being one of

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1 our studies how are we going to do this. General  
2 Peabody is the commander for the Great Lakes and Ohio  
3 River Division. How do we support each other? How do  
4 we work together? We continue to focus on what it is  
5 we are being asked to deliver and make sure that that  
6 works. By the way, Mr. Bredin mentioned the Asian Carp  
7 Coordinating Committee. How do we work with the other  
8 federal, state, local, non-governmental, tribal, other  
9 organizations that have an interest in this or that  
10 have a stake in this? How do we coordinate all those  
11 inputs and activities? You could see some of the  
12 things we've done there as well, setting up an  
13 executive steering committee and focus groups as we go  
14 along with the study to explain what's going on and  
15 provide kind of progress updates and keep everyone  
16 informed of what it is that's going on. That leads  
17 into what I talked about, the cycle out interim  
18 products and reports. We will get those things out to  
19 you. There are some that show a time line of when some  
20 of those products could be expected. Part of the other  
21 -- one of the challenges with the study is adapting to  
22 new and evolving information to the extent possible.

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1 One of the reasons especially for doing the scoping  
2 sessions is to hear from you, hear what your concerns  
3 are, hear what we ought to be looking at, maybe what we  
4 should consider so much, but also is there something as  
5 we go through this presentation you start to gain  
6 familiarity with what it is we're looking at, maybe  
7 something we didn't know about. General Peabody  
8 mentioned the first time talking about this we're out  
9 there uncovering rocks. Part of it right now is we're  
10 discovering which rocks to uncover and there may be  
11 something else to look at, so that's going to be a  
12 challenge as well, adapting to new information. How do  
13 we go ahead and work with them and take advantage of  
14 other bodies of knowledge so to speak to bring that  
15 into and help aid this effort? This slide here shows a  
16 little bit again in a more concise format the study  
17 purpose, identify the aquatic pathways. You see some  
18 of the pictures there across the board, some of the  
19 things that we're talking about. Of course the one  
20 that makes the news right now, I've heard someone  
21 mention it the other day, the flying fish, the silver  
22 carp, but it goes as broad as looking at the dotted

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1 duckweed or organisms like that. What is it that we  
2 need to do to go ahead and preserve the integrity of  
3 both of these water basins and the integrity of the  
4 Great Lakes? Part of the study is we have to analyze  
5 those possible controls to look at and also look at  
6 mitigation efforts or if there should be need for  
7 further study. This slide show talks about when we  
8 talk about the Chicago Area Waterway System. For this  
9 we'll turn over to Dave Wethington to talk a little bit  
10 for this slide.

11           DAVE WETHINGTON: Thank you, sir. Good  
12 afternoon, everyone. My name is David Wethington. I'm  
13 the Project Manager for the Army Corps of Engineers  
14 with regard to the Chicago Area Waterway System and the  
15 overall GLMRIS project. This slide you see in front of  
16 you basically highlights one of the highest risk  
17 connections between the Great Lakes and Mississippi  
18 River basins. The reason for that being is a  
19 continuous connection and there's actually five points  
20 which are outlined on that slide to which the Chicago  
21 Area Waterway System, the ship and sanitary canal  
22 connects to Lake Michigan. Those points one through

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1 five are labeled on that slide. Three of them are in  
2 Illinois and two of them are in the State of Indiana.  
3 Although it looks like there are a couple different  
4 rivers down there, all those rivers funnel into one  
5 which is the ship and sanitary canal and number seven  
6 is where we currently, we being the Army Corps of  
7 Engineers, currently operate, maintain the electric  
8 dispersement area which has been shown to be effective  
9 in stopping the movement, the upstream movements toward  
10 Lake Michigan of Asian carp. What you notice on the  
11 left is basically the outline for the study. This is  
12 how the Corps of Engineers is approaching this study.  
13 It is -- it does have a certain methodology to it.  
14 Although we may receive some criticism that this is  
15 maybe too much process orientated, I really would like  
16 to stress the potential impacts to waterway users in  
17 the Chicago area are much greater than just navigation.  
18 Navigation is a serious -- is an important aspect of  
19 the study, but there are also many other uses of the  
20 Chicago Area Waterway System. They include recreation,  
21 flood risk management is a huge one, water supply,  
22 water discharge. The entire Chicago land area

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1 discharges their waste water currently to the Chicago  
2 ship and sanitary canal and it flows downstream. It  
3 services an area of over somewhere in the neighborhood  
4 of seven million people. Again, Lieutenant Colonel  
5 Berczek mentioned we will be collaborating on this with  
6 all of our federal partners, state partners, tribal  
7 nations as well as non-government organizations. Right  
8 now we are going to those first two steps, inventorying  
9 problems and opportunities. The purpose of this  
10 meeting today is to listen to you, see what maybe you  
11 think may be significant to this project as well as  
12 what might not be significant. What is the value of  
13 the Great Lakes fishery? What is the value of the  
14 commercial navigation? What is the value to flood risk  
15 management of the Chicago ship and sanitary canal to  
16 the Chicago area and beyond? Thank you, sir. For this  
17 I'll turn it over to John Zimmerman.

18           JOHN ZIMMERMAN: I'm going to ask that unless  
19 somebody has objections that I stand down here because  
20 I haven't seen this presentation in a while and I kind  
21 of want to talk about it so I could tie to it. Can  
22 everybody hear me? Okay. I'll be as informal as I

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1 can. As the colonel mentioned, the other pathways is a  
2 GLMRIS study and it is designed for us to look at all  
3 the other potential connections that may occur between  
4 the Great Lakes system and the Mississippi River  
5 system, so you could see that it encompasses  
6 almost a fifteen hundred mile area. What we have  
7 initially done is a preliminary risk characterization.  
8 Potentially that is an inventory of all of the possible  
9 connections that we and every other agency and entity  
10 involved in all these states knows about. We've come  
11 up with thirty-six total. Out of those thirty-six we  
12 further took this inventory of all these sites and  
13 characterized them based on the potential for a true  
14 hydrologic connection. In other words, are there any  
15 locations in which there's water running continuously  
16 between the two basins and the answer to that is pretty  
17 much no. However, during certain flooding events we do  
18 know that there is a capability to create a connection  
19 based on a significant level of flood and it varies in  
20 every single one of those areas. We characterized each  
21 one of those sites based on the ability for it to  
22 convey water between the two basins. Then we also look

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1 from a biological standpoint at the universe of aquatic  
2 invasive species, not just including the Asian Carp,  
3 but all of those other floaters and the like that we  
4 talked about beforehand, plants and other non-airborne  
5 aquatic species in both the Great Lakes and in the  
6 Mississippi River system and we looked at their  
7 characterizations and determined whether or not there  
8 was a probability giving these flooding events that  
9 there would be a transfer. Based on that ranking and  
10 assessment, we come up with eighteen sites. I don't  
11 think on this particular slide that they're marked. The  
12 highest risk was one in which a relatively small level  
13 of flooding is in Fort Wayne, Indiana, the Wabash  
14 connection, and of course the folks in the Buffalo area  
15 should be familiar with it. At any rate, it occurs. In  
16 some instances, we coordinated with the State of  
17 Indiana and they immediately introduced an interim  
18 measure which should be good for a period of time and  
19 we are proposing to move forward as a result of the  
20 GLMRIS effort with a more permanent fix. Could I have  
21 the next slide, please? Thank you. That's yours.  
22 Thank you.

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1           DAVID BERCEK: Thanks, John. This shows a  
2 little bit of the accomplishments to date as we've been  
3 talking and as we've been looking and waiting for some  
4 activity to occur with this study. There has been a  
5 lot to get to the point where we could come to you and  
6 say here is our course of study. There has been some  
7 execution as the management plan was being developed  
8 and the strategy was being worked. John, you heard  
9 mention about some of the characterization of the  
10 pathways, the installation of some interim measures  
11 there in the Eagle Marsh area and also identified some  
12 of the species out there right now. This may be  
13 further refined, but you see a hundred and fifty-four  
14 species. We are moving along. For a study like this  
15 and the magnitude of it, it is rather an aggressive  
16 schedule, so how fast is fast? You see the little  
17 asterisk there talking about this schedule, sometime in  
18 the winter of 2015 or the summer with really a report  
19 released for public review in the fall, 2014. That's  
20 the best case scenario. We have begun doing a good  
21 study, analysis of what's out there and identifying and  
22 as much information that's out there and little bit of

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1 surprises that come up along the way that require  
2 additional course of study and analysis. We talked  
3 about some of the interim products that we would be  
4 turning out. Somewhere along those lies Eagle Marsh.  
5 This is one of those slides that you look and say okay,  
6 big deal, how is this gonna happen, but I think we can  
7 make something like this happen and this assumes to  
8 continue to work on this study show up as needed and  
9 we've done the proper work in moving along. What we  
10 talk about are some of the interim products and the  
11 updates. It is a long-term study and without hearing  
12 anything you could sit back and think nothing is being  
13 done, where are we with this and what's happening.  
14 We're going to make the effort to come out more often  
15 with periodic updates. We are really going to take  
16 advantage where it is today. I'll show you some web  
17 sites and you'll see a slide at the end. How could you  
18 get involved, how could you input to you and us to you  
19 that are available when you want them when you have to  
20 have access to them and be available. You don't have  
21 to be listening to something at a certain time. That's  
22 the beauty of some of the technologies we have

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1 nowadays. If I send you an e-mail, you read it when  
2 you get to it kind of thing. Here are some of the  
3 products that it talks about. The inventory of the  
4 means of travel, how they would transfer between the  
5 two basins, the control technologies and the surveys.  
6 Dave mentioned about the value of some of those surveys  
7 and the uses of the waterways and Great Lakes as well  
8 and again a fishery survey. How could we help? Today  
9 is a good start coming with your words, your thoughts,  
10 things that are important to you, the things that are  
11 significant to you, getting that inserted into the  
12 record. Part of the process we do have some  
13 bureaucracy. We do have some process oriented things.  
14 Part of it is entering your comments into the public  
15 record, either you coming up and speaking it or  
16 submitting it in writing and that's why we have some  
17 computers in the back. It will become part of the  
18 public record of this study. There are some of the  
19 example inputs I mentioned about having an aggressive  
20 schedule and things that could show up. There are a  
21 number of other agencies that we look for their  
22 expertise and their areas of strength to provide some

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1 of this information to develop and assist the  
2 development of that data and information so we could  
3 start looking really hard at how to control and what  
4 technologies are out there. Additionally, Kendall I  
5 think mentioned about the schedule with more public  
6 meetings coming up and you could see here the locations  
7 and the dates when the rest of the public meetings will  
8 occur again with the public period being opened until  
9 the 31st of March of 2011. Other ways to stay in touch  
10 and also provide you could see the web sites mentioned  
11 there. That GLMRIS web site there, this is the web  
12 site to go ahead and enter your comments and submit  
13 your comments or on Facebook. If you want to sign up  
14 and follow it if you happen to live and die by your  
15 cell phone, you could always get a Tweet from Dave  
16 Wethington, projects manager, so it's -- we're trying  
17 to go ahead kind of speaking a little lightly about  
18 those, but they're all ways to communicate and get that  
19 interaction to a significant and important study that  
20 we have going on right now to keep up with you and you  
21 keep up with us. All right. That's it. Thank you for  
22 your time.

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1                   KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Before beginning the  
2 oral comment period, I would like to again thank  
3 Lieutenant Colonel Steven Bales and Lieutenant Colonel  
4 Berczek. The study website is a good source of  
5 information. Interested persons could subscribe to the  
6 public website. The GLMRIS web address could be found  
7 in the study brochure, written comment form and the  
8 GLMRIS cards and also the social media that was  
9 mentioned on Facebook and Twitter could be found on the  
10 business card as well. Now moving into the oral  
11 comment period of the meeting. Those who indicated on  
12 the registration form that they wanted to make a brief  
13 three minute statement or ask a question will have an  
14 opportunity to do so. If a person wants to ask a  
15 question, we request that you manage your three minutes  
16 to allow for comment, question and Corps of Engineers  
17 response. The Corps of Engineers response will answer  
18 questions that are answerable. Again, in order for  
19 everyone to have the opportunity to speak, we ask that  
20 everyone abide to the three minute timeline. After  
21 everyone has had an opportunity to address the panel  
22 and if time permits, those who have additional comments

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1 or questions will be given the opportunity to speak  
2 again. If time does not allow, please note that you  
3 could enter remaining comments or written comment form  
4 again. Again, in the back lap-tops are provided. All  
5 forms of comments received during the scoping period  
6 will be weighted equally. I have a visual set of  
7 slides that we will help manage our time while we begin  
8 our speaking. After two minutes the box will change to  
9 a yellow color and every fifteen seconds update the  
10 remaining time of use that you have. I will also  
11 announce to you there are thirty seconds to make a  
12 complete statement. At the end of the three minutes,  
13 the box will turn to a red color and I will ask that  
14 you conclude your statement. I'd like to mention that  
15 we have a stenographer with us tonight. She will be  
16 reporting your comments and questions. When you come  
17 to the microphone to make an oral comment or ask a  
18 question, please give your name first, any organization  
19 you might represent and your zip code, speak into the  
20 microphone and speak slowly. Thank you for doing that.  
21 If you do not give your name and zip code, we won't be  
22 able to formally record your comment in any of the

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1 scoping period. We'll now hear from those who pre-  
2 registered to speak on the project website and those  
3 who indicated on the registration form that they want  
4 to make any oral comments. For those that pre-  
5 registered on the project website, I ask that you come  
6 to the middle microphone color coded as blue any time  
7 you're ready to speak. For those who have not  
8 registered I ask that you go to the microphone color  
9 coded yellow. You received a yellow index card. I  
10 will be calling that number and your last name to the  
11 microphone. For those that did not pre-register on the  
12 project web site, please come to the microphone when I  
13 call your name. I apologize in advance if I  
14 mispronounce any of your names. That's why we ask you  
15 to give them up front. At this time let me read the  
16 first three person's names for the yellow line and I'll  
17 get you lined up. Again, anybody with a blue comment  
18 card please come up whenever you're ready and we'll get  
19 you started. If you come to the blue line, please just  
20 show me your number so I could announce your name. Mr.  
21 Thomas Marks?

22 THOMAS MARKS: Correct.

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1                   KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Please state your name  
2 and your zip code and the organization you might  
3 represent.

4                   THOMAS MARKS: My name is Thomas Marks. I'm  
5 with the Great Lakes Sports Fishing Council. I'm the  
6 New York State director. My zip is 14047. Thank you  
7 very much for allowing me this brief time to speak. The  
8 Army Corps of Engineers has been the face of the battle  
9 and the Asian carps, trying to prevent them from  
10 reaching the Great Lakes, so I would like to start by  
11 saying not many people know that in 2001 or 2002 it was  
12 decided to have a three part plan to stop Asian carp to  
13 reach the Great Lakes as well as the Mississippi watershed.  
14 The original plan if implemented could work. The  
15 plan called for an electrical barrier, an ecologic  
16 barrier and finally hydrologic barrier separation. That  
17 would stop the floaters that we heard mentioned.  
18 Anybody involved knew the electrical barrier is the  
19 weakest part of this plan. It would only slow the  
20 advancement of Asian carp to the Great Lakes and only  
21 slow the species down to the Mississippi. This is a  
22 grand experiment. What is an ecological barrier which

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1 is part of the plan? The ecologic barrier is a dead  
2 zone, impossible to fish. How could you make a dead  
3 zone? You can turn off the aeration and seepage  
4 stations along the canal. These stations oxygenate the  
5 water for aquatic lake and fish. This is just a  
6 temporary measure until the hydrological separation  
7 could be achieved. That was in the original plan. We  
8 knew hydrological separation would be difficult to  
9 accomplish, political and shipping interests and such.  
10 My plan turning off the pumps is basically free. The  
11 ecological barrier could be almost free. Does anybody  
12 in the room disagree with implementing a free solution?  
13 An ecological barrier is what we had prior to 1972.

14 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Thirty seconds.

15 THOMAS MARKS: However, we won't be dumping  
16 chemical in there. I want to really sum up real quick.  
17 The Army Corps of Engineers has squandered a lot of  
18 time working on the electric barrier. Major Peabody  
19 was quoted recently in the journal that he is not  
20 confident that we could get a hundred percent solution  
21 to this problem. He believes that the Asian carp are  
22 going to get into Lake Michigan. If you don't believe

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1 in the mission, resign, step down. Mr. Obama, if he  
2 doesn't design, please fire him. This twenty-five  
3 million dollar study right now is a cost.

4 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Sir, your three minutes  
5 are ended.

6 THOMAS MARKS: I'll be back, but you failed  
7 miserably in this process I'm sorry to say.

8 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Marks. If  
9 any other blue people would like to comment. Art  
10 Klein.

11 ART KLEIN: Art Klein. I'm a member of the  
12 Sierra Club. I'm not here today to represent the  
13 Sierra Club, but I'm on a couple of Great Lakes  
14 committees for the Sierra Club. I have just some  
15 general questions because there's some concepts in your  
16 presentation that call for the transfer of data and  
17 transfers. I'm not sure what that means, if that means  
18 that you're actually going to deliver products to the  
19 people who could do something about the problems and  
20 implement it. We've got a lot of studies on the Great  
21 Lakes and I'm not certain if we're going to be able to  
22 get to some the people are concerned about. Today Mr.

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1 Marks is concerned about the Asian Carp. Some of these  
2 study deliver some partial solutions or you reach a  
3 stage that you have an opportunity understanding of the  
4 problem like Fort Wayne there. We couldn't enjoy the  
5 benefit at that time because it seems to me a lot of  
6 this stuff gets overwhelmed. We have the Asian carp,  
7 by example. By the time its identified and some  
8 stoppage is implemented, it's overwhelmed all the  
9 resources, so we can't do anything about it. I'm not  
10 sure if these other studies that I do not have with,  
11 are they just going to be part of the footprints or are  
12 you actively implementing those studies into your final  
13 studies on an ongoing basis? It sounds to me like  
14 these could be like footnotes or indexes and not really  
15 part of the plan. Thank you.

16           DAVE WETHINGTON: If I may respond very  
17 briefly to your question regarding to other data  
18 sources, we do intend to use other information from  
19 department agencies or other individual agencies who  
20 are performing some of these studies. They can be  
21 wrapped into the overall feasibility study that the  
22 Corps of Engineers is implementing. If nothing else,

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1 the information that is in there will be incorporated  
2 into the overall study, so we're not trying to recreate  
3 the wheel and reach out to many of our partners as  
4 possible to incorporate into the study.

5           JOHN ZIMMERMAN: Once again, I'm John  
6 Zimmerman. I'll address the second part of your  
7 question the best I can for right now and I think that  
8 was essentially a comment about what would be the  
9 proposal, what is being done right now with regard to  
10 those other potential vectors for transfer between the  
11 basins and the line. I can tell you that through this  
12 framework that we put together that involve all these  
13 federal agencies, state governments, local entities  
14 there has been a fair amount of work done already.  
15 There is certainly more to be done with regard to  
16 addressing those other potential vectors like the  
17 transfer through water, Great Lakes shipping, the  
18 potential transfer, for example, from one body of water  
19 to another and live wells. There are some issues with  
20 regard to the State of Illinois has stepped up and done  
21 a number of things already with regard to the selling  
22 of the small Asian or some other small species which

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1 are considered invasive. There is a number of these  
2 kind of things that are being addressed right now and  
3 certainly the federal government does not have  
4 authority over all of those issues that our state  
5 issues, but there's a great deal of coordination going  
6 on. There is things going on in terms of making those  
7 other vectors less of a threat for the transfer as we  
8 speak, but there is a lot of work being done.

9 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Thank you for your  
10 questions, Mr. Klein.

11 AN UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: The other part of  
12 his question are we going to spiral out projects? If  
13 we come to a solution, we're willing to kick that  
14 product out and let somebody take that action.

15 JOHN ZIMMERMAN: And included in not only  
16 those projects, there are technologies that are being  
17 investigated also which may evolve into fixes on  
18 something, so the answer is we don't plan on sitting on  
19 anything that's developing that we think will help come  
20 back and their approval and can be financed, yes, he  
21 will move those as quickly as possible.

22 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Do we have any other

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1 blues that would like to speak at this time? Mrs. Mary  
2 Muter.

3 MARY MUTER: I'm here representing Sierra  
4 Club Ontario Great Lakes section. My comments will  
5 take about five minutes. I was told at the  
6 registration people wish to speak. I was wondering if  
7 you could ask for a show of hands. I can't see  
8 speaking for three minutes and cutting it off and  
9 coming it back again.

10 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: We'll allow it.

11 MARY MUTER: Thank you. My environmental  
12 colleagues and I are pleased that you are having these  
13 hearings. We are here to bring you a Canadian  
14 perspective. You have obligations to prevent the carp  
15 from crossing our boundary lines. Canadians have very  
16 deep concerns about these invasive carp getting into  
17 the Canadian waters of the Great Lakes and if we could  
18 speak for our native fishery we are sure they are  
19 terrified of these huge up to one hundred pound bacon  
20 head carp and their large cousins. We have nothing  
21 even close to that size currently in the Great Lakes  
22 and the carps' introduction as you are well-aware could

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1 virtually occupy the native fishery in a few decades.  
2 The big head and silver carp have crossed the  
3 electrical barriers and are very close to Lake Michigan  
4 at many points. Canada's Department of Fisheries and  
5 Oceans completed in 2004 a comprehensive risk  
6 assessment of these carp to Canadian waters. The  
7 extent of the areas they will invade is quite frankly  
8 terrifying. For silver carp into every Ontario river  
9 and lake up to James Bay leading into Hudson Bay. There  
10 is no need for any further risk assessment work. The  
11 2004 study was definitive. To spend money and time on  
12 a new one will be considered wasteful and a stalling  
13 technique. More recent work has determined that two  
14 years after these carp get into Lake Michigan at  
15 Chicago that they will invade all of Lake Huron and its  
16 large east arm, Georgian Bay, the sixth great lake.  
17 Just to give you some background on Georgian Bay, it  
18 has been identified in the Canadian DFO 20 0 4 risk  
19 assessment as having suitable habitat for the  
20 propagation of Asian carp. It almost makes me sick to  
21 say this, but that suitable habitat is in fact the most  
22 high quality, most diverse and most extensive well and

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1 seventeen hundred of them determined by Dr. Pat  
2 O'Frazier, found anywhere in the Great Lakes. Given  
3 that we now have only thirty percent of the original  
4 wetland habitat left in the Great Lakes, it will indeed  
5 be a tragedy of human failure if these wetlands are  
6 ripped apart by the big head and silver carp and  
7 permanently turned into mud lets. Wetlands are needed  
8 by eighty percent of Great Lakes native fish that some  
9 point in their life cycle for spawning and nursery  
10 habitat. The destruction of these wetlands will  
11 devastate the fishery. American citizens seeking a  
12 wonderful experience in nature, marvelous fishing and  
13 great natural beauty led the way in the early twentieth  
14 century to the development of the Georgian Bay as  
15 cottage country. As a result, currently some forty  
16 percent of the seasonal property owners in this one  
17 hundred and twenty mile long arm of Lake Huron are  
18 citizens of the United States of America. I speak on  
19 their behalf as well as behalf of my fellow Canadians  
20 when I urge you to take immediate forceful action to  
21 prevent their entry into Lake Michigan. Let us look at  
22 the mandate Congress gave you. Deplorably you have

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1 decided to spend precious time and resources to study  
2 ways to reduce the risk, not just prevent it. This  
3 change in your mandate was not authorized by Congress.  
4 We urgently request that you look only at options that  
5 will prevent invasive species movement and will thereof  
6 stop the Asian carp invasion. Let us look also at cost  
7 benefit analysis. The cost of closing the waterways we  
8 know includes upgrading Chicago sewage and stormwater  
9 treatment and management. That double action will in  
10 fact provide further long-term benefits to the Great  
11 Lakes as it will finally end the costly pollution of  
12 local waterways, the ongoing diversion and permanent  
13 loss of nine thousand cubic feet per second of Great  
14 Lakes water. Please bear in mind that Lakes Michigan  
15 and Huron are currently much farther below their long-  
16 term average water level than any other Great Lakes and  
17 have been lower for virtually the past twelve years.  
18 This has negative implications for shipping,  
19 recreational boating, some municipal and many private  
20 water intakes, shoreline species and invasion of sub  
21 species and tourism in general. These two lakes will  
22 benefit from the termination of the Chicago diversion

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1 with its ongoing permanent loss of water. The sealing  
2 of all these connections between Lake Michigan and  
3 Mississippi River system and the construction of a lift  
4 lock or marine railway for barges and boats to move  
5 should begin immediately. We do not have a second to  
6 waste on further study let alone on wider studies. The  
7 time for the Corps study is far too long. The Chicago  
8 portion of the study is not predicted to be completed  
9 before mid 2015 or nearly five years from now. The  
10 Corps must acknowledge the urgency of finding a  
11 permanent solution, condense the timeline and produce  
12 final results for the Chicago portion of the study  
13 within twelve months rather than by mid 2015. The  
14 Asian carp are knocking at the back door of the Great  
15 Lakes. It is extremely urgent that the Army Corps  
16 study and provide a solution for the Chicago Waterway  
17 System first regardless of the need to enact on other  
18 aquatic pathways. Thank you. I don't know if you want  
19 my postal code. I don't have a zip code.

20 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: I think we'll be okay.  
21 Thank you very much. I would now like to call those  
22 with a yellow number to come and line up at the yellow

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1 microphone starting with number 2, Mr. Roy Schatz.

2 Again, I apologize if I mispronounce your name.

3 Following him, number three, Miss Mary Jane Bolo, then

4 number four, Mr. Mike Bolo.

5           ROY SCHATZ: First of all, I'm very pleased  
6 that Canadians have been allowed to speak at this  
7 meeting in Buffalo, but I would request that just as  
8 the international upper Great Lakes study held meetings  
9 in Canada that you give serious consideration to  
10 holding a few meetings of this nature in some of the  
11 Canadian cities where the IUGLS held such meetings  
12 because there are a lot of Canadians who have been  
13 working on the Asian carp situation and I'm sure some  
14 would like to speak at a public meeting. We made the  
15 two and a half hour trip from Toronto, but I don't  
16 think a lot of people will go to the other places. I  
17 would like to endorse what Mrs. Muter said. I would  
18 also draw to your attention that an organization called  
19 Ecojustice Canada sent a registered letter to the  
20 Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton, on June the  
21 24th. Now, that letter was regarding a request on  
22 behalf of a whole bunch of organizations and I'll read

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1 the list because quite a few of them are American.  
2 Great Lakes United, Environmental Defense Canada,  
3 Milwaukee River Keeper, Silver Valley Water Keeper,  
4 Lake Ontario River Keeper, Georgian Bay River Keeper,  
5 Ottawa River Keeper, Frazier River Keeper and Grand  
6 River Keeper Labrador. This letter -- I certainly  
7 won't read it all to you because it's two pages long,  
8 but this is a request on behalf of the above mentioned  
9 groups to the US Secretary of State to formally request  
10 the administrator of the EPA to prevent the migration of  
11 carp into the Great Lakes basin and the no the  
12 administrator by giving formal notification under S310  
13 of the clean Water Act to the relevant state water  
14 pollution control agencies and to appropriate  
15 interstate agencies to take action. The parties  
16 further seek the convenienting of a public hearing  
17 under S310 of the Clean Water Act to facilitate the  
18 consideration of Canadian interests and concerns  
19 regarding the transboundary nature of this water  
20 pollution issue and it goes on and gives many, many  
21 details. I would add that obviously copies of this  
22 letter were sent to Prime Minister Steven Harper and we

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1 did receive answers from him and from the minister of -  
2 - Canadian minister of fisheries and oceans and foreign  
3 affairs and international trade Canada, all of whom  
4 said that they endorse what is said in here and that  
5 they are working closely with their equivalent American  
6 agencies and in a most operative manner. The letter to  
7 Mrs. Clinton has not yet been answered.

8 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Thirty seconds.

9 ROY SCHATZ: I'm wondering if an answer could  
10 be made, please. Thank you.

11 MARY JAME BOLO: Mary Jane Bolo, 14057. I  
12 come today to speak about an issue that is very, very  
13 emotional. My family has had a cottage on Lake Huron  
14 for more than a hundred years. I also represent the  
15 Georgian Bay Association and soon to be Sierra Club. I  
16 come to implore you to be the people to avert yet  
17 another ecological disaster in the making. When we  
18 look outside and we see an abundance of English  
19 sparrows and European starlings, we wonder why that  
20 happened and how they displaced our native birds. Well,  
21 it was because they were brought here by someone and  
22 they were allowed to stay and accomplish their purpose

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1 of basically maximizing space and I come to say also  
2 that you are the ones that in a very, very quick  
3 manner, a manner that can be -- that could accomplish  
4 this, that could avert this disaster. You're the ones  
5 that can make this happen so that we don't have to look  
6 back on the fact that we have a problem, a problem with  
7 Asian carp in the Great Lakes. That's a lot of water  
8 and pleasure and a lot of fresh water and why would we  
9 risk this opportunity to be in the position to make  
10 this situation not happen. I just thank you for being  
11 the Army Corps of Engineers and for having the ability  
12 to do it.

13 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Thank you for your  
14 statements. Next, number four, Mr. Michael Bolo,  
15 please. Then after him I'll ask for number 5, Mr.  
16 David Adams, and number six.

17 MIKE BOLO: My name is Mike Bolo, zip code  
18 14057. I believe that history is good for two things,  
19 pleasant mysteries and what you learn from it. The  
20 Army Corps of Engineers has been involved with the St.  
21 Clair and dredging it and the issue around lake levels  
22 for decades and there have been pledges to do something

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1 about it and commitments to do something about it and  
2 it's still being studied and debated how much that  
3 excess flow of water down the St. Clair is affecting  
4 the continually lower than appropriate water levels at  
5 Lake Michigan, Lake Huron. It continues to be an  
6 issue. There are per the Army Corps of Engineers  
7 solutions to that, technically sound solutions, but  
8 they're not being acted on. Here's another situation  
9 where it's been going on for quite a while and we're  
10 still studying it and the carp aren't going to wait.  
11 Let's put up the physical, ecological barriers that  
12 will preclude these monster fish from ruining such a  
13 vast and precious and irreplaceable resource that our  
14 six states, bordering states and Canada, enjoy. Let's  
15 not study it to death. Let's fix it, please.

16 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Next please, yellow  
17 number five, Mr. David Adams.

18 DAVID ADAMS: My name is David Adams. My zip  
19 code is 12233. Good afternoon. My name is David  
20 Adams. I am an ecologist with the New York State  
21 Department of Environmental Conservation office of  
22 invasive studies coordination. Thank you for providing

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1 the opportunity for public input. This matter is of  
2 utmost importance to the State of New York. As Asian  
3 carp threaten the continued viability of our Great  
4 Lakes, environmental, recreation and economic  
5 resources. We urge you and other participating  
6 agencies to see that all measures necessary to prevent  
7 the entry of Asian carp into the Great Lakes especially  
8 through the Chicago waterway system are taken. We urge  
9 you and the participating agencies to, one, employ  
10 short-term physical barriers and eradication measures.  
11 Two, establish an effective eDNA testing program.  
12 Three, coordinate other monitoring and managing  
13 activities with eDNA results. Four, expedite the  
14 planning and implementation of permanent ecological  
15 separation of the Great Lakes from the Mississippi  
16 water shed and do this in a time line that is quicker  
17 than that presented earlier today in the draft  
18 recommendation plan. Lastly, conduct these activities  
19 in a transparent and inclusive manner. As you know,  
20 Asian carp pose dire threat to the Great Lakes  
21 including its bays, connecting channels and  
22 tributaries. Establishment of an Asian carp population

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1 in the Great Lakes could result in catastrophic,  
2 irrelevant reversible harm to this ecosystem that is  
3 one fifth of the world's fresh surface water and  
4 devastate the commercial and recreational fisheries  
5 that depend upon the Great Lakes. Thank you for  
6 submitting these comments. More detailed written  
7 comments will be submitted at a later date.

8 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, sir. Next  
9 would be yellow six, Mr. Barry Boyer.

10 BARRY BOYER: Barry Boyer, River Keeper, zip  
11 is 14213 and I'm appearing on behalf of Buffalo River  
12 Keeper with the mission of protecting and restoring  
13 local waterways. In that capacity, we frequently  
14 partner with the Corps of Engineers and thank you for  
15 this opportunity to participate in the scoping. We  
16 want to make three quick points about the study. One  
17 is that the value of the ecosystem services is at least  
18 partly reflected in the magnitude of the investments of  
19 time that have been made over the past decades while we  
20 have been trying to restore these waterways. Currently  
21 River Keeper recently received nearly two million  
22 dollars worth of grants under the Great Lakes

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1 Restoration Initiative. We're working with the Corps  
2 and EPA on environmental dredging of the Buffalo River  
3 and across the Great Lakes basin there's a huge  
4 investment going forward, some of which we heard about.  
5 Please try to evaluate alternatives with respect to  
6 protecting that investment. Second, the preferred  
7 alternative in evaluating alternatives ought to be  
8 hydraulic separation because that appears to be most --  
9 both most effective and most cost effective. It was  
10 interesting to hear that prevention has been defined as  
11 to the maximum extent feasible. I think that's a point  
12 on which there needs to be further dialogue because  
13 feasible takes a variety of meanings in American law  
14 including particularly the balancing of economics  
15 against ecosystem and health hazards, so we would like  
16 to have some more discussion of that and urge you also  
17 to keep in mind that alternatives other than separation  
18 are vulnerable to failure as in the 2004 blackout and  
19 they're also required ongoing operation and maintenance  
20 expenses which depends on the willingness of future  
21 legislators to appropriate the money and the ability of  
22 humans to carry them out. Finally, we would urge you

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1 to keep in accord with the principal of responding to  
2 subsequent information, keep open the possibility and  
3 periodically reconsider whether emergency closure of  
4 the Chicago waterway system may be an appropriate  
5 response to prevent this from happening. The Corps is  
6 a careful organization when it conducts a study, but we  
7 don't want this study to become merely an autopsy on  
8 the dying ego system. Thank you.

9 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Thirty seconds.

10 BARRY BOYER: Thank you.

11 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Again I would like to  
12 thank everybody. Let me remind you if you have with  
13 you any prepared statements or documents that you would  
14 like to turn in please find the light blue document  
15 submittal form, fill that out and leave it at the front  
16 desk. At this time are there any people that I have  
17 not called to make a speech that have signed up at the  
18 table? If not, then it is currently 3:28 and we are  
19 going to open the microphones to anybody that would  
20 like to come up and make a comment or have any  
21 questions for our panel. Please come up to the blue  
22 microphone, state your name and your zip code and begin

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1 speaking. At this time is there anybody that would  
2 like to come up to the microphone and make a statement?

3 RAYMOND VAUGHAN: Raymond Vaughan, home zip  
4 code is 14057. I work for the New York Attorney  
5 General's Office. I've got a question about the  
6 statement that eDNA testing does not necessarily  
7 represent the presence of Asian carp. Could we get a  
8 statement say from Fish and Wildlife on this? My  
9 understanding is that even though carp that are  
10 recently dead within forty-eight hours as I understand  
11 might be a source of the markers currently being used,  
12 but it has to be quite recent in the carp that have  
13 been dead for a long time would not produce a signal.  
14 May we have clarification of that?

15 JIM BREDIN: Let me clarify because that's  
16 one of the things that we're doing as part of this next  
17 series of projects that are going to be funded is to  
18 trying to take that. It does not mean there are live  
19 carp. There are a lot of unanswered questions  
20 regarding that not only whether or not it's live or  
21 dead, but also at what period of time was that carp in  
22 the area. I myself am not an expert on this, but I was

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1 looking it up the other day and the carp can basically  
2 travel anywhere from fourteen kilometers per day, so  
3 it's hard to tell what area they have been in even  
4 though we have have a positive. It's hard to tell how  
5 many carp there may be in the area and a lot of other  
6 questions that arise that are going to be answered  
7 through the projects that we have funded that are  
8 ongoing right now.

9           RAYMOND VAUGHAN: I think that work will be  
10 useful. At the same time what we're hearing today is  
11 that a possible does not necessarily indicate the  
12 presence of live carp, but I think within a certain  
13 time range and time period that it does.

14           JIM BREDIN: And I think we basically agree  
15 with what you're saying. It's just that what we need  
16 to do is be able to use signs to show that and that's  
17 what we're following up with the report that just came  
18 out. We'll be taking that information and trying to  
19 show specifically what it means.

20           RAYMOND VAUGHAN: Good. Just for  
21 clarification, I just want to be sure we agreed on  
22 that. Thank you.

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1 JIM BREDIN: Okay.

2 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, sir. Would  
3 anybody else like to come to the microphone and ask a  
4 question or make a statement?

5 KAREN PETERSON: Karen Peterson, 14226, I  
6 think. I can't remember. I can't remember. I'm  
7 unclear at the moment. Is the canal the one place  
8 where the lake is kind of draining into the Mississippi  
9 River causing flooding down -- all going down to the  
10 gulf? This is a question, I guess. I've lived on the  
11 lake for thirty years as a kid and the levels keep  
12 going down. I am thinking it's a big drain.

13 DAVE WETHINGTON: The connection has been in  
14 place since 1990 and, yes, the water that enters the  
15 Chicago River does drain toward the Mississippi River  
16 basin. The input of water into the ship and can  
17 satisfactory canal in the Chicago River approximately  
18 seventy percent of that water give or take or so is  
19 waste water from the City of Chicago. It's treated  
20 waste water from the City of Chicago.

21 KAREN PETERSON: Thank you. I agree to close  
22 it off.

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1 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Thank you. Tom Marks, I  
2 believe.

3 THOMAS MARKS: I have two questions. One  
4 regarding the eDNA test. When you get the positive  
5 test above the electric barrier up near the Chicago  
6 harbor and those places up there, if you get a positive  
7 test you don't know if they're really there, they're  
8 moving back and forth, do you then feel that maybe  
9 they're going south of the barrier again or either  
10 they're staying up north of the barrier?

11 JIM BREDIN: What we're talking about are two  
12 different things. One is being able to prove that it's  
13 a live carp and that's what we're undertaking -- that's  
14 what we'll be doing in this next year because we want  
15 to show very specifically -- we want to know exactly  
16 what that means, how long -- if there is a live Asian  
17 carp when was it there. We don't think they're really  
18 going back forth the barriers because that doesn't make  
19 a lot of sense from the fish's standpoint. We have  
20 caught one. It was killed. All of the fishing we've  
21 been doing in this area, all of the trapping we have  
22 not been able to catch another live Asian carp. We're

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1 not saying that there aren't Asian carp there. It's  
2 the methods that we have been using we haven't been  
3 able to catch live Asian carp.

4 THOMAS MARKS: I understand that. You've  
5 also have very little luck at catching Asian carp, so  
6 those techniques aren't very good where we know the  
7 eDNA has showed some results. The other question has  
8 to do with a Senate hearing that I listened to last --  
9 I'm thinking it was January, maybe early February. It  
10 happened to be on indicating carp. At that time, Dr.  
11 Leon Carl talked more about controlling or managing the  
12 Asian carp population. That's where the researchers  
13 had -- it seemed in his opinion, in his testimony at  
14 that time that we're not really gonna stop the Asian  
15 carp from getting into the Great Lakes. We might as  
16 well accept that right now. I'm kind of paraphrasing  
17 his testimony. But we're gonna be in a phase of  
18 control. Is that really where the direction of this  
19 Asian carp problem is going? It's really not stopping  
20 them from reaching the Great Lakes, but no honesty  
21 controlling them so they're populations do not cause  
22 environmental damage once they get there?

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1           JIM BREDIN: We do not want to in any way,  
2 shape or form see a sustainable population of Asian  
3 carp. I don't know what Leon Carl said at the meeting.  
4 I've had numerous discussions with him. I believe that  
5 the techniques that they're using are to try to keep  
6 the pressure off of the electrical barriers. In other  
7 words, try to force the fish farther south am right now  
8 there's a lot of pressure up from the fish's standpoint  
9 of trying to move into other areas. They -- we will we  
10 will be trying to move through the electrical barrier.  
11 That's why we have numerous projects below the  
12 electrical barrier to try to relieve that pressure.  
13 That's why we're in full support of commercial  
14 fisheries in the area to try to get those fish out of  
15 there and to keep that population as small as possible.  
16 What Leon is talking about I believe is using the  
17 techniques that they're looking at through USGS to keep  
18 those fish away from the electrical barrier, not  
19 necessarily from a standpoint of dealing with the fish  
20 once they go past the electrical barrier. There are --  
21 you know. We are preparing for a -- if we do get a  
22 fish above it we need to have tools in our toolbox to

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1 deal with those issues, but most of our efforts right  
2 now are to keep those fish below the electrical  
3 barriers. We think the electrical barriers -- we  
4 believe the electrical barriers are doing a good job.  
5 That's what we're going to be looking at over the last  
6 couple years is trying to make sure that is the case.

7 THOMAS MARKS: Just one comment and I'll sit  
8 back down. Dr. Carl did say those fish didn't swim  
9 past the electric barrier or underground channels.  
10 That's in his testimony. You could read that if you  
11 want. I really think that if you go back to the  
12 original plan to stop the Asian carp and look at what  
13 was proposed back around 2001, 2002 that ecological  
14 barrier even though it won't stop the floaters, the  
15 plants and the pathogens creating a dead zone in the  
16 canal and it's very easy to do. You could do it right  
17 there at the electric barrier and right where the canal  
18 site comes into the ship canal. We're not asking to  
19 put harmful chemicals, not asking to put industrial  
20 pollutants to put in. All we're asking to degrade the  
21 water to a point where there's no oxygen in it. It  
22 reinforces your electrical barrier which we know is not

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1 a hundred percent effective. The studies by found that  
2 to be true so, you know, create that dead zone which  
3 ultimately is the answer.

4 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Thank you again, sir. At  
5 this time would anybody else like to step to the  
6 microphone and make a comment or ask any questions?  
7 Does anyone on the panel have any additional comments  
8 they would like to make? Again, one last call for  
9 anyone to come to the microphone to questions or  
10 comments. It is now 3:38 p.m. Barring the last couple  
11 seconds anybody wants to come up, we are going to close  
12 the oral comment period. I would like to thank  
13 everybody for attending this session. We will again  
14 give a presentation at 5:30 and then following the  
15 presentation we will open up a second oral comment  
16 period. We ask that you help us recycle our materials  
17 if you have anything you wish to not take with you  
18 tonight, please leave them at the front desk. Just so  
19 everybody knows, the staff will be available for  
20 informal questions and comments starting now. Thank  
21 you again, everybody, for coming.

22 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Ladies and gentlemen, it

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1 is now 5:35. Please find your way to your seats and  
2 we'll get started with this evening's session. Again,  
3 good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to  
4 today's Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin  
5 Study or GLMRIS public scoping meeting. My name is Ken  
6 Zaborowski and I'm with the Chicago District with the  
7 Corps of Engineers and I will be moderating tonight's  
8 meeting. I just want to let everyone know where the  
9 bathrooms are before we begin. If you walk down the  
10 lobby and to the open space, they'll be right there on  
11 the left. When you arrived, the following materials  
12 were available to you at the welcome and registration  
13 tables. We have the green meeting agendas that list  
14 what is going on tonight, these trifold informational  
15 brochures about the study, these white written comment  
16 forms that detail how to mail in any written comments  
17 that you might have about tonight's study, this GLMRIS  
18 frequently asked questions sheet. It may or may not be  
19 purple. We have such a large turn out this morning  
20 that we had to print some more and they may just be on  
21 white paper now. Similarly, we have a sheet with  
22 frequently asked questions on other aquatic nuisance

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1 species efforts that the Corps is undertaking that may  
2 or may not be on peach color paper. If you would like  
3 to make an oral comment tonight, you would have had to  
4 have filled out one of these yellow forms unless you  
5 did so previously online. Then if you have any  
6 prepared statements that you wish to submit we have  
7 these light blue forms that we would ask you to fill  
8 out and turn in with your statements. Then lastly we  
9 have copies of the presentation that will be given  
10 shortly for you to take home as well. If you have pre-  
11 registered on the project web site to give an oral  
12 comment tonight and you have not checked in at the  
13 register to speak table, please do so. Similarly, if  
14 you would like to make an oral comment, you did not  
15 register online and not have checked in at the register  
16 at the speak table in the lobby, please do so now. Our  
17 GLMRIS team has organized this public meeting to  
18 accomplish two goals. First, present information about  
19 the GLMRIS study and, second, to solicit your comments  
20 on the significant issues that should be included in  
21 GLMRIS and the insignificant issues that could be  
22 eliminated from further study. As indicated on the

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1 green agenda, this public meeting was organized into  
2 two sessions. This is the second of those two  
3 sessions. It is scheduled to end tonight at 8 p.m. If  
4 you have any questions or concerns, staff could be  
5 found in the lobby during the meeting and you could  
6 address your questions to them. Please note you're  
7 welcome to speak to our panelists and staff meeting  
8 during the meetings. Now I would like to introduce the  
9 members of our panel. Immediately to my left is Jim  
10 Bredin. He's the deputy Asian carp director from the  
11 Aquatic White House Council on Environmental Quality.  
12 Next to him is Lieutenant Colonel Berczek, the deputy  
13 commander of the Chicago district. Next is Dave  
14 Wethington, GLMRIS Project Manager. Next is John  
15 Zimmerman, the chief of planning and policy for the  
16 Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. The next is  
17 Hiroshi Eto, interim programs director of the Great  
18 Lakes and Ohio River Division I would like to thank  
19 Lieutenant Colonel Steven Bales for hosting us here  
20 this morning. At this time I'm turning it over to Mr.  
21 Bredin to begin the presentation portion of this  
22 meeting.

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1           JIM BREDIN: Thank you very much and thank  
2 you very much to all of you for showing up on a cold  
3 night. What I'd like to do is to take a couple minutes  
4 and provide a quick update on what's going on with the  
5 admissions' efforts towards controlling Asian carp, so  
6 with that -- okay. Here we go. When it comes to  
7 protecting our Great Lakes from the spread of Asian  
8 carp, the Obama Administration has taken an aggressive,  
9 proactive and unprecedented approach to defeating these  
10 invasive species. On December 16th, 2010, the Obama  
11 Administration released a 2011 Asian carp control  
12 strategy framework outlining a series of new projects  
13 to build on unprecedented, proactive efforts to protect  
14 the Great Lakes from invasive species. This updated  
15 framework outlines forty-five actions in an aggressive  
16 multi-tiered strategy to keep Asian carp from  
17 establishing a self-sustaining population in the Great  
18 Lakes. The migration of the Asian carp through the  
19 Chicago Area Waterway System, the Wabash River and the  
20 Grand Canal River is one of the most serious invasive  
21 threats facing the Great Lakes today. They have left a  
22 trail of destruction that has harmed the ecosystem, the

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1 economy, recreational and commercial boaters. Now this  
2 invasive species is threatening to enter the Great  
3 Lakes, the world's largest surface fresh water  
4 resource, potentially causing ecological and economic  
5 harm to the multi billion dollar commercial fishing  
6 industry. On February 10th, the Obama Administration  
7 announced committing seventy-eight million dollars to  
8 combat the spread of Asian carp and other invasive  
9 species into the Great Lakes. The scale of the effort  
10 described in the framework was unprecedented for  
11 invasive species control, unifying federal, state and  
12 local action. The original framework updated in May,  
13 2010 established the Asian carp original coordinating  
14 committee consisting of the US Army Corps of Engineers,  
15 the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Geological Survey,  
16 US EPA, the US Coast Guard and other relevant agencies  
17 to synchronize the better response to Asian carp. In  
18 September, 2010, the administration announced an Asian  
19 carp director based at the White House Council on  
20 Environmental Quality to coordinate and unify the  
21 federal, state and local responses to Asian carp. In  
22 November, 2010, each Great Lakes governor appointed a

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1 state representative to serve on the committee to  
2 continue this coordination. This framework also  
3 identifies a non-federal technical and policy group  
4 that will include multiple stakeholders looking at  
5 various Asian carp related issues and this just  
6 describes some of the interest groups that will be  
7 included in that policy. The 2010 framework included  
8 thirty-two federally funded initiatives in 2010, all  
9 which have been completed or are currently under way.  
10 Key accomplishments in 2010 in response to the issue of  
11 carp threat include an enhanced fish barrier system  
12 that includes strengthened electrical barriers,  
13 physical barriers to stop migration during floods and  
14 closing off smaller waterway connections to the Great  
15 Lakes, also construction of a third electric fish  
16 barrier in Chicago waterways for extra protection from  
17 the primary pathway of concern for carp migration into  
18 Lake Michigan and also utilization of emergency  
19 authority provided through Section 126 of the Energy  
20 and Water Development Act of 2010 to block flood waters  
21 from the river with a thirteen mile fish barrier and a  
22 permanent block in Illinois, Michigan canal. In

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1 addition, the State of Indiana installed a fifteen  
2 hundred foot fish barrier fence at Eagle Marsh in Fort  
3 Wayne to block the advancement of Asian carp from the  
4 Wabash River to Lake Erie. Also through the GLMRIS  
5 project the US Army Corps of Engineers identified  
6 eighteen other potential pathways for potential  
7 transfer of aquatic species between the Great Lakes and  
8 Mississippi River basin. That's what we're going to be  
9 discussing today. Other key 2010 accomplishments  
10 included we began implementing the Asian Carp Control  
11 Act following the president signing of the bill on  
12 December 14th, 2010 prohibiting live big head carp from  
13 being shipped or being imported into the United States.  
14 We coordinated agencies to employ larger field crews to  
15 conduct electric shock and netting operations and  
16 increased eDNA testing to a hundred and twenty samples  
17 per week. We established Asian carp dot org as the  
18 official Asian carp web site to provide up-to-date  
19 information about Asian carp efforts. The 2011 Asian  
20 carp control strategy framework adds thirteen new  
21 projects for a total of forty-five actions to prevent  
22 Asian carp from establishing self-sustaining

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1 populations in the Great Lakes. These projects include,  
2 first of all, validation of eDNA as an effective tool  
3 for monitoring and tracking Asian carp, development of  
4 eDNA genetic markers to more accurately and efficiently  
5 detect Asian carp concentrations and expansion of the  
6 US Fish and Wildlife service lab at Lacrosse, Wisconsin  
7 to increase capacity of eDNA testing for all the Great  
8 Lakes. The projects also include development of  
9 alternative trap and net designs for Asian carp,  
10 development of rapid genetic based methods to detect  
11 Asian carp to allow for faster results than eDNA. They  
12 also include evaluation of the affect of removing Asian  
13 carp food sources and assessment of the impacts of  
14 steel hold barges on the electrical barriers. Also  
15 included were projects to evaluate a permanent  
16 separation between the Wabash river watersheds through  
17 continuation of the GLMRIS study and development of  
18 permanent blockages for aquatic invasive speicies  
19 pathways throughout the Great Lakes states. In  
20 addition, the US Army Corps of Engineers will be  
21 conducting an evaluation of the electrical barrier  
22 effectiveness through fish tagging and utilization of

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1 sonar equipment to monitor, sample and capture Asian  
2 carp and we will be increasing enforcement of Asian  
3 carp inspections at bait shops, fish processors, fish  
4 markets and retail food establishments. In addition,  
5 we will be undertaking projects to enable American  
6 commercial fishermen to develop markets for Asian carp,  
7 thereby reducing Asian carp populations in the Illinois  
8 River and creating jobs. We will also be increasing  
9 public engagement through outreach and enforcement and  
10 collaborating with stakeholder groups, commercial  
11 fishermen, industry and recreational boaters to  
12 mitigate the damage Asian carp inflict upon waterway  
13 users. The framework also identifies the importance of  
14 investigating funds in research and development of  
15 long-term fish management strategies for Asian carp  
16 control controlling eDNA sampling and habitat. In  
17 addition to efforts under the framework, the US Coast  
18 Guard has an important role in committee operations  
19 involving waterway restrictions including establishing  
20 and enforcing a combination of safety and/or security  
21 zones to manage the movement of vessels through the  
22 affected areas of the Chicago area waterway, any

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1 activity that requires vessel movement restrictions and  
2 also managing resumption of the maritime transportation  
3 vector subsequent to any disruption including those  
4 caused by safety considerations. As part of our  
5 unprecedented and proactive approach to combat Asian  
6 carp, the administration has been working with our  
7 state partners to ramp up monitoring and population  
8 reduction for these invasive species. Environmental DNA  
9 testing is one of the tools we are using to assess  
10 distribution of Asian carp. Last fall our Asian carp  
11 monitoring crews collected a hundred twenty water  
12 samples each week in either the Chicago Area Waterway  
13 System or the Des Plaines River. At present, eDNA  
14 evidence cannot verify whether live Asian carp are  
15 present, whether the DNA may have come from a dead fish  
16 or whether water containing Asian carp DNA may have  
17 been transported from other sources. Since October,  
18 2010, we have processed one thousand two hundred and  
19 sixty-eight samples above the barriers from both  
20 species of Asian carp. These samples have returned  
21 only seventeen positive results for Asian carp eDNA.  
22 Between August, 2009 and June, 2010, the University of

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1 Notre Dame researchers under a US Army Corps of  
2 researchers cooperative agreement processed an  
3 additional two thousand two hundred and thirty-two  
4 samples for both species of carp. These samples  
5 returned only sixty positive results for Asian carp  
6 eDNA. eDNA testing is useful as a potential early  
7 indicating of Asian carp present. However, there are  
8 many uncertainties about what a positive eDNA sample  
9 indicates. Its usefulness is limited and there are  
10 many other tools that we are employing to ensure we are  
11 combating the advancement of Asian carp. In summing  
12 this up, the Obama Administration is committed to  
13 protecting our Great Lakes and the people who depend on  
14 them. We are proactively addressing all possible  
15 pathways that are at risk for the advancement of Asian  
16 carp. We are working together to implement an  
17 unprecedented framework to protect the ecosystem and  
18 our environment over the Great Lakes from these  
19 invasive species. Again I would like to thank you. If  
20 you have any questions at all regarding Asian carp,  
21 this is the address for our Asian carp web site and  
22 we'd invite you to go to that website if you have any

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1 other issues or there are buttons on there that you  
2 could click to get additional information. We'd be  
3 more than happy to hear any comments you have and also  
4 any additional information you'd like. With that, I  
5 thank you for your attention tonight. If you have any  
6 questions about Asian carp, that is our Asian carp website.  
7 Feel free to take a look at it. If you have any  
8 questions, please let us know. Thank you.

9           DAVID BERCEK: Good evening, everyone. As  
10 mentioned during the introductions, it is very  
11 important we receive your comments and share your  
12 concerns. I want to take just take a bit of your time  
13 to explain to you some of the study, what the intent  
14 is, what the focus is and a little bit about what this  
15 is. Jim here just spent a good portion of time talking  
16 to you a little bit about the collective and  
17 collaborative efforts throughout the region of the  
18 partners and the Asian carp regional coordinate  
19 committee. That was a lot on the Asian carp. The  
20 GLMRIS study goes beyond that. Here's what it is about  
21 the GLMRIS study. Authorized by the Corps of Engineers  
22 and authorized by Congress under the Water

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1 Resources Development Act of 2007 to conduct a  
2 feasibility study. It's a hundred percent federally  
3 funded and the idea of the study, the intent of the  
4 study is to look at the options and technologies  
5 available. We see some of the alternatives that we're  
6 going to look at. We look at the impacts and evaluate  
7 in the assessment a number of alternatives and  
8 technologies to include hydrologic separation as one of  
9 those technologies or control measures. We talked a  
10 little bit about prevent. On November 9th, 2010, we  
11 went and released the project management which is a  
12 detailed guide so to speak to our planning people and  
13 others involved with the study on the conduct of the  
14 study and in there we use the term prevent and also  
15 talked about reduction of risk associated with that. I  
16 know that that concerns people in thinking we were not  
17 looking at the full intent of the law, the  
18 authorization and that we're not looking to prevent the  
19 spread of aquatic nuisance species. It allows us to  
20 look at other options. If there is something not a  
21 hundred percent, should it not be considered or should  
22 it be taken off the table because it doesn't have a

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1 hundred percent proven effectiveness to bring forward  
2 and consider and acknowledge eyes? Since the intent of  
3 the study is to explore a range of alternatives and  
4 technologies, we have got to do a risk assessment and  
5 effectiveness of each of those technologies so that it  
6 cumulatively may reach to that point where the single  
7 option or an alternative to get ready might not get  
8 that one hundred percent effectiveness right off the  
9 bat. Sometimes one hundred percent effectiveness may  
10 not be tech no logically feasible. Acts of nature over  
11 times can overcome even the best design and best built.  
12 The GLMRIS study area is rather large. It will take a  
13 little bit of time to point out some of these shaded  
14 areas. The detail study looks at these seventeen  
15 states primarily up here in the Great Lakes basin and  
16 the upper Mississippi watershed. You see these areas  
17 that are shaded a little bit more and those represents  
18 the states and the watershed area that feed the lower  
19 Mississippi River basin. As we start to do the studies  
20 and control measures, there are things that are  
21 happening down range or further downstream. The scope  
22 of the study could potentially include thirty-two,

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1 thirty-three date's involvement and looking at and  
2 analyzing, but primarily the state -- the scope of the  
3 study is looking up in this region here. We've further  
4 broken up what does the study look at and what is it  
5 not looking at. We are looking at the aquatic  
6 connections as far as pathways and looking at those  
7 organisms, swimmers, floaters and you see different  
8 types here and hitchhikers. The study is not just  
9 looking at Asian carp. It is looking at fish, pair  
10 sites, plants and pair sites that are very small, so we  
11 got to be very thorough and look at this and that adds  
12 to the complexity of the study. It does not include  
13 some of those areas that are on the right-hand side. It  
14 does not look at the human release component in there.  
15 The Saint Lawrence Seaway, Atlantic slope and Canada  
16 are not necessarily included as part of this study. I  
17 mentioned there with the map previously you saw the  
18 portions of the seventeen states and there was a little  
19 dotted line here that I did not mention. I'm sorry.  
20 Part of this dotted line here is where that flow divide  
21 is between the Great Lakes basin and the Mississippi  
22 River basin, so that's an area to look at as well to

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1 make sure that things stay separated. That area  
2 represents roughly fifteen hundred miles. The elements  
3 that are looking at conducting an analysis and I  
4 mentioned a little bit earlier about taking -- looking  
5 at each of the methods or control methods that are out  
6 there and analyzing their effectiveness, mitigation  
7 strategies as part of this. We will again include as  
8 part of that analysis the hydrologic separation,  
9 regional and economic model and as well as you could  
10 see the other two as well. The end result is an  
11 Environmental Impact Statement that we will release as  
12 it comes due. The strategy is complex and covers such  
13 a large geographic area and we focused it  
14 geographically where we have in the primary effort the  
15 Chicago waterway and the Chicago ship canal is the only  
16 known hydraulic open between those two basins. It  
17 doesn't take a flood event to make it a water  
18 connection, so it is always there. The other pathways  
19 Jim mentioned a little bit about that, some of the work  
20 that's going on with. We're looking at those  
21 alternatives that could also whether a flood event or  
22 rain event or sporadically or periodically allow

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1 passage of aquatic nuisance species between the two  
2 river basins. It talks a little bit about the  
3 strategy, organizing for success. We've had to step up  
4 a little bit on how we control the flow and the chain  
5 of demands so to speak and how that works, but then  
6 also we got to include the fact that everything done so  
7 far in this aquatic basin species fight to include  
8 looking at the upper Mississippi and Missouri Rivers in  
9 the late '80 has always been a partnership, always been  
10 a collaborative effort and will continue to be that  
11 way. We rely on every body else's fields and expertise  
12 and their own authorities to go ahead and inform the  
13 decision that's made or the recommendation that's made,  
14 so we -- that executive steering committee to make sure  
15 that we have at the highest level share this  
16 information and allow the right information to get to  
17 the decision makers as well as working in collaborative  
18 effort with all stakeholders. You see them lighting  
19 there, federal, state, local agencies, non-governmental  
20 and individual and private citizens. We're going to  
21 cycle out interim products and reports and keep people  
22 informed and involved with what's going on and again

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1 we'll talk a little bit when we come to the alternative  
2 waterways or the other waterways portion of the study,  
3 looking at those things that might be able to be cycled  
4 out that somebody might fall into an existing authority  
5 for an implementation or a state agency might be able  
6 to do under their own authorities, again trying to go  
7 ahead and do that process is the following. Again,  
8 emphasizing we're looking at the aquatic pathways that  
9 exit between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River  
10 basins and we focused it in the two different areas and  
11 we'll have a couple slides that talk to that a little  
12 more. One of the key elements is inventorying what's  
13 out there right now. There's just some examples of  
14 some of the type of organisms to be considered in the  
15 study. Asian carp being of course being the species  
16 right now that's getting the most attention because of  
17 the urgency and the need to go ahead and address that  
18 right off the bat and then have to say that there are a  
19 number of of efforts being done. There's been a lot of  
20 fishing down below the electric barrier and pulling out  
21 thousands of pounds of Asian carp that they are working  
22 through their agreements that the government -- the

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1 governor has to ship those fish to china and other  
2 areas and then Mr. Bredin mentioned that a little bit  
3 about looking at these commercial market. A lot of  
4 work is being done in partnership. We are looking at  
5 what is there that we got to address and what  
6 potentially be out there on the horizon. The primary  
7 focus because again it's that pathway that exists in  
8 it's always there, it doesn't rely on additional flood  
9 waters or anything else to make it a pathway, is the  
10 Chicago Area Waterway System and for this slide I'm  
11 going to have Dave Wethington who is the project  
12 manager for this portion talk to you a little bit about  
13 this slide and what you're seeing.

14           DAVE WETHINGTON: Again, my name is Dave  
15 Wethington. I'm the Project Manager with the Chicago  
16 district of the US Army Corps of Engineers. The  
17 Chicago Waterway System is a specific interest because  
18 it does represent the highest risk potential. You  
19 could see on the map on the right there are five  
20 potential locations that. It can empty into Lake  
21 Michigan. Three of those points are within the State  
22 of Illinois and two are in the State of Indiana. They

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1 all kind of funnel into a single point, a choke point  
2 we call it. Where that number seven is, that  
3 represents where our current electrical burial  
4 dispersal system which is geared toward preventing the  
5 movement of Asian carp. All those points will feed  
6 into a single waterway effectively used to reduce the  
7 potential for transfer between the two basins. What  
8 you see on the left is basically an outline of the  
9 Corps of Engineer's planning process. Where we are now  
10 are covering those first couple of steps. Part is  
11 specifying our problems and opportunities is what we're  
12 here doing today, listening to the public, listening to  
13 what's the significance to you and maybe what parts of  
14 the study are not as significant. We're also beginning  
15 a lot of the inventory to collect baseline data. What  
16 may be I guess the common knowledge of use for the  
17 Chicago Area Waterway System is for commercial  
18 navigation. When we are looking at inventory and  
19 forecasting conditions, we have to identify what other  
20 uses are within the Chicago Waterway Systems. Those  
21 would include recreation, water supply, water  
22 discharge, flood risk management for the entire Chicago

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1 Waterway Area. When we're evaluating alternatives on  
2 how to prevent, for example, looking at hydrologic  
3 separation, you have to look at how the waterway users  
4 whether they're people on the waterway, recreators or  
5 the City of Chicago, those those impacts affect the  
6 waterway users. ' Also for any control technologies  
7 have to mitigate or provide alternatives for adverse  
8 impacts toward these waterway uses, so this -- that  
9 kind of what's outlined in the steps that we take  
10 before we could select a recommended plan for the  
11 recommendation to Congress. As Colonel Berczek  
12 mentioned earlier, we are lab rating with a wide  
13 variety of stakeholders including our state agencies,  
14 federal agencies, native American tribes and non-  
15 governmental and industry organizations. Thank you.

16 DAVID BERECZEK: Next we're going to have John  
17 Zimmerman talk to you a little bit about this slide and  
18 the work that is being done in that area.

19 JOHN ZIMMERMAN: Thank you, sir. As the  
20 Colonel mentioned, my name is John Zimmerman. I'm with  
21 the regional command office down in Cincinnati. An  
22 associate of mine, Mike Saffran, who unfortunately is

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1 being held up some problems and complications of air  
2 traffic today, is actually the Project Manager for this  
3 effort, but I'll attempt to cover it to some degree. We  
4 separated the other pathways away from the cause  
5 because of the complexity issues and the desire on our  
6 part to move forward and to examine the other potential  
7 sites in which a transfer from the Great Lakes or from  
8 the Mississippi River to occur for other aquatic  
9 invasive species through that exercise we had developed  
10 a conceptual document in coordination with state, other  
11 agencies and with local concerns that as identified  
12 approximately thirty-six other locations across about a  
13 fifteen hundred mile boundary that I think is depicted  
14 here in the light brown and gray areas up here and from  
15 those thirty-six areas we have further relined the list  
16 to identify eighteen possible locations which we  
17 believe have the potential to transfer aquatic invasive  
18 species. The characterization is based on two things.  
19 Number one, a likelihood of a hydrologic connection  
20 occurring, ie, the frequency of flooding events that  
21 may occur and a characterization of what those flooding  
22 events look like, what type of flows, the velocity of

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1 flows, the depth of flows, et cetera, and then that was  
2 cross referenced and evaluated in addition against the  
3 compiled list of the probable invasive species that we  
4 would be dealing with. I believe there's close to a  
5 hundred and sixty species that we're looking at. Once  
6 again, as the colonel says, floaters, swimmers and  
7 crawlers that exist in the aquatic environment. Based  
8 on that, we have further paired down the eighteen lists  
9 while we believe they all need some attention done, we  
10 nominated one as the most urgent and that is the  
11 connection that we mentioned the most earlier and that  
12 is locally known as Eagle Marsh and it's located in  
13 Northeastern Indiana near Fort Wayne. The State of  
14 Indiana stepped up to the plate and has already  
15 completed an interim fix that will prevent that  
16 connection from occurring during certain flooding  
17 events. We will be pursuing a potential permanent fix  
18 in the near future. I think that's all I have to say  
19 about the other pathways.

20           DAVID BERCEK: Thanks, John. Where are we  
21 today? We haven't just been sitting here today. I  
22 mentioned that the authorization was received in 2007

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1 to conduct this study. The appropriation of the  
2 funding for the study arrived in June, '09. Here are  
3 some of the things that it accomplished in the  
4 meantime. On the left-hand side is the law that  
5 identifies into our planning process and identifies and  
6 on the right-hand side we've seen been doing some  
7 activities in executing things, literature review. John  
8 mentioned about the number of species you see in the  
9 white paper about aquatic nuisance species, a hundred  
10 and fifty-four species identified that could be species  
11 of concern, could be considered to be eligible to  
12 transfer between the two basins. We talked a little  
13 bit about the other pathways about the risk  
14 characterization and an action that was taken and  
15 completed to go and address one pathway. The project  
16 schedule here depicted is the best case scenario that  
17 things fall in place, funding arrives as needed and we  
18 could continue going down the pathway of gathering the  
19 information, working together, employing together all  
20 the information needed to go ahead and start doing the  
21 right analysis and making sure that as we overturn  
22 rocks we're overturning the right rocks and then

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1 something doesn't pop out there totally unexpected and  
2 drive us in a different direction. That's one of the  
3 things I mentioned too about being adaptive in there.  
4 You see the pathway down in the Chicago Area Waterway  
5 System going across that green bar coming out with a  
6 public review and a final report out for public review  
7 and a comment period roughly in the fall of 2014. The  
8 other pathways focused you see on this line down here a  
9 little bit where we have the opportunity perhaps to  
10 spin out types of projects such as what was done with  
11 Eagle Marsh or there might be something that is  
12 addressed or the department of natural resources might  
13 have the authority and the funding to go ahead and do  
14 the project and in that way work to reduce the work of  
15 transfer because it's addressing some of these other  
16 alternative pathways and you see some of the time lines  
17 on there. These interim products we're looking at  
18 perhaps -- in here they're just looking at some rough  
19 timelines on releasing information and data as it's  
20 gathered, things like that, but if there's nothing yet  
21 analyzed and put together in a report and at least  
22 provide updates to the public on where we stand with

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1 the study and what measures have been taken and where  
2 we are with the progress. Here's an example hereof  
3 some of the products and updates that we're talking  
4 about, inventory of the nuisance species and the  
5 transport mechanisms, control technologies that might  
6 be looked at and their potential for application, some  
7 of the navigation surveys, the value of the commercial  
8 cargo, passenger, recreational boating as well as  
9 fisheries surveys in the Great Lakes and Mississippi  
10 River, what are the values of those studies or those  
11 industries and those commodities. There are a number of  
12 surveys and studies that have been conducted over the  
13 years and looking to see how current it is and bringing  
14 that forward to today's values and understanding the  
15 impacts. One of the key on all of this -- like I  
16 mentioned, there is a lot of information out there, a  
17 lot of data necessary to go out and inform a  
18 recommended solution as a result of this study is  
19 meetings like this today, how could we help, how do we  
20 get input, how do we get the direction and some  
21 additional guidance to help shape and you see how the -  
22 - what we're after, the inputs to help the GLMRIS copy

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1 and down below you see some examples of inputs we're  
2 looking at for from our partners, cultures resources  
3 survey, inventory water supply and discharges, things  
4 like that, ballast water issues, fisheries and other  
5 types of efforts that are out there and biological  
6 expertise from Fish and Wildlife and others. Kendall  
7 mentioned at the beginning about the number of public  
8 meetings that we are holding and I'll have to tell you  
9 that we are trying to make the effort as much as  
10 possible to have as much contact with everybody as  
11 needed to get this information and help people  
12 understand what the survey is, what we're after, what  
13 it is we're after and help get your inputs. The last  
14 one in Chicago had two less cities on it. We've  
15 adjusted and added a couple of additional cities that  
16 we're going to go out and try to solicit public input.  
17 We're trying to make sure we reach out as much as  
18 possible in allowing you and other organizations, the  
19 general public to reach in, reach in to the process and  
20 help mold it and shape it. Other ways to provide your  
21 input Kendall mentioned about writing down comments on  
22 pieces of paper and submitting it. That's a great way.

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1 Coming up and mentioning your comments at the  
2 microphone, going to the web site that is highlighted  
3 right there or if you go to the Chicago web page you'll  
4 see a button that looks like this. It will also give  
5 you the opportunity to submit a comment online. I know  
6 sharing today might be a little too much to ask, so you  
7 get the time to go ahead and think about it and there  
8 are plenty of opportunities to go ahead and submit  
9 that. We've also -- you see there's this join the  
10 conversation. We've also taken advantage of  
11 technology. The GLMRIS study has a Facebook page and  
12 also on Twitter to allow to exchange ideas between us  
13 and you. Thank you very much for your time. Thank you  
14 for being here tonight.

15 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: The study website is a  
16 good source of information. Interested persons can  
17 subscribe to the study's e-Mail list through the web  
18 site. We use the GLMRIS e-Mail list to distribute such  
19 things as documents added to be web site, opportunities  
20 for public involvement and other public news and events  
21 related to GLMRIS. It could be found on the brochures,  
22 your comment forms or these business cards. These

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1 business cards also have the information for Facebook  
2 and Twitter if you choose to take advantage of those  
3 social media. Now moving into the oral comment period  
4 of the meeting. Those who indicated on their  
5 registration form that they wanted to make a belief  
6 three minute formal statement or ask a question will  
7 have an opportunity to do so. If a person wants to ask  
8 a question in addition to making a comment, we request  
9 that you manage your three minutes to allow for your  
10 comment, question and response. The Corps of Engineers  
11 will answer questions that are answerable. Again, in  
12 order for everyone to have the opportunity to speak, we  
13 ask that everyone abides to the three minute limit.  
14 After everyone has had an opportunity to address the  
15 panel and if time permits, those who have additional  
16 comments or questions will be given the opportunity to  
17 do so. If time is not allowed, those who wish to  
18 address the panel a second time employees note you  
19 could enter remaining comments on a written comment  
20 form or lap-tops we have provided in that room or you  
21 could go follow the directions and mail them in or your  
22 comments on the web site at your own discretion. All

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1 forms of comments received during the scoping period  
2 will be weighted equally. I just want to make sure  
3 that's clear. I have a visual set of slides that we  
4 will use to help manage our time while you are  
5 speaking. When you begin your statement, the time on  
6 the projector will throw the green box for the first  
7 two minutes. After two minutes, the box will change to  
8 a yellow color and every fifteen seconds it will update  
9 the remaining time. I will also announce to you that  
10 there are thirty seconds left so that you may conclude  
11 your statement. At the end of your three minutes, the  
12 box will turn to a red color and I will ask you to  
13 conclude your statement. We feel that this procedure  
14 is the most fair and gives everyone an equal opportunity  
15 to be heard. I would like to mention we have a  
16 stenographer with us tonight. We ask when you come to  
17 the microphone that you please first state your name  
18 and the organization you may be representing and then  
19 your zip code, speaking into the microphone and speak  
20 slowly. We'll now hear from those who reregistered to  
21 speak on the project web site and those who indicated  
22 on the registration form that they want to make an oral

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1 comment. For those I ask that you come to the blue  
2 microphone any time that you're ready to speak. For  
3 those this have not pre-registered on the web site, I  
4 ask that you go to the microphone color coded yellow. I  
5 will be calling that number and your last name to the  
6 microphone. I will recognize you and alternate as  
7 needed to accommodate pre registered persons as they  
8 arrive. At this point in time any person with a blue  
9 card is free to come to the microphone. I please ask  
10 that you show your index card first. This is Jennifer  
11 Nalbone?

12 JENNIFER NALBONE: My name is Jennifer  
13 Nalbone. I'm the Invasive Species and Navigation  
14 Director for Great Lakes. My zip code is 14222. Thank  
15 you for having me hearing this comments. I will be  
16 asking for questions during round two. I just want to  
17 get my statement on right now. Great Lakes United has  
18 worked for more than a decade supporting both  
19 Congressional funding for the electric barrier in the  
20 Chicago area waterway system to stop the spread of  
21 Asian carp and the wharf 2007 directed to GLMRIS. In  
22 2009, 2010 when the DNA and the live fish were found

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1 here and above the electrical barrier, we worked in  
2 close could order nation with partners to develop  
3 recommendations to the state and federal agencies  
4 working to stop the carp and promote the goal of  
5 hydrologic separation and just recently we've within  
6 appointed to the advisory panel for the twenty first  
7 century. We'll be submitting comments in writing, but  
8 I would like to convey three important points during  
9 this public hearing. First of all, I'm sure you heard  
10 it before, we do believe hydrologic separation is  
11 prevention. Hydrologic separation of the Great Lakes  
12 watershed from the Mississippi watershed is the  
13 most effective way to prevent aquatic I can vase I have  
14 movement through waterways. If waterway doesn't flow,  
15 the aquatic species can't swim or float in the water.  
16 It's as simple as that. Examination of control measure  
17 that as added in your Project Manager Plan should not  
18 be prioritized. I am very confident that the Corps can  
19 develop large scale engineering and infrastructure  
20 proposals. In this case, these engineering and  
21 infrastructure alternatives should both separate the  
22 Mississippi from the Great Lakes waters in the Chicago

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1 area and propose ways for commercial and recreation  
2 navigation to continue if not improve through the area.  
3 It's a challenge, but the Corps thinks big when it  
4 comes to navigation plan and this is a chance for you  
5 guys to shine. The second recommendation is to examine  
6 options around the Chicago area first as you are. Thank  
7 you very much.

8 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Thirty seconds.

9 JENNIFER NALBONE: And perform more extensive  
10 work. We recommend eighteen month time line as you  
11 heard probably in Chicago as the Asian carp is most  
12 imminent in the Chicago area. I do want to thank you  
13 for your quick work at Eagle Creek. Obviously that  
14 area will have to be addressed permanently and very  
15 soon. I've got this much right here. Is that okay?

16 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Please.

17 JENNIFER NALBONE: Thank you. Lastly, our  
18 last recommendation is to strongly encourage  
19 coordination with specific partners. One is to work  
20 closely are the Great Lakes cities and ensure their  
21 that data is generated from that study is appropriately  
22 to the work and two is to work with the federal

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1 government of Canada to ensure that a meeting is held  
2 in Canada concerned with this issue. A petition has  
3 been sent to the Department of State of Canadian NGOs,  
4 but they have not received a response yet as to whether  
5 or not a hearing will be heard north of the border.  
6 Thanks for the opportunity to speak and I look forward  
7 to more discussion this evening.

8 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Thank you very much.  
9 Next, number two, is Mr. Brian Smith.

10 BRIAN SMITH: Brian Smith, 14223. I want to  
11 thank you for coming to Buffalo and for the opportunity  
12 to provide comments today. I'm going to submit more  
13 written comments, but I'll touch on some priority  
14 issues today. In general, CCE believes that the  
15 current site plan is inadequate and will fail to  
16 protect our lakes from the certain did he have station  
17 that would be caused from breeding populations of Asian  
18 carp reaching our Great Lakes. Furthermore, the  
19 proposed plan does not adhere to the intent of the  
20 directive in the 2007 development plan specifically  
21 focused. The timeline is too slow. As they say, an  
22 ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Once a

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1 new species establishes itself, it is almost impossible  
2 to remove and incredible difficult to detain. It is  
3 estimated the damage control costs of ANS in the Great  
4 Lakes totals approximately five billion dollars  
5 annually. Asian carp would only bolster these  
6 tremendous costs. Due to their large size, ravenous  
7 appetites and rapid rate of reproduction, these  
8 populations of Asian carp will be difficult to control  
9 and difficult if not possible to eradicate once they  
10 have reached lakes. The only chance we have to stop  
11 the Asian carp from devastating our Great Lakes  
12 ecosystem is to prevent a prevention strategy as soon  
13 as possible. Waiting five years to do a study and take  
14 action would be too late is unacceptable. We strongly  
15 recommend it be done in eighteen months or sooner. We  
16 need a permanent solution. Every solution must be on  
17 the table to prevent Asian carp from invading the lakes  
18 in the short-term including chemical treatments and  
19 other things that have been done. We need a permanent  
20 solution that will solve the problem. Restoring the  
21 original hydrologic separation of the Great Lakes in  
22 the Mississippi River basins is the most effective

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1 permanent method of achieving this goal.

2 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Thirty seconds.

3 BRIAN SMITH: The Congressional mandate does  
4 not ask for a study to reduce the risk of any spreading  
5 between the basins. Multiple entities have done risk  
6 assessments including US Fish and Wildlife. Let's not  
7 reinvent the wheel, waste time.

8 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Time out.

9 BRIAN SMITH: One sentence. Let's focus on  
10 prevention and remove references to the prevention of  
11 risk. Thank you for your time.

12 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, sir. Third,  
13 Mr. Thomas Marks, I believe.

14 THOMAS MARKS: Thomas Marks, 14047. So far  
15 what I've heard from your presentation I don't have a  
16 high degree of confidence in the plan. Congress works  
17 slow. Obviously they give you the authorization in  
18 2007 and it took until 2009 to get the funding and you  
19 started your work in 2010. This study could take  
20 longer than 2015. It could be 2016, 2017. When I  
21 looked at page -- the sheet here, number fourteen, the  
22 tasks, when I look at the tasks, it's just inventoried,

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1 identify, analyze, analyze and recommend, there's  
2 really no action. We need action to prevent the Asian  
3 carp and other aquatic invasive species from  
4 transferring from one ecosystem to the next. We've  
5 already done the studies. If you decide on the  
6 separation and everybody seems to agree that's the way  
7 to go, I hope it is, who decides to act on your  
8 recommendation if that's what it should be? Congress?  
9 How long before implementation is it going to take  
10 Congress and who ever else is going to debate whether  
11 we have the funding or not to implement it? How long  
12 is this going to take? Ten years, twenty years? I  
13 would be surprised and I wish I could long enough to  
14 sound it, but 2050 sounds like a good date for  
15 separation. If we look back at the electric barrier,  
16 we acted too late. We actually started the barrier  
17 before -- they were already past that location. Now we  
18 have Asian carp. Asian carp are already past the  
19 electric barriers. We don't know how many. We don't  
20 know if it's enough to have a population that's sustain  
21 abdominal breed. Like I said earlier, you could  
22 probably ask Adam and Eve how many do you need before

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1 you have a sustain abdominal breeding population. If  
2 you had a perfect solution this year or next year in  
3 your study before you completed it, would you implement  
4 it? I think that should be something that we should  
5 know. I don't have anything more to add. Just that I  
6 don't have a high level of confidence in the ability of  
7 this study. Thank you.

8 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, sir. Is  
9 there anybody with a numbered index card that I have  
10 not called that wishes to speak at this point? I would  
11 like to again thank everyone for their statements and  
12 let me refined you if you have any prepared statements  
13 or documents be sure to turn them in at the  
14 registration table and fill out the blue document  
15 submittal form. If you wish to mail in a written  
16 statement, it must be post marked by March 31st, 2011.  
17 That is the end of the NEPA scoping comment period. At  
18 this time it is 6:31 and we are going to open up the  
19 blue microphone so that if anybody would like to come  
20 up and make any additional comments or have any  
21 questions for our panel we would ask that they do so.  
22 We would ask that you give your name and zip code

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1 before you start. Is there anyone that would like to  
2 make another comment or ask another question at this  
3 time?

4 DON ZALAZNY: Don Zalazny. I'd like to join  
5 others and thanking all of you for showing up this  
6 evening, making sure that Buffalo and New York State  
7 was included in your round of public meetings for the  
8 study. We certainly feel that this is an extremely  
9 important study, needs to get done and it needs to get  
10 done as quickly as possible. I just have two questions  
11 related specifically to the study that I was hoping  
12 that you could clarify for me. The first is I guess --  
13 I'm not sure who exactly to direct this to. Regards  
14 project funding. Lieutenant Colonel, you mentioned that  
15 in a best scenario the project schedule right now would  
16 be completed by 2014, 2015, that time frame depending  
17 on funding. Would you explain how the funding is  
18 currently set up or what funding is available so that  
19 we know where there may be some vulnerabilities so that  
20 we can work with our elected officials here in New York  
21 to help support those efforts?

22 David Berczek: I'm going to let our Project Manager

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1 talk a little bit specifically, but then we could talk  
2 broader for the rest of your question.

3           DAVE WETHINGTON: With regard to funding, as  
4 the gentleman before you pointed out, we need two  
5 things. We need authority, appropriatIONS. We  
6 received funding for this 2009 and we have gone through  
7 to being a project manager plan and begin the scoping  
8 process, put together teams. The way the funding comes  
9 is through appropriation of Congress. We have an  
10 anticipated capability to complete this study within  
11 that time frame of approximately fifteen million  
12 dollars for the Chicago area waterway focused portion  
13 of the study. To complete the entire GLMRIS estimated  
14 we've estimated to be up to about twenty-five million  
15 dollars. In the fiscal year 10 we received four  
16 hundred thousand dollars from Congress to implement the  
17 study. We have been fortunate, however, to receive  
18 additional funding through the Great Lakes restoration  
19 initiative. To date we received approximately close to  
20 two million dollars or so and do anticipate additional  
21 funding yet in 2011 for this project.

22           DON ZALAZNY: Thank you very much. My second

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1 question, and I guess this -- if I may direct this to  
2 Mr. Zimmerman regarding The Other's Pathways preliminary  
3 report. You identified one potential pathway here in  
4 New York State. Do you have any specific information  
5 available with you this evening that you could share  
6 with us on that? How does the public go about accessing that  
7 information?

8           JOHN ZIMMERMAN: We're in luck because my  
9 associate, Mike Saffran, who is the author of the  
10 initial document -- you may be referring to -- is it  
11 mud lake? I'm going to defer to Mike if that's okay  
12 because I think he probably can answer the detail  
13 questions that you may have.

14           MIKE SAFFRAN: The report itself is  
15 accessible on the Chicago district web site, the GLMRIS  
16 web site. The appendix matter which is what you need to  
17 get some of the details on mud lake I've got about a  
18 matter of ten CDs that I brought with me, so I will be  
19 happy to give you a CD. If I don't have enough, I'll  
20 call and have them mailed to you. The appendices were  
21 pretty large and there was no easy way to download off  
22 the Internet site, so we'll have to get you a CD for

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1 that.

2 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, sir. At this  
3 point in time is there anybody else that would like to  
4 come up and make an additional comment or ask any  
5 question of our panel?

6 JENNIFER NALBONE: I read your posters out in  
7 the other room. One of your posters says you're  
8 considering weighing the maintenance of current  
9 recreational uses of the lakes and waterways in your  
10 study. Does this mean you will or will not consider  
11 alternatives that allow comparable or improved  
12 recreational uses because it's not currently being  
13 done? It was just a little confusing. Are you willing  
14 to actually look at ways, alternatives if it's improved  
15 or comparable?

16 JOHN ZIMMERMAN: I'll have to think about  
17 that a little bit. We certainly -- if I understand  
18 your question, if there is an alternative that's  
19 proposed and is approved for implementation that  
20 changes the way recreational is conducted that we've  
21 been looking at, we would expect that as a part of that  
22 proposal there would have to be an inclusion for

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1 alternative ways to accomplish that same level of  
2 recreation. Now, improvements, that could be a  
3 difficult question for me to answer right now 'cause  
4 I'm not really sure how that might all play out. That's  
5 kind of a difficult question to ask. This is of course  
6 currently a hundred percent federal effort, obviously a  
7 lot of involvement from various and sundry agencies out  
8 there. That is not to say that there might not be  
9 opportunities if a feature is proposed to be changed in  
10 some way, shape or form to some body with  
11 jurisdictional authority to enter into agreement to ask  
12 for an improvement and be willing to support that. Did  
13 I answer that?

14 JENNIFER NALBONE: Yes. I got a little  
15 confused with the poster because I wasn't certain if  
16 mitigation was con -- the idea of mitigating any  
17 changes was in conflict with that statement about  
18 trying to weigh the current recreational uses.

19 JOHN ZIMMERMAN: Okay. I think I answered  
20 your question.

21 JENNIFER NALBONE: I think you did too. The  
22 second question is you used the word technology many

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1 times. Are you considering engineering and  
2 infrastructure options as part of that technology  
3 rubric or are you really just focusing on technology?

4 DAVID BERCEK: Technology is to include  
5 structural components or other things to be done in  
6 engineering and design features.

7 JENNIFER NALBONE: Great. Thank you. The  
8 last question is as you outlined your process going  
9 forward have you identified opportunities for  
10 additional public comment? I noticed that there was  
11 interim reports. Will the public have an opportunity  
12 to respond to those interim reports?

13 DAVE WETHINGTON: Yeah. There will be a  
14 number of ways for the public to continue to be engaged  
15 with the interim basin study. What we are anticipating  
16 is having put on annual, biannual meetings where maybe  
17 we wouldn't be traveling all over the country because  
18 obviously this is pretty a large investment in time and  
19 resources, but we would maybe provide the opportunities  
20 for folks to call in on an adjoining conference line.  
21 We would give the opportunity to ask questions about  
22 it, et cetera. We do anticipate that throughout the

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1 process as we release these interim products that there  
2 would be the opportunity for additional public comments  
3 in addition as part of the NEPA process when the draft  
4 feasibility study is released. That would go out  
5 for formal public review, review and comment type  
6 process.

7 JENNIFER NALBONE: Thank you. It's a very  
8 important initiative. Thank you very much for coming  
9 to Buffalo.

10 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Thank you again. At  
11 this point in time is there anyone else that would like  
12 to come up and make an additional comment or question?  
13 Please, sir.

14 RICHARD TACZKOWSKI: Richard Tazkowski, 14202.  
15 I'm new to all of this and I probably could have waited  
16 and asked the gentleman from the DEC, but this to this  
17 requests' question about when implementation will take  
18 place, when actions will take place, states of course  
19 right now are stretched economically, especially New  
20 York, so DEC has been cut and so on. I'm not sure  
21 exactly what the states -- if someone to speak to the  
22 state roles other than having a representative on the

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1 panel and what they could do independently to start  
2 addressing the issue, are they constrained by federal  
3 law or are there things that an aggressive state's  
4 environmental department can do while the study is  
5 ongoing and while the action plan is implemented by the  
6 Corps and the Federal Government.

7           DAVE WETHINGTON: You actually touched on a  
8 very important subject. Similar to example of what has  
9 happened on the State of Indiana through this other  
10 pathway study is because of the Corps study we  
11 uncovered a potential high risk aquatic pathway. The  
12 state was able to take that information and implement  
13 an interim solution. This kind of goes back to an  
14 earlier comment by Mr. Marks and asking when will the  
15 Corps of Engineers do something and it's very important  
16 to remember that the Corps needs two things for us to  
17 be able to do anything. We need authorization from  
18 Congress and we need the appropriations. We need the  
19 money. There are many opportunities for a state  
20 agencies and if there are other local agencies  
21 depending on what their jurisdictions are to work with  
22 the Corps of Engineers especially on this other pathway

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1 study. For example, I don't know exactly the connection  
2 in New York looks like, but if it were something small  
3 maybe like an episodic type of ditch or stream or  
4 something like that where maybe there's a fairly simple  
5 fix, as easy as building a spoil berm or something like  
6 that, if it's within the ability of the state agency,  
7 that might be a much more effective route to approach  
8 the potential solution than waiting for federal  
9 implementation, but we do have the ability to partner  
10 with state agencies and provide our own resources  
11 through GLMRIS to provide the expertise. We can work  
12 between our agency and other federal agencies, state  
13 agencies and local resources.

14           RAYMOND VAUGHAN: I'm Ray Vaughan, home zip  
15 code 14075, work 14202. Could one of you outline the  
16 steps that you would see as necessary if -- I don't  
17 want to make this sound like a commitment on your part,  
18 but if hydrologic separation were to be the option what  
19 steps would you need, what authorizations and  
20 appropriations and possibly time lines by you? Can you  
21 quickly go through what steps would be needed if that  
22 were to be a chosen option?

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1           JOHN ZIMMERMAN: It looks like I'm nominated  
2 to reply on that. The general process would that be  
3 that the Corps of Engineers will -- as we've said  
4 before, we will develop to a level sufficient in detail  
5 to make a reason recommendation as to what the best  
6 solution might be and looking at those range of  
7 opportunities that may be out there for us.  
8 Hypothetically if we come to a conclusion that the only  
9 viable solution is what you may define as hydrologic  
10 separation out there and there's a lot of  
11 ramifications, but whatever that detail would be that  
12 recommendation would be made for approval at the  
13 highest level and the Corps of Engineers, the  
14 secretary's level. The secretary then would take that  
15 action and if she so chooses to it's currently a madam,  
16 so I will refer to her as ma'am. If she chooses to  
17 approve that, it will then go to Congress and Congress  
18 then has the action, the collaborative body, both the  
19 house and the Senate, to determine if that is the  
20 course of action they want to pursue and if that is the  
21 case they would authorize it for construction  
22 presumably by the Corps of Engineers or by some other

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1 federal agency and appropriate dollars in a separate  
2 action in order to make that happen. Van based on  
3 the general time frame, that might occur as early as  
4 2015 in the best case scenario?

5 JOHN ZIMMERMAN: Well, I will refer back to  
6 what we said earlier. The best case scenario that may  
7 be true. However, as we said earlier, if there are  
8 implementable solutions which we could all agree to  
9 that would provide some level of hydrologic separation  
10 or any levels of additional prevention that are deemed  
11 appropriate to implement we would cycle those out in  
12 advance. I will give you just one example. I believe  
13 general Peabody talked about this in Chicago. There  
14 are audio, sound, light and bubble barriers that could  
15 be placed and create walls, curtains of walls so to  
16 speak.

17 RAYMOND VAUGHAN: I'm aware of that.

18 JOHN ZIMMERMAN: That's a technology that we  
19 have recommended.

20 RAYMOND VAUGHAN: And I understand fully that  
21 there's a range of options. I also understand there  
22 are considerable ramification to full-fledged

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1 hydrologic separation, but what I'm asking I'm getting  
2 a partial answer so far is whether the answer you will  
3 provide to Congress and the rest of the nation at the  
4 completion of the study will provide sufficient detail  
5 if, and I want to emphasize that if again, will provide  
6 sufficient detail if your recommendation is for full  
7 classical hydrologic operation? . Would you look at  
8 the possible redirection of Chicago sewage and the  
9 engineering to carry that out?

10           JOHN ZIMMERMAN: I think the answer has to be  
11 yes to that. In order to consider hydrologic  
12 separation as people are defining it right now, you  
13 have to weigh the ramifications involved with altering  
14 the navigation system and the consequences for that,  
15 altering the flood damage reduction or the flood risk  
16 management system in Chicago. That's considerable  
17 also. You have to consider the environmental issues  
18 with regard to that also. You have to look at sewer  
19 affluence. You have to look at water quality issues in  
20 general across the board there. All of those major  
21 areas which includes not just the passenger navigation,  
22 recreational navigation work, but also includes fishing

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1 and other activities that may occur on the water. All  
2 those things have to be weighed in conjunction to  
3 making a determination about the cost associated with  
4 that and viability of any solution that might be  
5 recommended.

6 RAYMOND VAUGHAN: You see that within the per  
7 view of what you're currently would provide?

8 JOHN ZIMMERMAN: The answer is yes. We are  
9 proposing not to screen that alternative out just  
10 because it may be exceedingly expensive. I think we  
11 all recognize that it could very well be expensive, but  
12 we have indicated that we will carry that through as  
13 one of the main drivers and the cost of this study  
14 because we have to develop that fully along with all  
15 the other alternatives that may in fact provide some  
16 levels of protection against the spread of aquatic  
17 species.

18 RAYMOND VAUGHAN: Do you foresee any interim  
19 reports that would look at different locations? For  
20 example, at the original water shed or perhaps within  
21 the existing City of Chicago?

22 JOHN ZIMMERMAN: I think we're open to that.

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1 I don't think we're committing to doing that right now.

2 RAYMOND VAUGHAN: I mean I've looked at the  
3 situation enough to know the ramifications

4 considerably. Flooding might dictate one, navigation.

5 You would probably choose different places, but --

6 JOHN ZIMMERMAN: I think you're right and  
7 you're hitting on part of the problem of trying to  
8 release partial analysis of different systems without  
9 releasing them in the context and texture of how they  
10 were weighed and balanced against all the other issues  
11 that might have to be addressed, so it's something that  
12 we're struggling with right now, how would could do  
13 that and make early release of those kind of documents  
14 and do so in such a way it's not going to be harmful.  
15 Am I answering your question?

16 RAYMOND VAUGHAN: Yes. I recognize that it's  
17 a difficult issue that we're all facing and I look  
18 forward to the interim results if those are going to be  
19 available.

20 JOHN ZIMMERMAN: We've committed to making as  
21 many interim releases as we can in terms of documents  
22 and survey analysis, inventories and the like that are

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1 pertinent.

2           RAYMOND VAUGHAN: But the gist of my question  
3 which is I think it's important to have the information  
4 available to the ultimate decision makers as quickly as  
5 possible and complete as possible to support the  
6 decisions. Thank you.

7           JOHN ZIMMERMAN: I agree with that.

8           KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, sir. Would  
9 anybody else like to come to the microphone and make a  
10 comment or ask a question of our panel?

11           THOMAS MARKS: I'll sum it up. My name is  
12 Thomas Marks, New York director for the Great Lakes  
13 Fishing Council, 14047. I'm very passionate about the  
14 Great Lakes. I feel like I own them. I probably do.  
15 We all own part of the Great Lakes. In your study and  
16 everything you do thinking about the -- how you're  
17 going to resolve this issue, the aquatic invasive  
18 species and the Asian carp, I hope you keep in mind  
19 that we're not trying to protect the Asian carp fishery  
20 that's now established in the Illinois river and  
21 possibly in the lower end of Lake Michigan in the near  
22 future that may happen, but we're not protecting that.

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1 In your study, always keep in mind that it's not a  
2 seven billion dollar fishery that we're trying to  
3 protect. These are priceless ecosystems that we're  
4 trying to protect. They're unique in this world,.  
5 They're unique in this university. They're ear replace  
6 abdominal. Unfortunately I curse the people that dug  
7 that canal. It probably wouldn't be done today, but we  
8 have a canal that we have to resolve this issue. Again,  
9 please keep in mind these are priceless ecosystems.  
10 Thank you for listening to me.

11 KENDALL ZABOROWSKI: Thank you again, sir.  
12 The microphone is open if you would like to make a  
13 comment or ask a question of the panel. If there are  
14 no further questions or comments at this time, I would  
15 like to note that it is 6:55 p.m. and we will end this  
16 oral comment period. The meeting will be open until  
17 8:00. We will not be taking any more oral comments,  
18 but we will leave our lap-tops open for anybody that  
19 wishes to submit comments. Also written comments that  
20 you might to make we have space provided out there. We  
21 will make our staff available for informal questions at  
22 this point in time. Please help us recycle our

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1 materials. If you do not wish to keep any of the  
2 handouts, turn them back in. Again, I would like to  
3 thank everybody for coming tonight and offering your  
4 comments. We really appreciate it. It's going to help  
5 our study. Thanks again.

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E O F N O T A R Y

2 STATE OF NEW YORK )  
 ) SS:  
3 COUNTY OF ERIE )

4

5 I, KATHLEEN COON, a Notary Public in and for the State  
6 of New York, County of Erie, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the  
7 proceedings were taken down by me in a verbatim manner  
8 by means of Machine Shorthand, on January 11, 2011.

9 That the proceedings were then reduced in writing under  
10 my direction. That the proceedings were taken to be  
11 used in the above-entitled action.

12 I further CERTIFY that the above-described transcript  
13 constitutes a true and accurate and complete transcript  
14 of the proceedings.

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KATHLEEN COON,  
Notary Public.

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