

# In The Matter Of:

## *EPA Hearing*

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### *Proposed Plan Amendment Informational Meeting July 30, 2012*

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1 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
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 4 HEARING IN RE: Proposed Plan Amendment  
 Informational Meeting  
 5  
 6  
 7  
 8  
 9 DATE: July 30, 2012  
 TIME: 7:00 pm.  
 10 PLACE: Pocasset Bay Retirement Living  
 12 Old Pocasset Lane  
 11 Johnston, Rhode Island  
 12  
 13  
 14  
 15  
 16 FACILITATED BY: STACY GREENLINGER, ANNA KRASKO  
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 20  
 21  
 22  
 23  
 24  
 25

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

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

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

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1 swim in the river?" And no, not as far as the  
 2 health department is concerned; there are bacterial  
 3 issues and other contamination issues that continue  
 4 to challenge the river, but dioxin, certainly  
 5 addressed that will take care of one big challenge.  
 6 So, as I just went over, why are we issuing  
 7 this? As I said, we had to take the new  
 8 reassessment numbers and plug it back in. Once it  
 9 came out in February, we started that work. Chau  
 10 was very busy redoing the human health risks  
 11 assessment, and Anna and her contractors were  
 12 working really hard on taking a look at the  
 13 residential soil. And I do want to note that  
 14 specifically for residential soil, we also modified  
 15 our recreational cleanup levels as well.  
 16 So, and again, for those who may not -- the  
 17 non-cancer health impact is new. We did, before we  
 18 had, we were able to assess for cancer risks, but  
 19 not for non-cancer health risks. So, this  
 20 information is the first time that we really have  
 21 been able to calculate what those non-cancer risks  
 22 might be. And for exposure for dioxin, reproductive  
 23 effects and destruction to the endocrine system are  
 24 the most sensitive impacts that happen from dioxin.  
 25 I know if people have questions later, I'm going to

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1 I am going to turn it over to Anna for the  
 2 site-specific person, and make sure she is mic'd.  
 3 MS. KRASKO: Good evening. So, I need a  
 4 microphone. Stacy is lucky, she doesn't. I hope  
 5 everybody can hear me, because the fan is  
 6 interfering. So, as Stacy said, every one of us has  
 7 a little bit of dioxin in us because we eat  
 8 animal-based products, and we also can get exposed  
 9 to soil and sediment through everyday activities.  
 10 People who live near Superfund sites that have  
 11 dioxin contamination like Centredale can get  
 12 additional exposure by eating contaminated fish from  
 13 Wannasquatucket River, and accidentally ingesting  
 14 contaminated soil by doing recreational activities  
 15 in the large wetlands that we know exist at the  
 16 site, or just going about their daily life, or on  
 17 the North Providence side, where residents are  
 18 located in a floodplain, and those areas are prone  
 19 to flooding.  
 20 So, how does Superfund go about establishing  
 21 the exposures and risks at the site? First we  
 22 collect a lot of samples. We investigate sediment,  
 23 soil, water, collect fish and wildlife samples to  
 24 determine what levels of contaminants, including  
 25 dioxin, are present in the environment. But it's

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1 get Bob up later to answer them for you.  
 2 And dioxin in the environment, again, it's  
 3 important to remind people that dioxin in terms of  
 4 how it behaves, it does not readily vaporize in the  
 5 air, it doesn't dissolve in the water. So, again,  
 6 when people ask us about swimming in the river, when  
 7 we say, "Don't swim in the river," it's not from a  
 8 dioxin point of view, because putting your fingers  
 9 in the water is not a dioxin issue; it's churning up  
 10 the sediment that has the dioxin adhering to it and  
 11 holding onto it, that's more of an issue. But, and  
 12 also in terms of gardens, people have asked us that,  
 13 too; it doesn't readily uptake through the plants.  
 14 Getting on the leaves or on the fruit or the  
 15 vegetables, that's a different issue, because it's  
 16 going into the mouth.  
 17 So, where is dioxin found? It accumulates into  
 18 fish and wildlife, especially in the fat. Another  
 19 reason why the department of health has issued the  
 20 "Don't Eat The Fish From The River." And that  
 21 really is the biggest concern that we're faced with  
 22 at the river. And again, it adheres to the soil and  
 23 sediment particles. It really wants to hold on and  
 24 bind to the particles, which is in part why it  
 25 doesn't volatilize into the air.

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1 not enough just for chemicals to be present; a  
 2 person needs to come in contact with a chemical, or  
 3 in contact with sediment or soil or water that has  
 4 chemicals in it in order to get exposed.  
 5 For Superfund, as you can see, we evaluate  
 6 exposure for residents and recreational visitors to  
 7 the site, assuming frequent exposure over a long  
 8 period of time, over decades, sometimes over a  
 9 person's lifetime. So, we look at activities such  
 10 as swimming and wading in the river, eating fish and  
 11 other wildlife, visiting recreational areas, and  
 12 just residing in the floodplain. If we find that  
 13 those exposures to the current levels that we  
 14 measure in the environment pose unacceptable risk or  
 15 risks that are elevated, Superfund is required to  
 16 take an action to clean up those areas.  
 17 So, what happened when dioxin reassessment came  
 18 out from headquarters, from EPA headquarters in  
 19 February 2012? We went back and looked at risk  
 20 assessments that were done for all the areas at the  
 21 site; and the major change was lowering the soil  
 22 cleanup levels in residential properties on North  
 23 Providence side from 1,000 parts per trillion to 50  
 24 parts per trillion. There is also a change, as  
 25 Stacy alluded early on, in the cleanup level also

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1 for area for THE large wetlands. For recreational  
 2 users in that area, the level became 680 parts per  
 3 trillion rather than 1,000; and at that level we may  
 4 see potential health effects.  
 5 So, this is the first time we can actually see  
 6 the site map. Just to remind you, we have five  
 7 action areas. The pink areas are the additional  
 8 cleanup areas that need to be addressed when we  
 9 issue the cleanup plan in September. As you can  
 10 see, most of those additional areas on the eastern  
 11 shore of the Allendale and Lyman Mill pond areas, as  
 12 well as in the Source Area, and that was actually  
 13 the only area that hasn't been capped or previously  
 14 addressed.  
 15 So, let's go and look a little bit closer at  
 16 each action area and how it's changed with a new  
 17 risk assessment. In addition to those areas that  
 18 you saw in pink, we also determined that there are  
 19 additional potential health effects from exposure to  
 20 sediment in the ponds. And we'll come back to that  
 21 a little bit later.  
 22 The additional cleanup may result in about  
 23 10,000 cubic yards of soil being excavated. That's  
 24 about five to ten percent more than the total volume  
 25 of material that was in the original October

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1 cleanup is not expected to occur for at least the  
 2 next five/six years. And those interim measures are  
 3 expected to stay in place for a prolonged period of  
 4 time.  
 5 Because when your cleanup level of 50 parts per  
 6 trillion is so low, it is basically very close to  
 7 what you see in the background soil in urban areas  
 8 like North Providence, there is a likelihood of  
 9 recontamination from flood events from the river  
 10 when sediment, contaminated sediment can be  
 11 deposited in those low-lying areas. So, it means  
 12 that, if there is any cleanup to be happen on this  
 13 river, it has to be done simultaneously. The  
 14 sediment and the floodplain soils on people's back  
 15 yards have to be cleaned up at the same time,  
 16 because just cleaning up a floodplain soil, and  
 17 leaving contamination in the sediment, will increase  
 18 the likelihood of recontamination. Just to give you  
 19 an idea, what we see in the sediment in the  
 20 Allendale Pond is the maximum contamination, it's  
 21 about 100,000 parts per trillion, and an average is  
 22 1,000. In the floodplain soil we're trying to  
 23 achieve 50, so of course when you have 100,000 parts  
 24 per trillion area next to 50 parts per trillion  
 25 area, there is a likelihood of recontamination, and

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1 proposed plan. Depending on the alternative being  
 2 evaluated, the cost increase would be between \$4  
 3 million and \$12 million. EPA Region One still plans  
 4 to issue the record of decision, which will outline  
 5 our cleanup plan this fall, so the schedule is not  
 6 impacted by this dioxin reassessment.  
 7 Let's look at each action area separately, and  
 8 how they are impacted. Again, in the source area  
 9 there is about one-third additional acre that needs  
 10 to be either capped or excavated. And if we look at  
 11 the map, which is the next slide, it's right south  
 12 of Route 44. It's a landscaped area right at the  
 13 entrance to the apartment complexes.  
 14 For sediment, we looked and evaluated  
 15 non-cancer health effects based on exposure for  
 16 residents and recreational users; and we found that  
 17 the originally proposed 15 parts per trillion  
 18 cleanup level is low enough to address  
 19 newly-evaluated health hazards, so there is no  
 20 change in the scope of the sediment cleanup.  
 21 Again, the biggest impact is on the floodplain  
 22 soil in the North Providence, and these areas along  
 23 Allendale Mill and Lyman Mill pond would need to be  
 24 evaluated, and precautionary measures would need to  
 25 be taken while we're awaiting final cleanup. Final

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1 the whole area needs to be looked at and addressed  
 2 at the same time.  
 3 So, let's look at a couple maps. This is  
 4 across from Allendale. Again, the pink shows the  
 5 additional areas. There is a little bit of area on  
 6 the Johnston side, right across from the source  
 7 area. The rest is the areas in North Providence,  
 8 and pink is where we likely have concentrations  
 9 above 50 parts per trillion in the floodplain soil.  
 10 And the next slide is the same information for  
 11 the Lyman Mill. Again, just about the whole eastern  
 12 shore of Lyman Mill is pink, which means it all  
 13 needs to be evaluated, and there is a likelihood  
 14 that all those areas are above the new cleanup level  
 15 of 50 parts per trillion in floodplain soil.  
 16 So, I'm going to give the mic, or to give the  
 17 floor back to Stacy, and she's going to talk about  
 18 what precautionary measures EPA is proposing to do,  
 19 and also what precautionary measures the residents  
 20 and visitors can do themselves while the planning  
 21 and design of the final cleanup is underway.  
 22 MS. GREENLINGER: So, as Anna mentioned, it's  
 23 going to be likely six years or so before shoveling  
 24 the ground, so to speak, actually happens. So, what  
 25 do we do in the meantime? And as Anna pointed out,

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1 the risk of contamination or recontamination to  
 2 neighbors is fairly high. So that really throws a  
 3 curve ball in in terms of, well, do you go out and  
 4 sample now for those areas? If we were to have a  
 5 heavy rain or floods, just those numbers that Anna  
 6 mentioned, I think she said 100,000 in the middle of  
 7 the pond, to go from that to 50, if we were to  
 8 sample, it really would call into question those  
 9 sample results. If we were to excavate, the same  
 10 issue would happen. And we have a fairly lengthy  
 11 time before we expect to start the long-term  
 12 cleanup.  
 13 So, what do we do in the meantime? We don't  
 14 want people to be at potential risk of exposure,  
 15 since health risk comes from exposure, or at least  
 16 the potential for it. So, we are suggesting some  
 17 precautionary interim measures. Once we have the  
 18 final cleanup plan issued this fall, we will be in a  
 19 position to go back and work with all of the  
 20 property owners that could potentially be impacted  
 21 to take a look at what measures you could take. For  
 22 instance, an obvious one, particularly for those in  
 23 Allendale Pond, where a fences exist right now, is  
 24 to take a look at where that fence line is in  
 25 comparison to what we believe to the 100-year

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1 just never ventures down to the waterfront. So, we  
 2 need to engage in that interaction and that process  
 3 once we have the cleanup plan finalized.  
 4 Residents also can participate in what it is  
 5 that they can do to prevent exposure. And we  
 6 actually just concluded about two weeks of an effort  
 7 of trying to individually reach out to all of the  
 8 property owners that could be potentially affected  
 9 here, to sit down and talk with them, one, so they  
 10 that they knew what's happening, and they had the  
 11 opportunity to provide comment during the comment  
 12 period. But two, to really stress that they can  
 13 take action now. Much of these type of activities  
 14 that you see listed here are things that people do  
 15 anyhow. It's good hygiene to wash your hands before  
 16 you eat. It's a good way to control and prevent for  
 17 a flu, or for any other type of sickness or  
 18 exposure. So, that's a common one that people do.  
 19 Also common is when your shoes get muddy from doing  
 20 yard work out back, that you don't walk all through  
 21 your house. Because who wants to clean up after  
 22 that. So, that's also a typical thing that people  
 23 do in terms of behaviors, but this is an added  
 24 reason as to why they should did that, and be  
 25 vigilant in doing that.

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1 floodplain. Now, our maps of the 100-year  
 2 floodplain are not an exact science, and we  
 3 recognize that. We recognize that the folks who  
 4 live there know best in terms of, they know when it  
 5 floods, where does it flood, what's a typical flood,  
 6 what's an unusual flood. Especially since we all  
 7 just lived through that historic rain that happened  
 8 two years ago in Rhode Island. So, we would work  
 9 with the property owners, using the information that  
 10 we have in our maps, but also their knowledge from  
 11 living there, and to take a look at, does it make  
 12 sense to move the fence line. That might be a  
 13 really simple, easy solution to having a barrier to  
 14 people getting down to the floodplains that may be  
 15 contaminated for that interim period before we can  
 16 get there and do sampling and take action if action  
 17 is needed.  
 18 In some houses, that might not work. That  
 19 might be their driveway or their house. There are  
 20 some houses where they're awfully close to the  
 21 river. So, it really needs to be a  
 22 property-specific approach, and hence, we really  
 23 need to engage with the residents to figure out what  
 24 makes sense there, who lives there, are their  
 25 children that are there, or is it someone who really

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1 So, washing your clothing after you've done  
 2 yard work, instead of going and relaxing on your  
 3 sofa, keeping yourself clean, washing your fruits  
 4 and vegetables if you have a garden that's in the  
 5 area. Perhaps you might want to think about doing a  
 6 raised bed if you have a garden that's in the  
 7 floodplain that's in question. But clearly, so, as  
 8 we said before, the dioxin and its behavior is not  
 9 to be taken up through the plants, so it's really  
 10 just making sure that any soil or dirt that got on  
 11 the plants before you eat it or cook with it to wash  
 12 it.  
 13 So, those are pretty straightforward things  
 14 that residents can do now. They don't have to wait  
 15 for us to move the fence. These are things that  
 16 they can do now, and really potentially cut down on  
 17 any exposure that might be happening.  
 18 And of course, as we always stress, our "do's"  
 19 and "don'ts" for the Wannasquatucket River. Don't  
 20 eat the fish, the eels, the turtles, or wildlife or  
 21 other plants, don't swim or wade in it. Again,  
 22 that's not because of dioxin contamination, but for  
 23 other challenges. And don't dig into the riverbanks  
 24 so you're not stirring up potentially contaminated  
 25 soil and sediment.

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1 Do use the river wisely. We really encourage  
 2 the use of it, think the efforts that the  
 3 Wannasquatucket River Watershed Council is doing to  
 4 get people to get out and use this wonderful  
 5 resource are really great, so go partake in the  
 6 walking, running and biking along the trail that's  
 7 there, paddle or canoe or kayaking. I know from  
 8 talking with the residents, there are a lot of  
 9 people living there that do go out and use their  
 10 boats to paddle around the place. And of course,  
 11 just be smart, and wash up after you use and enjoy  
 12 the river.  
 13 We just threw a lot at you, and as we've  
 14 mentioned a couple of times, we do have a comment  
 15 period that's underway. As before, we really stress  
 16 the importance of your comments. We're in the  
 17 process of responding to all of the comments that we  
 18 received on the proposed plan. They truly are  
 19 important to us. We stress, again, we would  
 20 appreciate you taking the time to provide comment,  
 21 whether it's tonight at our formal hearing portion  
 22 of tonight's meeting, or via e-mail or fax or  
 23 regular mail to us. And these are the different  
 24 ways, it's in your proposed plan on page eleven has  
 25 the details of how you can provide comment to us in

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

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1 the amendment. And again, can't stress enough how  
 2 important that is to get your comments so that we're  
 3 making a decision that reflects your opinions.  
 4 But before we get to the formal comment portion  
 5 of the formal hearing portion that's tonight, we do  
 6 want to be able to answer any questions that you  
 7 might have on the amendment, especially if you have  
 8 not had the opportunity to read it, and this is the  
 9 first time that you're hearing about the dioxin  
 10 reassessment and how its modification to the  
 11 proposed cleanup plan has caused us to issue this  
 12 amendment.  
 13 So, I'm going to stop and see if anybody has  
 14 any questions or thoughts that they would like to  
 15 share with us. Eugenia?  
 16 EUGENIA MARKS: How detailed is your  
 17 understanding of the demographics of the area in  
 18 terms of children in households?  
 19 MS. GREENLINGER: After this event, in terms of  
 20 my understanding of the demographic, I would say  
 21 that it's mixed. There are definitely a handful of  
 22 apartment buildings that have more transient folks  
 23 living there in terms of having lived there for a  
 24 very long time, or more likely to move, and harder  
 25 for us to reach, just because we don't have their

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1 it's between 55 and 70, I would say on average; and  
 2 no, there are not children there. And they all know  
 3 the deal with the river, and know the limitations  
 4 and the challenges it presents.  
 5 EUGENIA MARKS: But you have visited every  
 6 home, every resident within the site area that abuts  
 7 the river?  
 8 MS. GREENLINGER: That's who we reached out  
 9 for. So have I talked with every single one of  
 10 them, no. I wish it was a hundred percent. Every  
 11 single one of them received a letter inviting them  
 12 to call us, to meet with us. And they also, a vast  
 13 majority of them received a one-pager where we were  
 14 telling them about the changes and our desire to  
 15 come talk to them about some interim measures. So,  
 16 really, they all have that information. I would say  
 17 that out of about 48 properties, that I've had about  
 18 30 conversations with about 40 people.  
 19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Just a follow-up. What  
 20 reaction have you gotten by people in terms of the  
 21 changes that you've had to make in moving the  
 22 fences, and not using personal property, things like  
 23 that?  
 24 MS. GREENLINGER: Yes. I would say most of the  
 25 reaction, there wasn't really surprise, from that

1 point of view. And most people, again, know what  
 2 the challenges are, and take a lot of these  
 3 precautions anyhow. It's not like they're eating  
 4 fish from the river, it's not like they're swimming  
 5 in it. So, I think most of them are like, it's not  
 6 really changing their day-to-day patterns of how  
 7 they use their properties. So, most people are  
 8 like, you need to do what you need to do, but  
 9 consult with us, because we will have opinions about  
 10 what kind of fence, where the fence goes.  
 11 Some people certainly are concerned about their  
 12 use of their property. It depends, because some  
 13 houses, when you talk about moving the fence, it  
 14 could eat up a lot of their lawn. So, for those  
 15 people, obviously they're a little bit more  
 16 concerned with the idea of moving the fence, because  
 17 it will directly impact them. And we will need to  
 18 work with those folks.  
 19 So, some of those people kind of said, "Wait a  
 20 minute, this is my property, I pay taxes on it, I  
 21 don't want to lose the use of my property." Most  
 22 people were kind of like, most properties it's not  
 23 quite as dire of an impact by moving the fence; and  
 24 so, they were just saying, "Okay, when you come  
 25 back, we'll engage and talk with you about it." A

1 that.  
 2 MS. VU: Well, the number for the residential  
 3 scenario is also based on site specifics, and some  
 4 standard assumptions as well. So, for recreational  
 5 scenario we have different assumptions of how much  
 6 people, we assume that people are exposed, so that's  
 7 why we come out with different numbers.  
 8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But that's the other side of  
 9 your risk assessment. In other words, your standard  
 10 on both of them is 1,000 in each case.  
 11 MS. VU: Right.  
 12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But supposedly your  
 13 assumptions in both of those are still the same.  
 14 MS. VU: That was the standard in the past, the  
 15 1,000 parts per trillion that you're talking about.  
 16 Well, we wouldn't call it standard, but it was a  
 17 number that was based on, just call it "science"  
 18 that EPA used in the past. And it was used for  
 19 residential specifically. Back then we didn't  
 20 calculate the specific number for recreational  
 21 scenario, we also used the same number for  
 22 recreational as well, because there was no standard,  
 23 per se.  
 24 And then the numbers that we show here at this  
 25 time were the revised numbers, specifically for two

1 lot of people were saying, "Can we get a fence,  
 2 because we want to clean the shrubs on the other --  
 3 the overgrowth and trash that's there."  
 4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The condominiums at Allendale  
 5 Mill which are renovated now, are those among those  
 6 to whom you've spoken?  
 7 MS. GREENLINGER: No. And Anna can jump in,  
 8 too. My understanding of those mills is that's not  
 9 where -- the renovated mills, that that's not an  
 10 area that's impacted by contamination.  
 11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You were talking about, maybe  
 12 Anna, you were talking about this. Both the  
 13 residential and the recreational standard previously  
 14 were a thousand parts per trillion?  
 15 MS. GREENLINGER: Um-hmm.  
 16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And you say you changed the  
 17 residential to 50, but you didn't make it the same  
 18 extent for the recreational. In other words, if the  
 19 uses when you're doing a risk assessment with uses,  
 20 which is what you would be changing, but the  
 21 standard you're using, I wondered why you didn't  
 22 make the change in the same fashion for both of  
 23 them. In other words, it's a different parameter in  
 24 the equation.  
 25 MS. GREENLINGER: I'm going to have Chau answer

1 separate scenarios. We don't call those standards;  
 2 they're site specific numbers we developed for  
 3 different scenarios.  
 4 EUGENIA MARKS: I want to go back to the  
 5 Allendale Mill Condominium and the tail race or the  
 6 head race or whatever, which is a part of that same  
 7 area that in 2011 was the proposed cleanup area. So  
 8 I understand that's not new.  
 9 MS. GREENLINGER: Right.  
 10 EUGENIA MARKS: So, we're waiting for the final  
 11 plan to know exactly what would be done there?  
 12 MS. GREENLINGER: Correct.  
 13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And you don't feel there's  
 14 any reason to notify residents at this time about --  
 15 MS. GREENLINGER: Because again, where the  
 16 amendment is, what are the changes based on the most  
 17 current new science that we have, which is this new  
 18 non-cancer toxicity value, and what modifications  
 19 did it make to the 2011 proposed cleanup plan.  
 20 Those modifications is what the amendment is based  
 21 on. And the additional properties that before were  
 22 not considered for the cleanup, those were the  
 23 properties that we targeted in terms of reaching out  
 24 and talking to the residents.  
 25 EUGENIA MARKS: I have some concern, because I

1 don't believe there's water in that tail race; and  
 2 it just seems like an attractive nuisance. And I  
 3 realize that those are condominiums, and we don't  
 4 know what the demographic on children living in  
 5 there is.  
 6 MS. GREENLINGER: Right.  
 7 EUGENIA MARKS: It just seems like there may be  
 8 should be some consideration about public education  
 9 in that area.  
 10 MS. GREENLINGER: Repeat yourself in the formal  
 11 hearing, so we can capture that on the formal  
 12 record. That way you hold us to respond to that.  
 13 It becomes part of the formal record. But I heard  
 14 you.  
 15 Are there any other questions before we switch  
 16 over to the formal hearing? So, I have to do a  
 17 little spiel.  
 18 We will conclude the informational portion of  
 19 this meeting; we will start the formal comment  
 20 period, the formal hearing. The purpose of this  
 21 hearing is for us to take your comments. EPA cannot  
 22 respond to your comment. We would be happy at the  
 23 conclusion of the formal hearing to stay around to  
 24 answer any other questions or thoughts that you  
 25 might have.

1 continuously filled with water. And I think it's --  
 2 I know it's in a lawn situation on the river side of  
 3 the complex. We don't know whether there are any  
 4 children who live in there. And my concern is  
 5 asking that a review of exposures that may be  
 6 applicable under this new standard be undertaken.  
 7 Thank you.  
 8 MS. GREENLINGER: Do you have any other  
 9 thoughts, Eugenia? I'll leave it open for another  
 10 minute in case anybody thinks of anything.  
 11 EUGENIA MARKS: Another thing that occurred to  
 12 me, Eugenia Marks, is that while the area under  
 13 consideration is all on the North Providence side,  
 14 that, in the Lyman Mill area, there is a residential  
 15 area accessible across the Lyman Mill Dam; and in  
 16 the past, having observed recreational use of  
 17 homemade rafts, kids clothing in that area, of  
 18 whether there has been adequate public information  
 19 provided on the Johnston side in that residential  
 20 area where there's some proximity to the Lyman Mill  
 21 Dam.  
 22 MS. GREENLINGER: Okay. With that, I'm going  
 23 to formally close the formal hearing. Again, the  
 24 comment period is open until August 17th. You can  
 25 e-mail, fax or send a letter addressed to Anna. On

1 So, again, during the formal hearing, if you  
 2 can limit your comments to the proposed plan  
 3 amendment, that would be great. And if you can  
 4 state your name and your address so that the  
 5 stenographer can hear you and capture that. And  
 6 please provide us whatever comment you would like to  
 7 go into the formal record. At the close of the  
 8 comment period, we will take these comments, and  
 9 write responses to them, and incorporate them into  
 10 the final record of decision, which is EPA's Final  
 11 Cleanup Plan for the Centredale Manor Restoration  
 12 Project Superfund Site.  
 13 So, with that, I'm going to grab the mic for  
 14 anybody who may want to provide comment so the  
 15 stenographer can hear you.  
 16 Eugenia, do you want to start us off, since we  
 17 know you have one?  
 18 EUGENIA MARKS: My name is Eugenia Marks,  
 19 M-A-R-K-S. I'm the director for policy at the  
 20 Audubon Society of Rhode Island, and I'm a past  
 21 member of the board of the Wannasquatucket River  
 22 Watershed Council. I understand that this hearing  
 23 regards the new standard for residential exposure;  
 24 and I had concerns about the mill raceway at  
 25 Allendale Condominiums, which I believe not to be

1 page eleven of your proposed plan amendment, you  
 2 will find that detailed information. And we thank  
 3 you very much for coming out tonight.  
 4 (Hearing adjourned at 7:52 p.m.)  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

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

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**In The Matter Of:**  
*EPA Hearing*

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*Proposed Plan Amendment Informational Meeting*  
*July 30, 2012*

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

HEARING IN RE: Proposed Plan Amendment  
Informational Meeting

DATE: July 30, 2012

TIME: 7:00 pm.

PLACE: Pocasset Bay Retirement Living  
12 Old Pocasset Lane  
Johnston, Rhode Island

FACILITATED BY: STACY GREENLINGER, ANNA KRASKO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 get Bob up later to answer them for you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 information, or it changes more often.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 MS. GREENLINGER: Um-hmm.

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

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

1           that.

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

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

11          MS. VU: Right.

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

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

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

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

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

9 MS. GREENLINGER: Right.

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

12 MS. GREENLINGER: Correct.

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

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

25 EUGENIA MARKS: I have some concern, because I

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

6 MS. GREENLINGER: Right.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

---

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

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1 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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4 HEARING IN RE: Proposed Plan Amendment  
5 Informational Meeting

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

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19 FACILITATED BY: STACY GREENLINGER, ANNA KRASKO

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

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

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

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

25 always help me make sure that my mailing list is

3

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

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

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

4

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

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

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

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

5

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

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

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

24 the most sensitive impacts that happen from dioxin.

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

6

1 get Bob up later to answer them for you.

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

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

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

7

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

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

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

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

8

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

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

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

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

9

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

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

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

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

10

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

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

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

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

11

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

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

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

12

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

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

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

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

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

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

13

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

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

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

14

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

18 In some houses, that might not work. That

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

15

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

4 Residents also can participate in what it is  
5 that they can do to prevent exposure. And we  
6 actually just concluded about two weeks of an effort  
7 of trying to individually reach out to all of the  
8 property owners that could be potentially affected  
9 here, to sit down and talk with them, one, so they  
10 that they knew what's happening, and they had the  
11 opportunity to provide comment during the comment  
12 period. But two, to really stress that they can  
13 take action now. Much of these type of activities  
14 that you see listed here are things that people do  
15 anyhow. It's good hygiene to wash your hands before  
16 you eat. It's a good way to control and prevent for  
17 a flu, or for any other type of sickness or  
18 exposure. So, that's a common one that people do.

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

16

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

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

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

17

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

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

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

18

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

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

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

16 EUGENIA MARKS: How detailed is your

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

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

19

1 information, or it changes more often.

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

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

20

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

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

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

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

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

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

21

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

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

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

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

22

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

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

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

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

15 MS. GREENLINGER: Um-hmm.

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

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

23

1 that.

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

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

11 MS. VU: Right.

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

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

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

24

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

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

9 MS. GREENLINGER: Right.

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

12 MS. GREENLINGER: Correct.

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

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

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

25 EUGENIA MARKS: I have some concern, because I

25

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

6 MS. GREENLINGER: Right.

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

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

14 you.

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

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

26

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1           C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

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

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