

**Proposed Plan-North Alcoa Site-Operable Unit 1  
United States Environmental Protection Agency**

East St. Louis, Illinois

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1 Proposed Plan - North Alcoa Site - Operable Unit 1  
2 East Saint Louis, Illinois  
3 April 2012  
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8 United States Environmental Protection Agency  
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1 THE FOLLOWING ARE PROCEEDINGS OF AN OPEN HEARING  
2 BEGINNING AT 7:11 P.M.:

3 MR. DAVE NOVAK: All right. We're going to  
4 get started. For introductions, I'm Dave Novak. I'm  
5 Community Involvement Coordinator with U.S. EPA out of  
6 Chicago. And the bulk of the presentation this evening  
7 will be done by the project manager, Dion Novak, who is  
8 the technical manager of the project

9 And we're here for the North Alcoa site  
10 Operable Unit 1 Proposed Plan. This will give you an  
11 idea of where EPA is looking to go on cleaning up the  
12 site. And what Dion will explain is how we arrived at  
13 our recommendation for that.

14 The way the evening is going to work we  
15 first will acknowledge the City Manager, Del Hudson.

16 Del Hudson, welcome.

17 And the Mayor, like I said, will be on his  
18 way down shortly, he said he would be, so we have  
19 Alvin Parks Mayor, obviously, who will be coming down  
20 shortly.

21 But the way the evening is going to work is  
22 after a brief introduction of like I'm doing right now  
23 we'll have what we call a meeting. Dion will go through  
24 the proposed plan and the document that he gave most of

1 you was the technical version of it. And he will give  
2 you the alternatives that THE EPA used to reach this  
3 conclusion and then we will go into a few questions,  
4 after that we'll have the hearing portion of it.

5           During the hearing portion the EPA is  
6 silent, we're hear to hear what you have to say and we  
7 welcome your comments on that plan and as Dion will  
8 explain it. We will take those and we'll put them in  
9 what we call the responsiveness summary, which will help  
10 us reach the final conclusion in that record of  
11 decision. Without receiving your comments the process  
12 is not finished. And lots of time people will say oh  
13 gee, it's just air space, we're giving you a comment,  
14 you don't pay attention to it. That couldn't be farther  
15 from the truth. Many times we have taken that comment  
16 and it did make a big difference in changing the remedy,  
17 so it is important.

18           The comment period there is a typo in a lot  
19 of materials that did go out and we apologize for that.  
20 The comment period is running for 30 days from  
21 April 12th through May 14th. So we tried to catch that  
22 once it went out what went in the -- in the newspaper  
23 for the add was correct in the Belleville Democrat, but  
24 a few other places it got by us by the correct dates for

1 the comments April 12th through May 14th, oral, written  
2 comments this evening, they can be submitted by mail,  
3 e-mail, and through the oral process this evening. So,  
4 you've got 30 days after tonight -- well, not after  
5 tonight, but until May 14th to get those comments in.

6 So, for the first half hold on to your  
7 questions until after Dion finishes his presentation,  
8 he's probably going to answer the bulk of your questions  
9 anyway, when he finishes we'll get into comments then we  
10 will, of course, take those comments.

11 When we get into the hearing part, like I  
12 said, we will not respond to any of your comments this  
13 evening, but that will be done in the Responsiveness  
14 Summary. We are recording the entire session this  
15 evening both the meeting and the hearing. And if you  
16 are going to make a comment orally this evening if you  
17 could, please, stand up and because we are recording it  
18 state your name and spell it so that we can get the  
19 report right in the official record.

20 So, without further adieu I'll turn it over  
21 to Dion and we'll get into the proposed plan and what  
22 EPA has done and is proposing for the site in the  
23 future.

24 MR. DION NOVAK: Thank you, Dave. Good

1 evening, everyone. Thanks for coming out to hear our  
2 proposed plan EPA's recommended plan for this phase of  
3 the clean up at the site. And to describe where we are  
4 in process when this plan what we've done to get to this  
5 point and what -- what comes next.

6           What is a proposed plan? It's our  
7 preferred alternative. Our preferred plan for this  
8 Operable Unit 1, Phase 1 of the clean up it's a two  
9 phase -- we're dealing with the site in two phases, this  
10 is the first one of two. I'll summarize quickly the  
11 site investigations that have gotten us to this point.

12           The fact sheets to the proposed plan that  
13 you have in your hands, most of you have in your hands,  
14 are also available on line and in the libraries, will go  
15 into a little more detail, but again, I'm going to  
16 describe to you the highlights of what we have done to  
17 get to this point. And again, as Dave mentioned, our  
18 comment period started last week and run until May the  
19 14th.

20           The site itself is on Missouri Avenue  
21 between 29th and 35th Street. It's on the north side of  
22 Missouri Avenue. Alcoa former operations were on the  
23 south side of Missouri Avenue and the waste from their  
24 operations went on the north side of Missouri Avenue

1 where they're currently located. Operable Unit 1 is  
2 approximately half of the site area, it's about 160, 170  
3 acres that's the basis for this processed plan.

4 That's just a quick site map along the  
5 bottom there. The red line is Missouri Avenue. So, as  
6 you can see it starts on Missouri Avenue and goes to the  
7 north.

8 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Use your pointer.

9 MR. DION NOVAK: Where's my pointer?

10 MR. DAVE NOVAK: The red button.

11 MR. DION NOVAK: In the middle here is the  
12 bulk of the waste disposal, which was bauxite or red or  
13 brown mud from the Alcoa manufacturing operations. This  
14 white material around the edges is called floor gypsum  
15 and that actually is a dike material, which keeps the  
16 bauxite in place. And this black line here is the  
17 Operable Unit 1 boundary. And then the red line is the  
18 site boundary.

19 From the early 1900's to the late 1950's  
20 early 1960's Alcoa operated at the site, again, they  
21 processed can aluminum from bauxite ore that was brought  
22 in from offsite using the Bayer process. Gypsum, as I  
23 mentioned, that white material was also a byproduct of  
24 their operation or their production operations. Bauxite

1 and gypsum are the main material, the main waste  
2 materials, that we're dealing with at the site.

3 Back in the early 1900's this material went  
4 into what was called Pittsburgh Lake and literally, they  
5 filled in the lake with this material. And then once  
6 they completed filling in the old lake then they -- then  
7 they put the gypsum berm around it. So, that kind of --  
8 based on the last slide, that kind of gives you a brief  
9 glimpse as to how the waste got there.

10 There's a couple of pictures here to show  
11 you what it currently looks like. This is the bauxite  
12 waste, which is in the middle of site based on the  
13 photograph I just showed you. That's a little bit  
14 better to show you the redness of the material. This  
15 material is -- is under pressure, it's soft and  
16 unstable, that's just one of the characteristics of the  
17 material itself.

18 This is a little more dramatic picture of  
19 the bauxite itself. And again, there's a number of  
20 places on the site where the material looks like this  
21 and in essence, when we put our proposed remedy over the  
22 top of this we're going to have to do a lot of  
23 contouring, a lot of re-grading in order to make this as  
24 flat as possible.

1                   This material right here is the gypsum.  
2    That dike that I described going this way, is Missouri  
3    Avenue. As you drive into the site you're met with  
4    this -- this relief and again, that's the gypsum, it's a  
5    little harder, it's little more resistant than the  
6    bauxite and that's the reason with they put it in place  
7    to keep the bauxite in place.

8                   Illinois EPA, who's been our partner  
9    from -- from the very, very beginning, did an assessment  
10   back in 1996. A clean up order was signed between the  
11   U.S. -- United States EPA and the City of East St. Louis  
12   and Alcoa in 2002 in order to get the site investigation  
13   underway and it contained the requirements for  
14   completing the site investigation under the Superfund  
15   Law. Investigations 2003 to 2005, approximately.

16                  There was -- in 2006 there was a removal of  
17   material, which was hazardous waste called spent pot  
18   liner and that was material from the bottom of the kiln  
19   that was disposed of onsite. And I've got a couple of  
20   pictures of that.

21                  Our current plan is the first, as I said,  
22   of a two phase clean up, stage one now, obviously, phase  
23   two later.

24                  The black chunks here is the spent pot

1 liner material that was removed back in 2006. And this  
2 is what that area looks like now after they removed it  
3 and covered it with dirt.

4 So, again, that was a successful -- that  
5 was part of the investigation and that was hazardous  
6 waste, so we removed it as quickly as we could identify  
7 it.

8 This is a map, a little bit more detailed  
9 map, which shows, again, that operable unit boundary  
10 that I showed you on the first picture. Again, within  
11 the black line here is the area in question that this  
12 proposed plan is addressing. These 1A and 1B and 1C are  
13 the bauxite, the residue disposal areas. Area two is  
14 the gypsum, which goes around. And then these other  
15 areas themselves along the front, along the southern  
16 part of the site here and in this area is commercial  
17 property. Up in this area there's some wetlands in 4B  
18 and 4A. And then this area here, 3C, was where they did  
19 the spent pot liner removal that I just showed you.

20 The summary remedial investigation that's  
21 the site investigation where we examine what  
22 contaminants are present where they are and what  
23 constituents they are. Again, as I mentioned the  
24 bauxite disposal went into Pittsburgh Lake, the gypsum

1 dikes were constructed around the bauxite, three  
2 resident disposal areas I just mentioned, about 40 acres  
3 each, and then the gypsum dikes, which are IB stands for  
4 Investigative Block, that was from the last picture I  
5 just showed you.

6 Numerous samples of soil sediment surface  
7 water and ground water were collected in that timeframe  
8 from each investigative block across the site the  
9 results of that which are contained in the focus  
10 feasibility study report, which is right there, that's  
11 also on DVD in the libraries. So, we have elevated  
12 levels of metals such as lead and radionuclides, like  
13 radium, that are in the soils that are contaminants in  
14 the soil that need to be addressed by our proposed  
15 remedy.

16 And again, the contamination level we found  
17 during our investigation were fed into what we call a  
18 risk assessment -- a risk analysis where we use our risk  
19 assessment process to determine what types of risks are  
20 posed by those levels of contamination -- of  
21 contaminants at the site and I'll describe that in a  
22 moment.

23 The risk summary -- the risk assessment  
24 summary shows that we have unacceptable risks for

1 residential use, if somebody's living on the site.  
2 Unacceptable risks for commercial use. And again, EPA  
3 has a, what we call, a range of acceptable risk and  
4 these are levels that are above that. And the risks  
5 mainly are from direct contact, touching the metals and  
6 the radionuclides in the soils.

7           We did a fairly extensive ecological  
8 assessment looking at plants and animals that  
9 potentially are present on site and we determined that  
10 there wasn't any habitat for those animals and there's  
11 no ecological risks. So, we have -- the risks that I  
12 just described are to human health.

13           The description of clean up alternatives  
14 that you see in the document in front of you we have  
15 three. We're required by the Superfund Law to look at  
16 no action to say here's what the risks would be if they  
17 did nothing.

18           Remedial alternative one RAA-1 is  
19 restricted access, which includes mainly fencing of the  
20 areas of the bauxite areas and then of the site area  
21 itself and institutional controls, which are, basically,  
22 like deed restrictions, restrictive covenants that are  
23 put in place at the site to make sure that what we do  
24 stays there for the long term to provide the protection

1 that we proceeded to provide.

2 Remedial alternative two is the soil cover  
3 over the OE-1 area and storm water management. All of  
4 the water -- when we design a cover to go over waste  
5 materials like this we have to redirect the rainwater  
6 away from the cover so that we don't have erosion  
7 issues. And so we're going be managing all that of  
8 storm water on site as part of this alternative. And  
9 then it also includes the fencing and then the  
10 covenants, the restrictive covenants to make sure that  
11 the remedy stays in place.

12 The EPA has nine remedies selection  
13 evaluation criteria that are -- that are documented in  
14 our law. Threshold criteria are the alternatives that  
15 we look at have to satisfy these -- these two things.  
16 The first one is protection to human health and the  
17 environment. If we have a risk the remedy has to  
18 address that risk and prevent or preclude that risk in  
19 the future.

20 Compliance with applicable or relevant  
21 appropriate requirements is a mouth full, in essence,  
22 there is state and federal regulations for contaminants  
23 and Superfund and compliance with means we have to  
24 comply with those -- those laws and regulations.

1           The next category of our remedy selection  
2 process is what we call balancing criteria, balancing  
3 criteria, long term protection of permanence. Again,  
4 what we put into place has to say there. It has to be  
5 permanent, so that we don't have to come back at some  
6 point in the future and do it again.

7           The next one is also a mouth full,  
8 reduction of toxicity, mobility or volume through  
9 treatment. What that means is toxicity, we want to make  
10 the contaminants less bad.

11           Mobility, we want to stop them from moving  
12 if they're moving or we want to prevent them from moving  
13 if there is a potential for them to move.

14           And volume, obviously, we want to reduce  
15 the volume through treatment if we can.

16           Short-term effectiveness is how long does  
17 it take to put the remedy in place and how -- are there  
18 any risks to workers at the site or people that live  
19 near the site from the actual remedy construction and  
20 implementation.

21           Implementability is has this been -- has  
22 this been done before? Obviously, we like to do things  
23 that have been done before, because we know that they  
24 work. And then cost, how much does it cost.

1           The last -- those first seven are what have  
2 gone into the proposal plan that you see that you're  
3 holding, hopefully most of are you holding. And that --  
4 that goes into our preferred alternative, which again,  
5 is what you have.

6           When we go through the public comment  
7 process we will evaluate these two criteria state  
8 acceptance, which would be the Illinois EPA. Illinois  
9 EPA supports the preferred alternative that you see in  
10 the proposed plan, but ultimately through the comment  
11 period they will -- they will provide input to -- to --  
12 as to their acceptance.

13           And community acceptance, this is your  
14 community. I'm coming into your community and saying  
15 this is what we are recommending. We want to hear your  
16 opinion, that's community acceptance.

17           Comparative analysis, we'll compare the  
18 alternatives that I have one to other to determine which  
19 is the best to -- to recommend in the proposed plan for  
20 the overall protection. Again, this is -- we want to  
21 make sure that it's addressing the issues that we've  
22 identified.

23           The first alternative, which is the fencing  
24 and the controls, is limited protection, it doesn't

1 prelude all exposure. It just -- it provides some  
2 access restriction, but it doesn't prevent exposure,  
3 complete exposure, to the risks.

4 Remedial alternative two provides complete  
5 protection and addresses all the risks that I identified  
6 in -- as resulting from the risk assessment.

7 Compliant with AR, which is again, is  
8 the state and federal regulations for contamination, the  
9 first alternative does not comply, because again, it  
10 doesn't address the -- it doesn't address the potential  
11 complete exposure.

12 And the second one complies not only with  
13 the capping to put the cover, the soil cover over the  
14 top, but it also complies with how we're going to be  
15 managing the storm water onsite.

16 Long-term protection. Is this going to  
17 stay there and is it going to stay effective? Again,  
18 alternative one restricts access, but it doesn't  
19 eliminate exposure.

20 There was a pilot study that was done in  
21 October/November of 2011 to evaluate putting this  
22 two-foot soil cover over the materials at the site. And  
23 that study, which again, is in -- in the -- it's in the  
24 library and it's at city hall here, shows that the cover

1 would be stable and permanent with proper maintenance.  
2 So, the purpose of that study was to show that we put  
3 this two-foot of dirt on top and it's been -- it's been  
4 being monitored ever since and the results are very  
5 positive.

6 This next one, which again, is making the  
7 contamination less bad, less mobile or -- or decreasing  
8 the volume. Again, that -- that removal -- those black  
9 chunks on that -- that picture that I showed you we did  
10 that removal in 2006. So, that -- that waste material  
11 is gone. And that is -- that has satisfied this  
12 alternative for both -- that has satisfied this criteria  
13 for both alternatives.

14 There's limited risks for installing the  
15 fence to workers in the community for alternative one  
16 and there's limited risks for cap installation to  
17 workers in the community for alternative two. When we  
18 do -- when we do -- when we implement remedies like this  
19 and we design them and we build them there's a health  
20 and safety plan that's put in place and approved by the  
21 EPA. All of these -- all of these documents have been  
22 produced by Alcoa and the City of East St. Louis and  
23 have been reviewed and approved by both the U.S. EPA and  
24 the Illinois EPA. One of the things that's going to

1 come out of the construction and implementation plan is  
2 going to be a health and safety plan. And again, that  
3 is to show how the implementation of the remedy is going  
4 to minimize any risks to anybody from -- from actually  
5 building the cover itself. And that's -- that's going  
6 to be a document that's presented to the agencies that  
7 will be reviewed and commented on and approved by us as  
8 well.

9 Fence. Putting a fence in is -- it's been  
10 done a lot of times. It's going to require extra  
11 attention, because it's a big site, but it's, obviously,  
12 easily implementable, several months to construct.

13 For alternative two the test strip shows  
14 that it is -- that the cover can be done and done quite  
15 well. It's going to take approximately eight months to  
16 build that -- that soil cover.

17 The cost, unfortunately, Superfund  
18 investigations and clean ups aren't cheap. Remedial  
19 alternative one is \$650,000; alternative two is  
20 24.9 million and that includes actually designing and  
21 building the remedy itself and then also includes  
22 maintaining that remedy over a period of 30 years, a  
23 minimum of 30 years. Again, that -- these last two  
24 items the State of Illinois supports the preferred

1 alternative two and they've been integrally involved  
2 with throughout the process from the very beginning and  
3 is a -- a valuable, valuable partner with their insights  
4 to get the documents in the -- in the state that they're  
5 in so that we can approve them to support this proposed  
6 plan, so we see certainly appreciate that.

7           Community acceptance, that's why we're  
8 here, that's why we have this comment period from  
9 April 12th, last week, to May the 14th. Please, provide  
10 comments on any part of the plan that you want, whether  
11 it's site history, whether it's the investigation,  
12 whether it's, you know, why did you look at this  
13 alternative in this way. Please, provide any comments  
14 that you have on -- on anything that you see in this.

15           Our proposed alternative, as I said, is  
16 alternative two, which is a two-foot soil cover over  
17 approximately 160 or 170 acres. Storm water improvement  
18 to manage all surface water onsite. Unfortunately,  
19 we're not able to discharge any of the water onsite  
20 offsite so we have to manage it all onsite. So, we  
21 are -- what we're going to do is we're going be  
22 refiguring and regrading a lot of the site as you've  
23 seen in the pictures, again, to make sure that the water  
24 is flowing off the cover and into these ponds that are

1 going to be designed to hold the water so that we don't  
2 have the erosion issues that I mentioned before. We're  
3 not going to be putting a cover over the pond areas,  
4 because it's going to interfere with the storm water  
5 management that I -- that I describe. We need the ponds  
6 in their current configuration in order to help us  
7 manage the storm water.

8           Also fencing. We'll be putting fencing  
9 around the ponds, as I mentioned before, and overall  
10 site to restrict access not only while the work is being  
11 done, but after the work is done and we're maintaining  
12 the remedy itself. It's institutional controls, again,  
13 are going to be covenants that are placed on the  
14 property so that what we've put in the ground stays  
15 there and it provides protection that -- that we're  
16 saying it needs to provide.

17           There's a table in the fact sheet, in the  
18 short version fact sheet, which summarizes this criteria  
19 analysis, got a bunch of dots. That's what this -- I  
20 just described with words what that, you know, what  
21 that -- what that table looks like and what it says.  
22 This is the best alternative to the best balance of our  
23 remedy selection criteria and it's our preferred  
24 alternative.

1                   This kind of shows you a schematic of what  
2 the cover is going to look like. Right here and right  
3 here are the gypsum dikes, again, the white material  
4 that's around the red bauxite material. That's -- this  
5 is kind of a cross section, if you take a slice through  
6 the ground, this is what it looks like. So, we have the  
7 gypsum here. We have the existing bauxite material here  
8 underneath this -- this layer right here is the two-foot  
9 soil cover, which you see right here. And then in the  
10 middle here is -- is a depiction of what the storm water  
11 pond would look like as part of the cap design. And  
12 again, as you see here, here's the water, here's the  
13 existing waste material and then we're going to be  
14 putting agricultural stone around the edges of the  
15 ponds, again, to keep the material from washing into the  
16 water and also to prevent any kind of access or any type  
17 of intrusions into either the water or the waste  
18 materials themselves. So, this is kind of a, what we  
19 call, a cross section, a slice through to, so you see  
20 what it looks like in plan B, I'm sorry cross section.

21                   Public comment period, as I mentioned, goes  
22 until May the 14th. We may extend the comment period if  
23 necessary. There's a number of ways that you can  
24 comment. You can fax the comments. And again, there's

1 information in the proposed plans with all the  
2 appropriate information how to get it to us. You can  
3 e-mail the comments to me. You can send them through  
4 regular, you know, the regular mail or tonight, as Dave  
5 mentioned, you can -- you can stand up and have a -- a  
6 comment orally and we'll have a part of the meeting  
7 where we do that or you can also write them down and  
8 then hand them to us. There are a number of different  
9 ways to get -- there's a number of different ways to get  
10 us your comments.

11           What's next after this comment period we  
12 issue what we call a record of decision, which is the  
13 final clean up decision, which incorporates what you see  
14 and shows you any comments that you make during the  
15 comment period, will effect how we write this up as a  
16 final decision and includes, as Dave mentioned, the  
17 Responsiveness Summary, which -- which all of the  
18 comments that you make we will -- I will respond to in a  
19 Responsiveness Summary to show either how they've  
20 already been addressed as part of what we're proposing  
21 to do or potentially how we might change something that  
22 we're proposing to do. And again, the remedy may change  
23 based on any information we may receive during this  
24 comment. After the recommended decision we enter into

1 negotiations with Alcoa and the City of East St. Louis  
2 to design and implement the selected remedy. And again,  
3 so what we just -- what I'm saying is -- is here's our  
4 plan based on the comments, we make a final decision and  
5 then we go to Alcoa and the City of East St. Louis and  
6 negotiate to get them to implement that remedy.

7 A consent decree is the end result of that  
8 negotiation and that's a legal requirement that's  
9 entered in a court of law, again, to get that remedy  
10 implemented.

11 The remedial design is an engineering  
12 design to design the remedy, the cover, so that it will  
13 work and it will be as permanent as possible.

14 Remedial action is our term or what we go  
15 out and we actually build the remedy.

16 And then operation of maintenance, as I  
17 mentioned, is what we would do to maintain the remedy  
18 over the long term so that it continued to provide the  
19 protection that we're saying in the proposed plan that  
20 it needs to.

21 The design of that remedy is underway and  
22 we anticipate completion in late spring. The  
23 construction of this soil cover is potentially going to  
24 begin this summer. We're working with EPA and Illinois

1 EPA are working with the developer on design of the  
2 solar energy generation facility, again, that would go  
3 over the top of this two-foot soil cover. What that  
4 proposed plan addresses is the contamination problems at  
5 the site and what I'm -- this -- this cover will address  
6 those risks and then any redevelopment would go over the  
7 top of that.

8 We have three site repositories where we  
9 have information in the city clerk's office downstairs,  
10 East St. Louis Public Library and then my office in  
11 Chicago and again, there's information in the proposed  
12 plan on how you get -- how you access that information.

13 Site contact is me, there's my phone  
14 number, my e-mail, again, that's also in -- in the  
15 documents.

16 Dave is the community involvement  
17 coordinator, there's his information.

18 If you want to call and you don't want  
19 to -- and you want to use our toll free number our toll  
20 free number is on the bottom, so you would just call  
21 that 800 number, ask for me or ask for Dave and they'll  
22 hook you up.

23 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Okay.

24 MR. DION NOVAK: That's it. Thank you.

1                   MR. DAVE NOVAK: Going to do something here  
2 unusual. We're going to welcome the Mayor Alvin Parks  
3 to the meeting. Welcome, sir.

4                   MAYOR PARKS: Glad to be here.

5                   MR. DAVE NOVAK: And we're happy to be  
6 here. I'm going to do something unusual right now since  
7 we want to accommodate the media he needs to go to  
8 another assignment, the gentleman sitting here on the  
9 wall, Dion, if you can go with him real quick and do  
10 that we'll just -- I'll sing and I'll dance. I promise  
11 it will be short. Go ahead. Unusual that I do this, so  
12 if you don't mind.

13                  MR. SMITH: And I'll try and answer any  
14 technical questions you may have while Dion is  
15 predisposed.

16                  PUBLIC: I have a question. What do you  
17 plan to do in terms of that two-foot of soil that you  
18 put on to keep the regular rain water from seeping  
19 through that to the contaminated soil into the  
20 groundwater.

21                  MR. SMITH: The future -- the future  
22 development of the site the two feet of soil has a  
23 certain hydraulic conductivity, how fast water moves  
24 through it, and there's going some migration of

1 rainwater into that material. The -- the technical idea  
2 of the construct of the design is that there will be,  
3 what we call, a closure performance standard  
4 implemented. And that performance standard maintains  
5 the integrity of that soil cover over the site that can  
6 be done a number of different ways, sometimes through  
7 gravel, sometimes through agricultural rock, sometimes  
8 through plastic liner, things of that nature. One of  
9 the things that has been discussed, but has not been  
10 finalized yet is to put down a geo fabric, something  
11 that's permeable and then putting -- putting a layer of  
12 stone over that and then have those -- this -- the site  
13 graded such that it does -- the existing ponds at the  
14 site the ponds have a certain elevation and the water as  
15 it accumulates goes to those ponds and then migrates out  
16 of those ponds through an engineered structure to a  
17 collection basin at the -- at the -- I guess it would be  
18 the far west side of the facility. And so, we're trying  
19 to maintain and contain any rainfall event entirely  
20 onsite. We're basing that on a 24-hour hundred year  
21 storm event and in this area it's somewhere around  
22 12 inches of water.

23 Yes, sir.

24 PUBLIC: I got a question. This -- what

1 are the health costs from the bauxite? What are  
2 the criteria to the health costs from bauxite?

3 MR. SMITH: Well, the contaminants of  
4 concern from the -- from the bauxite residue at the site  
5 are lead and other heavy metals. Lead has a -- has a  
6 known problem associated with childhood development. In  
7 adults it can manifest itself and give -- lead exposure  
8 contamination can manifest itself in weakness in the  
9 hands and ankles, that's just how it shows up.

10 The radionuclides that are out there,  
11 primarily radium, are just naturally occurring  
12 radioactive materials that are part of the ore that was  
13 bauxite ore that was used to produce the aluminum and  
14 the material when it's inhaled it emits an alpha  
15 particle. An alpha particles is two neutrons and two  
16 protons. And that particle if you inhale it, inhale  
17 that -- that atom, it will stay in your body tissue and  
18 emit that alpha particle, that's where the cancer risk  
19 comes from, because there's nothing to shield yourself  
20 from that particle. A sheet of paper stops it in the  
21 air, but once it's in your body that's when it causes a  
22 problem. It's not a huge risk, but it is a risk concern  
23 at the site. The primary risk drivers are the heavy  
24 metals from the bauxite.

1                   PUBLIC: So, the permeable -- you talking  
2 about laying on under that top soil it's as he was  
3 saying, is water seep through, you know, and heat gets  
4 to it and it evaporates. Does it evaporate?

5                   MR. SMITH: No, sir. No. Once the  
6 two-foot of covers goes on the site will the material  
7 will be immobile.

8                   MR. DION NOVAK: And we've done -- the  
9 investigations that we also did, thank you, Clarence,  
10 have shown that the -- this material -- these  
11 contaminants are not leaching into other groundwater  
12 either.

13                  PUBLIC: Now, while they're in the ground  
14 is it possible to drain off towards the pond  
15 underground?

16                  MR. DION NOVAK: No. No. Actually, the  
17 ponds themselves are going to be to direct the surface  
18 water, the rain water, to get it off the top of the soil  
19 cover, put it into the ponds, so we don't have to worry  
20 about erosion or settlements of the soil cover itself  
21 which again, provides the permanence we needed to  
22 provide.

23                  PUBLIC: Okay. I am confused. Were you  
24 saying that the -- we have these contaminants that we're

1 going to cover up --

2 MR. DION NOVAK: Uh-huh.

3 PUBLIC: -- but you're saying that these  
4 contaminants won't get into the groundwater, because the  
5 top layer that you're putting down -- how is it that the  
6 top layer is keeping contaminants from getting into  
7 groundwater?

8 MR. DION NOVAK: The main way that  
9 contaminants can get from soil in the groundwater  
10 literally is as you watch rain outside soak into your  
11 grounds when it soaks in the ground it -- it can  
12 sometimes mix with contaminants that are there and get  
13 and go downward into the groundwater. Number one, we're  
14 saying that's not happening based on the information  
15 that we have. And number two, when we put the soil  
16 cover over the top it's going to provide additional  
17 protection for something that isn't happening already.

18 So, it's just -- it's added protection not  
19 only from -- from any potential issues in the  
20 groundwater, but it's also provides protection, as  
21 Clarence described it, from the metals and from the  
22 radium that are in the waste materials.

23 PUBLIC: So, I'm sorry, excuse me, so when  
24 you did dig these ponds out --

1 MR. SMITH: We're not going to dig the  
2 ponds out.

3 MR. DION NOVAK: They're already there.

4 MR. SMITH: They're already there. Yes,  
5 sir.

6 PUBLIC: So, are they -- I mean, the two --  
7 the two-foot of drain that you putting on that are the  
8 ponds deeper or are they -- they're above ground.  
9 They're already there, but are the ponds deeper than  
10 that or what?

11 MR. DION NOVAK: It's -- let me pull this  
12 up again. This in the middle here this represents the  
13 pond that -- that we're going to have all of the water  
14 that drains off the top of this cover into the pond  
15 itself. So we have -- is this -- is this area going to  
16 be higher than that? Yes, obviously we're going to make  
17 sure that the water gets here so that it doesn't stay on  
18 top of here.

19 PUBLIC: Okay. But I was looking at the  
20 drain off from underground -- the drain towards the pond  
21 from underground.

22 MR. DION NOVAK: Yeah, we're -- all of the  
23 these ponds themselves are going to maintain the surface  
24 water drainage that we need them to maintain the, again,

1 the groundwater issue, which we've investigated, which  
2 we'll be including as second phase of this clean up  
3 we've -- we've -- the -- the data that we have -- the  
4 information that we have so far shows that there's very  
5 limited impacts right now to the groundwater. So, by  
6 doing this --

7 PUBLIC: Not ground, underground.

8 MR. DION NOVAK: That's what I mean.  
9 Groundwater is water under the ground, yes.

10 PUBLIC: And I was thinking were you  
11 putting in a like a permanent fix and I was wondering  
12 where you're going to permanently coat that pond, you  
13 know.

14 MR. DION NOVAK: No. No. No. And in  
15 essence, we already -- the information that we have  
16 right now indicates that we don't have a problem in the  
17 groundwater. This, what we're proposing to do, is going  
18 to make sure that that continues to be the case.

19 It's going to provide added protection.  
20 It's like going out and putting a tarp over a bare spot  
21 in your lawn so that the water doesn't soak in that bare  
22 spot, it goes around the edges that's, in essence, what  
23 we're doing.

24 PUBLIC: What are you basically doing about

1 the contaminants that are already there, like in the  
2 bottom of ponds?

3 MR. DION NOVAK: We're covering them up, in  
4 essence, that's a fairly --

5 PUBLIC: You're covering up the  
6 contaminants that are already in the pond?

7 MR. DION NOVAK: We're covering up the  
8 contaminants that are in the ground as -- as I showed  
9 you and in essence, it prevents any potential exposure.

10 PUBLIC: You know what it sounds like to me  
11 making a pot of coffee. And I've got some coffee  
12 grounds and some water and I'm putting water on the  
13 coffee running through the water, running through the  
14 coffee, but this procedure doesn't seem like it's going  
15 to stop water from contaminating -- taking back from the  
16 groundwater being contaminated by this procedure that  
17 you're using.

18 MR. DION NOVAK: The groundwater right now  
19 isn't contaminated and it's been there for a hundred  
20 years. The materials -- the contaminants that we're  
21 dealing with don't really move from the soil into the  
22 groundwater easily.

23 PUBLIC: I'm within 500,000 feet of that  
24 place.

1 MR. DION NOVAK: Uh-huh.

2 PUBLIC: And I have heavy rain you have  
3 gypsum or whatever comes out on top of the ground quite  
4 a ways from these ponds that you're telling me and  
5 doesn't seem like this procedure is going to make this  
6 land useful, worth anything --

7 MR. DION NOVAK: Okay.

8 PUBLIC: -- when you get through with it.

9 MR. DION NOVAK: Okay. I respect your  
10 question -- your opinion. And again, what we're  
11 proposing to do is to the main risks of -- that we've  
12 identified at this site are from contact, touching or  
13 inhaling the materials at the site. And we're putting a  
14 cover over the top of materials to preclude so it won't  
15 happen. Right now there is no cover. This -- at the  
16 end of this action there will be a cover there that will  
17 be maintained so that the risks from that exposure will  
18 be addressed.

19 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Did we have a question way  
20 in the back, sir? Yes.

21 PUBLIC: Earlier you mentioned  
22 radionuclides, sounds plural. Then I heard you say  
23 radium. Are we talking 226, 228?

24 MR. DION NOVAK: Both. Both.

1 PUBLIC: Both. Okay.

2 MR. DION NOVAK: Yes.

3 PUBLIC: And are you talking slightly over  
4 background level or where --

5 MR. DION NOVAK: Yes.

6 PUBLIC: -- are you on action?

7 MR. DION NOVAK: Yeah. We have -- the  
8 levels that we have which are -- which are included in  
9 the documents that -- that support this we've got level  
10 at higher 40 pico curies per gram, which is slightly  
11 elevated, but obviously contributes to risk and that's  
12 why we're proposing to do what we're doing and these --  
13 the 40 pico curies is a combination of the two.

14 The radium 226 and 228, so the levels  
15 aren't super high, but they're at level of concern that  
16 we need to address in the manner that we're proposing to  
17 do that.

18 PUBLIC: And your disposal method is to put  
19 a liner on top then or layer on top?

20 MR. DION NOVAK: That's -- that's -- that's  
21 a common way to address the exposure routes, yes.

22 PUBLIC: Only reason I am asking I see this  
23 in North County right now region seven and they're  
24 having problems over Bridgeton and a few other sites and

1 now they're wanting to do that landfill just curious is  
2 this the best way to go with radionuclides.

3 MR. DION NOVAK: We looked at excavation  
4 and offsite disposal option and number one it's  
5 difficult to get in there and actually excavate all this  
6 material. It's difficult to find a place to take it  
7 because of the immense volume and preliminary cost  
8 estimate just the stuff that's above grade not the stuff  
9 that's actually in the old lake is \$250 million.

10 And that -- that supposes that you're going  
11 to have a place to take it to which the likelihood of  
12 that is pretty minimal.

13 MR. DAVE NOVAK: We'll get to your  
14 question. We had a lady right behind you. Go ahead.

15 PUBLIC: Me?

16 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Yes.

17 PUBLIC: I understand that the plant closed  
18 in 1950's.

19 MR. DION NOVAK: Late 50's early 60.

20 PUBLIC: Okay. And there was some type of  
21 an urgent EPA clean up in 2006, 56 years later. And  
22 we're now in 2012. Why is it taking so long to do this?

23 And during the feasibility study was there  
24 any type of health assessment done of the residents in

1 the area regarding the contaminants?

2 MR. DION NOVAK: We did a risk assessment  
3 where we use our risk assessment guidance to determine  
4 what the risks are from the contamination that we find  
5 at sites and that's a pretty standard part of our  
6 process. The results are what I described to you. We  
7 have also Alcoa had completed a number of years ago an  
8 air disc burglaries modeling assessment of the  
9 distribution. Gypsum itself and we determined at that  
10 time that there was minimal impact at the boundary of  
11 the sites and so, what we presuppose was if we did the  
12 modeling from where it was and it's not a problem at the  
13 edge of the site then it's not going to be a problem  
14 beyond the edge of site so that that was completed to --  
15 to -- to see what the results would be from potentially  
16 disturbing the gypsum. So -- so, we didn't go out in  
17 the community and do those health assessments. I know  
18 that the hospital did a number of years ago some blood  
19 lead assessments of -- of kids in the area. And EPA was  
20 actually -- actually, I was involved a number of years  
21 ago with some lead clean ups in East St. Louis to try to  
22 focus on potential blood lead issues. So, there's been  
23 a number of assessments that have been done, but the  
24 assessment that we did for this site was as I described

1 earlier.

2 PUBLIC: You had mentioned that the soil  
3 currently is not stable where the bauxite is.

4 MR. DION NOVAK: The bauxite is, if you --  
5 if -- you can walk over the top of it, but if we start  
6 to move it with a bulldozer or some heavy construction  
7 equipment it can become unstable, but it --

8 PUBLIC: So -- so, when there's no concern  
9 regarding wind blowing or the fact that is the rainwater  
10 wash off into other areas that's never been a concern?

11 MR. DION NOVAK: No, because like I said,  
12 it's -- it's -- at the surface it's pretty competent and  
13 again, when you start to move it then it becomes  
14 unstable and that's the purpose of putting the cover  
15 over the top to provide that protection.

16 PUBLIC: What about children playing there?

17 MR. DION NOVAK: We don't really have a lot  
18 evidence that there's a lot of trespassing issues out  
19 there. We did a trespasser assessment as part of the  
20 risk analysis, which didn't determine that there was any  
21 risk based on a normal trespasser exposure scenario, but  
22 we don't did have lot of evidence that there's lot of  
23 trespassing out there at least on the, you know, middle  
24 part of the site.

1                   PUBLIC:  So this -- this -- with this  
2  particular Phase 1 you are going to put a fence around  
3  it, right?

4                   MR. DION NOVAK:  Yes.

5                   PUBLIC:  I grew up not far from there  
6  myself 31 on Lake Drive.  And any anyone of either my  
7  age group children played there.  I can testify to that.

8                   MR. DION NOVAK:  Okay.

9                   PUBLIC:  And they're still children going  
10 there this is very important that you have a fence.

11                  MR. DION NOVAK:  Yes.  Yes.  And I'm not  
12 saying that's not happening, your earlier question about  
13 why is it take so long.

14                  PUBLIC:  Right.

15                  MR. DION NOVAK:  I believe involved in the  
16 early 2000 an against your process the Superfund process  
17 we have going identifying the site, which is what we did  
18 then we have to negotiate to get the responsible  
19 parties to do the investigations which they have done  
20 that's unfortunately not a -- not a fast process.  
21 Ultimately, we did the removal in 2006, because we  
22 determined that it was necessary and again, getting  
23 through the rest of the process to get to where we are  
24 now it's, yes, it has taken quite a bit of time, but I'm

1 very pleased to be out here with this proposal, you  
2 know, for the first phase of the clean up.

3 I thank you for the questions.

4 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Yes, sir.

5 PUBLIC: Is there -- I'm assuming it's got  
6 various steps. Is there any cubic yardage or anything  
7 that you're aware of as far as the amount of volume  
8 there that if you were to transport it offsite that  
9 you're looking at or does it just depend two-foot here  
10 and ten feet where the lake as or --

11 MR. DION NOVAK: If -- if I -- there is a  
12 letter that's in the record which assesses that and  
13 it's, basically, a guesstimate of how much material is  
14 above the surface of the ground and then a guess as to  
15 how deep it is in the old lake, because we, obviously,  
16 don't have records to indicate how deep that was if  
17 we're -- if we're making a logical assumption of taking  
18 this stuff that's above grade and including the stuff  
19 that's below grade the volume up then we're talking 500  
20 milled to send it somewhere and the likelihood of  
21 finding a place to take the stuff that's above grade  
22 just by itself and then combine it with below grade  
23 you're not going to find a place to take it.

24 MS. ANDRIA: This 500 million for the whole

1 site to be removed?

2 MR. DION NOVAK: For the Operable Unit 1  
3 area, which is the black -- the black bauxite inside the  
4 red shape.

5 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Question? Lady in the  
6 black? She's writing right now. Did you have a  
7 question? No. Okay. Go ahead.

8 MS. ANDRIA: Why was removal not listed as  
9 an alternative? Did Alcoa just say they wouldn't pay  
10 over a certain amount or what?

11 MR. DION NOVAK: Removal of --

12 MS. ANDRIA: Of the -- of the contaminants  
13 at the site.

14 MR. DION NOVAK: Because of the  
15 impracticability of doing it.

16 MS. ANDRIA: Impracticality.

17 MR. DION NOVAK: Impracticality. The  
18 volume of material, number one and number two taking and  
19 finding somewhere to take it again, the idea that you  
20 can actually get in there and dig it all out is extremely  
21 difficult if not impossible and finding a place to take  
22 it, again, we have trouble with landfill space in the  
23 United States already, to take this volume of material  
24 and take it and put it somewhere else, likelihood of

1 finding a place is minimal.

2 MS. ANDRIA: Well, there are a number of  
3 Superfund sites in the area, Granite City has the Tara  
4 Corp site they removed the lead from people's soils and  
5 from a lot of the alleys and thing they put in -- in a  
6 pile in Collinsville they did that with a lead site they  
7 put it in a pile. Old American Zinc in Fairmont City  
8 are doing now you're putting that in a pile. Sauget  
9 Area 1 and 2 the contaminants were removed and then land  
10 filled and yet in East St. Louis you're just going to  
11 leave in -- in place and put two feet of soil on it.

12 MR. DION NOVAK: Those are much, much  
13 smaller volumes much or manageable volumes up than this  
14 is.

15 MS. ANDRIA: Granite City was 26 --  
16 26 block area.

17 MR. DION NOVAK: Right. Again, I  
18 understand your question and again, the amount of  
19 material on those other scenarios is much, much lower  
20 than the amount of material we're talking about here.

21 MS. ANDRIA: Did Alcoa put a cap on how  
22 much they would spend?

23 MR. DION NOVAK: No.

24 MS. ANDRIA: But they have agreed to pay

1 for the cost of the clean up?

2 MR. DION NOVAK: The next phase after this  
3 remedy selection process is where we negotiate with them  
4 to get them to design and implement the remedy itself  
5 and they've been very cooperative to date.

6 MS. ANDRIA: You list East St. Louis, the  
7 City, as a PRP, and isn't doesn't -- PRP's usually pay a  
8 percentage wise according to their contribution to the  
9 pollution did East St. Louis contribute any pollution.

10 MR. DION NOVAK: East St. Louis is the  
11 owner of property.

12 MS. ANDRIA: But did they didn't contribute  
13 the pollution, Alcoa did.

14 MR. DION NOVAK: They didn't contribute the  
15 pollution, Alcoa did, but under Superfund you can become  
16 responsible if you are an owner operator of a site or if  
17 you're a generator like Alcoa or a transporter if you  
18 take you're company that takes materials from one place  
19 to the other so there's three distinctions on how can  
20 you be responsible.

21 MS. ANDRIA: But East St. Louis doesn't  
22 have the money and Alcoa does it seems that if East  
23 St. Louis St. Since are being impacted health wise that  
24 it's the company that should be paying rather than the

1 city.

2 MR. DION NOVAK: Ultimately we have the  
3 agreement that was put in place in 2002 which was with  
4 both entities and we're going to be negotiating with  
5 both entities as well as to how those costs are  
6 distributed between the two. Again, our -- what we want  
7 to have done is to have the remedy that we've shown as  
8 referred to address the issues to have that put in  
9 place.

10 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Question way in the back.

11 MR. SMITH: I just wanted to point out that  
12 we are currently working on the Old American Zinc site  
13 developing a clean up plan. And the direction we're  
14 going currently is that the waste will be consolidated  
15 and capped on it's site, so it will be similar to what  
16 is proposed here.

17 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Yes, sir.

18 PUBLIC: What's the permeability of the  
19 going to be?

20 MR. DION NOVAK: There is a permeability  
21 requirement in the State of Illinois regulations that  
22 we're using as the basis for putting this in place. In  
23 essence, it's placement of that material and then some  
24 sufficient compaction with a bulldozer driving back and

1     forth and that's what the regulations call for, so it's  
2     not an impermeable cap like some of the ones you might  
3     be --

4                   PUBLIC:  It will be exclusive of a  
5     Sub-Title 'C' landfill cap.

6                   MR. DION NOVAK:  It's -- it's similar to  
7     that, but it's not the normal Illinois EPA State of  
8     Illinois Sub-Title D Cap, correct.

9                   MR. SMITH:  I am Clarence Smith, again.  
10    The cap design based on the age of the waste material is  
11    developed from the Illinois 807 Regulations based on the  
12    age of the material and we're doing that -- we did that  
13    with considerable thought and research into the existing  
14    regulations and the history of those regulations going  
15    back to the late 1950's, early 1960's.  And those  
16    regulations were carried through were current up until  
17    the very early 1990's when Sub-Title D RCRA came into --  
18    came into play.

19                   We're -- we, the State of Illinois, are  
20    trying to maintain consistency with all of these  
21    noncompressible waste sites so as to manage them in a  
22    like manner, because we -- I mean, we have these metal  
23    benefaction -- mineral benefaction waste sites strung  
24    out all over the state.  The wastes that are present are

1 very similar. We have a lot of, you know, the lady  
2 mentioned Great American Zinc and there are a number of  
3 other zinc smelters within a 50 mile radius of where  
4 we're standing right now, some of them are impale sites,  
5 some of them are not, but we're trying to maintain and  
6 develop a consistent approach throughout the State of  
7 Illinois for these type of mineral benefaction sites.  
8 And based on our research based on our best professional  
9 opinion that process, that -- that cap that the end  
10 result is going to meet the 807 standard.

11 Now, there's other -- other performance  
12 standards, I mentioned earlier the closure performance  
13 standard that comes from the RCRA Sub-Title D landfill  
14 requirements, but the cap itself comes from the older  
15 requirements based on the age of the waste, the lack of  
16 the mobility of the waste and the type of waste it is as  
17 i.e., noncompressible it doesn't generate gas, it just  
18 kind of sits there.

19 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Mayor.

20 MAYOR PARKS: Let me, first of all, thank  
21 you for being here to provide this information to us,  
22 much needed, much appreciated.

23 One of the points that I'd like to make and  
24 then ask you about is that I know that the EPA has been

1 looking for a long time at this site. When we talk  
2 about the Missouri Avenue site that's been very  
3 un-useable, quite frankly, has been a nuisance property  
4 due to the fact that there was nothing we could do with  
5 it except watch weeds grow and red clay dirt fly. I  
6 used to play baseball on that field. The old Jackie  
7 Robinson Khoury League Field. Played a lot of years of  
8 baseball on the field as many other children in  
9 East St. Louis played on those fields.

10 My question comes to this and I want you to  
11 put it in as simple and as layman terms as possible, but  
12 put any other technical terms that you need to which is:  
13 Please, give us an understanding that there will be  
14 nothing enhanced when it comes to hazard or danger as a  
15 result of what you're doing.

16 And also tell us how you're improving the  
17 potential safety going forward.

18 I was listening to Mr. Howard's question  
19 and I appreciate Mr. Howard, gentleman here in the green  
20 jacket, and I can appreciate his question, because we  
21 want to make sure that it's nothing that's going to be  
22 seeping into the groundwater. We -- we look at this as  
23 a huge opportunity to take a totally un-useable site and  
24 doing something very, very positive with it. But if you

1 can just assure us, there are a few citizens here and a  
2 public at large who's here, just ensure us that it's  
3 going to be a lot safer, a lot more healthy, a lot more  
4 viable for us, because of economic development  
5 possibilities, but we never want to be seen as a city,  
6 as I know Attorney Wagner has been working very closely  
7 with the situation, we never want to be seen as a city  
8 that puts economics and potential money, a lot more  
9 money, over the health and safety of the community.

10 Can you address that for us?

11 MR. DION NOVAK: Sure. Appreciate it.

12 Thanks for the question.

13 MAYOR PARKS: Yes.

14 MR. DION NOVAK: What -- what our preferred  
15 remedy, the soil cover, is intended to do is intended to  
16 provide the protection from the contaminants that are  
17 present at the site. As based on your investigation, so  
18 we've determined that there's contaminants at the site  
19 that need to have something done to provide the  
20 protection for human health. This -- this remedy, this  
21 two-foot soil cover will do that, it will stop any  
22 potential exposure in the manner that I described so  
23 when we have this soil cover in place over this area  
24 then the issues that we have with contamination will be

1 addressed so you can walk over the top of that and --  
2 and be assured that any risks are addressed by that  
3 cover itself. So that -- that's the first -- that's the  
4 first part.

5           The second part is once we build it, once  
6 we design it and build it and put it in place to provide  
7 those protections we want it to be there over the long  
8 term. And as Clarence described, we -- we not only are  
9 going to design it and build it properly so that it  
10 provides that protection, but we're also going to  
11 maintain it so that it provides that protection over a  
12 long in perpetuity now. So that is what this proposal  
13 what we're suggesting it will do so. And then what it  
14 also does is it removes that eye sore designation, as  
15 you mentioned, and it potentially provides opportunities  
16 for -- for redevelopment of this site that don't exist  
17 today.

18           MR. DAVE NOVAK: And Dion, why don't you go  
19 on to explain the five-year review process where that  
20 fits in.

21           MR. DION NOVAK: We -- we have to operate  
22 and maintain our remedies, as I described, every five  
23 years the Superfund Law says we have to come back and  
24 again, we do those assessments throughout that five-year

1 process, but every five years after we put the remedy in  
2 place we have to come out and provide to the community  
3 an assessment. We call it a five-year review. And that  
4 five-year review says this was what the remedy was  
5 supposed to do, here's how it was built, is it still  
6 doing what it was supposed, what it was supposed to do  
7 and it provides that assessment to the community to say  
8 yes, it is. No, it's not. We got to fix this or yes,  
9 it is and here's how we can demonstrate that it's  
10 continuing to do that.

11 MAYOR PARKS: So you will have an  
12 opportunity to continually test the groundwater?

13 MR. DION NOVAK: The groundwater will be --  
14 it's not part of this phase of the clean up, it's part  
15 of the next phase. And we'll come out and we'll do a  
16 proposed plan just like we're doing tonight for that  
17 next phase and that will address the groundwater and  
18 again, the overall site maintenance and that five-year  
19 review process applies to both of these phases of the  
20 clean up. So, yes, we will be doing monitoring over the  
21 long term for all parts of the remedy, both remedies,  
22 this remedy and then the remedy for the next phase.

23 MR. SMITH: Mr. Howard raises a very good  
24 point from the standpoint of the analogy of having water

1 drip through coffee grounds is a very good analogy  
2 dealing with the site. I can't sit here and say that  
3 we -- that the Illinois EPA, I don't recall us looking  
4 at surface water samples in the lakes. I know that we  
5 did a lot of studies dealing with ecological risks and  
6 things of that nature, but I -- I don't recall right off  
7 the -- right off the top of my head if we took water  
8 samples of the ponds on top of the -- on top of the  
9 disposal areas, that may be a deficiency that we've  
10 identified. I don't know.

11 MR. DION NOVAK: We did.

12 MR. SMITH: You know, so -- but you know,  
13 that's something we've have to go back and check. I'll  
14 ask my project manager when we get back to look at that  
15 and develop a response to that to see if there is or has  
16 been leaching of the alumina into the -- from the  
17 bauxite residue in the surface pond at the site and we  
18 make sure that's component of the response. That's a  
19 very good question, because -- and I don't have the  
20 answer to it.

21 PUBLIC: I have one other question while  
22 we're on the topic: What could the land be used for  
23 once you put your topping on all of this?

24 MR. DION NOVAK: Ultimately what -- what

1 our role is -- is to fix the problems, the contamination  
2 problems. What we then can be approached with by the  
3 owners of the site, we can be approached with we would  
4 like to do this to redevelop the site in this manner.  
5 And then what we, the agencies, Illinois EPA and U.S.  
6 EPA, have to do then is we have to look at how that  
7 proposed reuse impacts what we're doing to protect, you  
8 know, from the contamination issues.

9 PUBLIC: For instance, what if someone  
10 wants to start developing residential property houses on  
11 top of that and of course, they'll be more than are  
12 two-foot deep.

13 MR. SMITH: That would be prohibited.

14 MR. DION NOVAK: That would be prohibited,  
15 yes.

16 PUBLIC: So, I'm asking, you know, the use  
17 of the land once we get through with all that what could  
18 the land be used for other than baseball field?  
19 Something like that.

20 MR. DION NOVAK: Right -- right now the --  
21 the property itself is zoned by the City of East  
22 St. Louis for commercial/industrial. So, any potential  
23 uses in the future would be of that manner  
24 commercial/industrial. It's -- there is -- there will

1 be a preclusion of any residential use.

2 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Mr. Mayor?

3 MAYOR PARKS: Let me share with Mr. Howard  
4 and at this point I know I'm not talking out of school,  
5 because it was in last week's Post Dispatch, Mike, you  
6 please stop me if I'm going too far. It was in last  
7 week's Post Dispatch that there's a company that we have  
8 out of Connecticut that is looking to build a major  
9 solar farm on this property that is a -- an acceptable  
10 use, because as you mentioned, it's a  
11 commercial/industrial use that we have to have. But a  
12 major solar farm means that there will be several,  
13 probably hundreds of solar panels right there for us to  
14 be able to generate energy by way of the sun. We've all  
15 heard of solar energy now. But as a part of this solar  
16 energy being able to come to East St. Louis what we  
17 envision is not only the 600 or so construction jobs for  
18 the solar farm, a lot of electricians will be hired,  
19 will -- will also be about 35 to 40 ongoing jobs at the  
20 site, but what's even more important than the jobs  
21 themselves will be the statement that East St. Louis  
22 will be able to make, which w made in a discussion with  
23 someone earlier today, by the way, is that we have green  
24 energy in the City of East St. Louis. What that will do

1 is attract businesses who want to be able to say we have  
2 and we use green energy. That will be all kinds of  
3 industries that we hope come to East St. Louis as a  
4 result of being able to use green energy, manufacturing  
5 companies, light commercial, residential developments  
6 all can draw from this solar energy that can be created  
7 right here in East St. Louis, that's the plus. It's an  
8 industry and as I just told the reporter from KMOX just  
9 a minute ago, said you're taking a piece of property  
10 that has been until now totally un-useable a total  
11 nuisance property that is now going to be a major  
12 generator of what the country is screaming and begging  
13 for, which is green energy generated right here in  
14 East St. Louis. We might even be able to sell it to  
15 somebody like Ameren.

16 MR. DION NOVAK: Okay. Thank you.

17 PUBLIC: Yeah. As a matter of fact, I --  
18 I -- I do have a solar company I'm partnered with a guy  
19 who's on -- who's registered with the City of East  
20 St. Louis as a master electrician. We have a solar  
21 company and our interests was to participate in this,  
22 because we have guys who do EPA work and we have  
23 installers and which will be getting installers from  
24 some of the various schools in the East St. Louis area,

1 as well as in the St. Louis area that will provide  
2 employment.

3 I notice that on your brochure it was  
4 mentioned that the contamination had moved -- had  
5 migrated south from your border. And I wanted to know  
6 how far did that contamination go?

7 And my -- my understanding is if -- if I'm  
8 going to be submitting a resume to the company from  
9 Connecticut to be a subject contractor then I have guys  
10 working there and I need to know what type of risk --  
11 risk hazard that they may be involved with. So, to you  
12 how far south did that contamination -- was that  
13 contamination? I notice in your brochure that it  
14 mentioned that it -- it migrated south from the borders.

15 MR. DION NOVAK: The contamination that we  
16 found during our studies and again, this is for this  
17 area here, we've also taken samples on these properties  
18 as well, but this area here we have, you know, we have  
19 the information that we need to use to base this  
20 remedy -- this proposed remedy on. So, you know, have  
21 we taken samples in this area, yes. And I'd be happy to  
22 discuss those with you, you know, subsequent to tonight.

23 The idea these properties, again, will be  
24 part of the next phase of our clean up. These

1 properties here will be part of the second phase of the  
2 clean up, again, that will -- that will happen some time  
3 in the future.

4                   What I can tell you is that I would be  
5 happy to put you in contact with -- with the folks that  
6 I've been talking to. There is a health and safety  
7 plan, as I mentioned before, that has to be abided by --  
8 to provide the protection to the workers that are doing  
9 the work. And that's a requirement for -- for me and it  
10 has to be reviewed and approved by the agencies so that  
11 there aren't any undue risks to the workers that are  
12 putting the covering in place. Once the cover is in  
13 place and -- and folks are working on top of the cover  
14 then the cover will provide that protection so people  
15 that are going to be on top will be okay.

16                   PUBLIC: Can you share with us what's in  
17 the second phase.

18                   MR. DION NOVAK: The second phase, again,  
19 with -- are these properties here, will be identical  
20 process as you see in the fact sheets that you have in  
21 front of you. So we'll talk about the contamination  
22 that we found. We'll talk about the risks. We'll talk  
23 about the potential alternatives to deal with, you know,  
24 any risks that we do find. It will be identical to what

1 you see just it will be, you know, the next phase, but  
2 it will be identical to what has gone into what you see  
3 in front of you.

4 PUBLIC: This include the two feet of  
5 cover? Will it include the two feet of soil on top?

6 MR. DION NOVAK: The two feet of soil are  
7 going within this black area here, but not in phase two.

8 Phase two, again, will provide the same --  
9 it will be the same process. The information may not be  
10 the same, but the process will be the same. And you'll  
11 have the opportunity to -- to comment on that proposal  
12 as well.

13 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Lady over here and then  
14 you go ahead.

15 MS. MEDLEY: Yes, I'm Redina Medley. I'm a  
16 current resident of East St. Louis and a former educator  
17 in the city.

18 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Is this question or  
19 comment?

20 MS. MEDLEY: It's going to be a question.

21 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Okay.

22 MS. MEDLEY: And if you'd move over a  
23 little, because I am referring to the map there and this  
24 one that has no identifiable boundaries in terms of

1 words. I heard you say 29th Street, Missouri Avenue and  
2 35th Street, and what I'm concerned with this is basic  
3 question if you could, please, share with me all of the  
4 particular boundaries I mean, everything. I don't see  
5 streets and I -- and from here I can't identify -- I'm  
6 familiar, very familiar, with the City of East St. Louis  
7 and the area, but I'm concerned about when I heard you  
8 say that Khoury League I know where that's at and I had  
9 no idea that that was part of this property. So, I'm --  
10 so, I'm concerned. I would like to know if you would  
11 identify the exact boundaries for me --

12 MR. DION NOVAK: Sure.

13 MS. MEDLEY -- the streets name --

14 MR. DION NOVAK: Sure.

15 MS. MEDLEY -- if you have that.

16 MR. DION NOVAK: Be happy to.

17 Along the south here that is Missouri  
18 Avenue, this red line along the bottom or along, yeah,  
19 bottom part here is Missouri Avenue. This is 29th  
20 Street that goes up here. This is Louisiana turning  
21 into Lake Drive on the top. And then there is  
22 approximately 35th Street over here. And then this is  
23 the Alton Southern Railroad. Those are the boundaries  
24 of the site.

1 MS. MEDLEY: I see it thank you very much.

2 MR. DION NOVAK: You're welcome.

3 MS. ANDRIA: I -- was the -- was the solar  
4 project -- is the clean up contingent upon the solar  
5 project?

6 MR. DION NOVAK: No. No.

7 MS. ANDRIA: This is totally done --

8 MR. DION NOVAK: This will be done  
9 irregardless.

10 MS. ANDRIA: What kind of soil are you  
11 going be using in the cover?

12 MR. DION NOVAK: That's to be determined in  
13 the design it's going to be material that -- and there's  
14 regulations that Bob, I don't know if you want to  
15 address the regulations that Illinois or Clarence, the  
16 regulations that the Illinois EPA has for bringing soil  
17 onto sites on this, but obviously, it's not contaminated  
18 soil. It's appropriate soil.

19 Bob, do you want to --

20 MR. CARSON: It has to be clean soil. And  
21 our regulations says that it must be suitable material  
22 what we use for the test strip project was a silty clay.  
23 I observed the material. It's as good of a clay as  
24 you're likely to get even though we're not designing the

1 landfill cap to be impermeable it's going to be pretty  
2 close to it. So it -- I believe we're going to use the  
3 same type of soil for the actual cap as we use for the  
4 test strip, but it's a good clay.

5 MR. DION NOVAK: And -- and there are --  
6 I'm sorry, there are Illinois -- the State of Illinois  
7 has regulations for that that we're using.

8 MS. ANDRIA: And this company has and  
9 there's a number of solar companies in Massachusetts and  
10 in the east that have been putting solar panels on  
11 landfills, but they said that they have to be in  
12 place -- the cap has to be in place for a long time.  
13 How is this going to be, since the bauxite is very soft,  
14 how is this going to be made structurally sound so that  
15 they're not going to -- it's not going to wear away,  
16 it's not going to crash, it's not going to, you know,  
17 the last thing we need, I agree with the Mayor, would be  
18 wonderful to have East St. Louis be a solar -- a solar  
19 farm and everything, but the last thing we need is for a  
20 project that fails. So, what are you going to do to  
21 make sure that the -- that that cap can withstand  
22 anything built on it?

23 MR. DION NOVAK: Okay. Very good question.  
24 The first -- the first part of the answer so that is --

1 is something that has already been done, which this --  
2 this study that was done last fall where they, in  
3 essence, put two feet of dirt over these bauxite areas,  
4 some of them, very areas and they tested that from then  
5 until now to show that it is, you know, put it in place,  
6 it is stable and it can support the weight on the  
7 surface that it needs to support.

8           So, the first answer is that's the first  
9 part of how we tested it to make sure it was going to  
10 be -- provide that stability that you're asking for and  
11 that obviously, we're asking for the second part of  
12 answer to that is there is the long-term maintenance  
13 that is a normal part of Superfund remedy implementation  
14 that the -- the legal agreement that we're going to put  
15 in place with the City and Alcoa will include that. So,  
16 we will be monitoring that cover over a period of time.  
17 If there's some settlement it will be fixed. If there  
18 is an erosion on -- on some of the site slopes it will  
19 be fixed, that's a normal part of how he would maintain  
20 the remedies to provide that long-term permanence.

21           MS. ANDRIA: That is a flood plane. It is  
22 at risk for severe liquefaction and we are in the New  
23 Madrid fault zone. So, there are --

24           MR. DION NOVAK: Those factors are taken

1 into account when we design the remedy itself, not only  
2 the top part of it, but also the site slopes. Those  
3 are -- those factors are taken into account and there's  
4 factors of safety to provide additional protection.

5 MS. ANDRIA: What is the number of factors.

6 MR. DION NOVAK: That will be part of the  
7 design, but it's typically it's, you know, between one  
8 and 1.5.

9 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Lady in the middle do you  
10 have a question?

11 MS. MEDLEY: Yes, I have a question for the  
12 Mayor if you don't mind, just a real quick one. I read  
13 the article that you referenced in the St. Louis Post  
14 Dispatch, really very informative. I don't know we're  
15 at a point yet where you can answer this or not, but  
16 will you know if there will be a hearing similar hearing  
17 for that development, if so, is it planned yet?

18 MAYOR PARKS: There will be and Attorney  
19 Wagner, help me out, if there's something that I need to  
20 speak to, because I realize that sometimes we can use  
21 the words hearing and other kinds of formats a little  
22 bit interchangeably. Let me make sure that everyone  
23 knows. And Pat, you ask a great question, because the  
24 one thing we want people to know is that before it

1 happens we'll make sure that citizens know exactly what  
2 is coming, because a lot of people don't know. A lot of  
3 people didn't see the Post Dispatch article last week.  
4 And at the same time we need to make sure that they see  
5 the -- the ray of hope on the horizon in that way and  
6 also as it gets a little bit closer just to assure  
7 everyone this is going to be a safe, healthy remedy to  
8 help solve the whole issue of how to produce more green  
9 energy. So, yes, there will be a lot of discussion on  
10 it in city council meetings, city council committee  
11 meetings. I'm not sure, Mike, if it requires an actual  
12 public hearing.

13 ATTORNEY WAGNER: It doesn't -- it doesn't  
14 require a public hearing.

15 I am Mike Wagner, corporate counsel for the  
16 City.

17 It doesn't require a public hearing. The  
18 purpose of the hearing tonight is to have comments on  
19 the remedial part of this, which is the protection of  
20 the environment and human health. And to, you know,  
21 we're creating a platform for potential development and  
22 once we have the details fleshed out as far as the  
23 development project is concerned we'll most definitely  
24 have a public hearing on that issue so that the public

1 can come in and be informed as to what's going to  
2 happen, but there are still details being fleshed out  
3 with that particular project. And the EPA has been very  
4 understanding and working with us, as has Alcoa, in --  
5 in fact, Alcoa has incurred additional expense to  
6 accommodate the City in this -- in this realm to make  
7 sure this site protects human health first and foremost,  
8 protects the environment first and foremost, but is  
9 prepared for this potential development should these  
10 details which we are hopeful that will fall into place  
11 and hopefully we will have an exciting announcement here  
12 in the future, but there will definitely be a hearing  
13 where we can talk about just the solar development once  
14 we have details work out as far as that goes.

15 MR. DION NOVAK: And -- and to add to what  
16 Mike has said we normally -- EPA normally when we get  
17 into design and ultimately when we build remedies we  
18 provide updates to the community through fact sheets,  
19 through availability sessions where we come down and say  
20 here's what we're going to do starting next week, next  
21 month. We normally do that just to keep the community  
22 informed so that you know when you see activity on the  
23 site you know what's going on.

24 MR. DAVE NOVAK: You have a question behind

1 you.

2 PUBLIC: Yes. I want to know how long does  
3 it take for the ground to become sedentary where, you  
4 know, once you purpose of putting tarp or whatever you  
5 want to call it on top of the soil to make it sedentary  
6 outside of keeping the -- the toxins from evaporating  
7 and in the air or moving around, because I look at work  
8 now you have different phases so that means it's going  
9 to be some portions that's going to be exposed and  
10 moving around.

11 MR. DION NOVAK: No, actually, let me --  
12 let me --

13 PUBLIC: Is everything being tarped off at  
14 the same time?

15 MR. DION NOVAK: This area right here is --  
16 we are going to put the soil over the top of that. The  
17 soil is a permanent cover so it will be stable. We're  
18 going -- obviously, we can't put it all at the same  
19 time, so we're going to do either we're going to start  
20 at one side of the site and move to other. Ultimately,  
21 when we're done this area in here is going to have that  
22 cover which is a permanent remedy.

23 PUBLIC: So, I'm asking this question: So,  
24 how long -- how many years is it years that it will

1 take? You said you start in 2007 with this process, so  
2 it takes six years for the ground to become sedentary to  
3 where you need to be at to where it's not going to  
4 erode, you know, from rainwater or you know, just -- I  
5 know that area too is like a lot of water accumulates,  
6 especially on Missouri Avenue, a lot of water  
7 accumulates along that area.

8 And then also Lake Drive too that pond that  
9 usually collects water, because lot of water that rains  
10 and it comes up to the streets sometimes and then goes  
11 down.

12 You see the black portions you talking  
13 about that sits there? So, I'm asking what you're doing  
14 construction -- not have construction going on at all  
15 before we come to sedentary and we have cap on it how  
16 are you doing to do that?

17 MR. DION NOVAK: What -- excellent  
18 question. Right now, again, when we start to build this  
19 two-foot soil cover and again, however, you know,  
20 whatever part of the site we start and then whatever  
21 part we finish at this whole area in about eight months  
22 will have two-foot soil cover.

23 PUBLIC: Eight months it going to take for  
24 the ground to become sedentary and you cap it?

1                   MR. DION NOVAK: Eight months it's going to  
2 take us to put the cover over the top. And when we're  
3 done with the cover over the top that's going to be  
4 permanent and provide that stability that I think you're  
5 asking.

6                   PUBLIC: Right. Right.

7                   MR. DION NOVAK: Right now it's not stable  
8 to the extent that we need it to, when the soil cover it  
9 put in place it will be.

10                  PUBLIC: Is there any way, I know you -- I  
11 don't know how it's going to be -- I don't know how your  
12 structure is going to be as far as amount of rainwater  
13 to filter off into the ponds, but I mean, is there any  
14 way to have some kind of like water purification system  
15 around we have to worry about if the rain is going to  
16 evaporate and it's going to be bad water. Can you have  
17 some kind of water purification set up underground maybe  
18 where it be -- it's all taken care of?

19                  MR. DION NOVAK: We --

20                  PUBLIC: When you have the cap, it's  
21 protecting people or not when you start moving that  
22 around to, you know, to build other structures when they  
23 start bringing in to build on top of that.

24                  MR. DION NOVAK: That's all also a good

1 question.

2                   And Clarence, can you -- can you add to  
3 this? We've -- it's rainwater. And so when the  
4 rainwater collects in the ponds. It doesn't need to be  
5 filtered. It's rainwater. And when it goes over the  
6 top of the cover, the clean cover, it's rainwater, so it  
7 doesn't need to be treated.

8                   PUBLIC: But I'm saying as far as like  
9 taking chance of it maybe -- I know he had asked  
10 evaporation of the water coming through the tarp, but  
11 I'm saying as far as having a water purification system  
12 where it won't be a chance of or thought of water  
13 evaporating and it causes toxins to come out into the --  
14 I mean, no more than what's going on right now, you  
15 know.

16                   MR. DION NOVAK: Actually, right now we  
17 don't have -- that's not an issue. And when  
18 rainwater -- if it's on top of the ground and then it  
19 evaporates it's rainwater that's evaporating, which is  
20 no different than rainwater in your backyard. So,  
21 again, we're putting a clean soil cover over the top and  
22 then we're directing rainwater into these ponds, so  
23 there's no need to do any type of treatment.

24                   PUBLIC: It doesn't reverse on the tarp

1 you're saying, it just goes --

2 MR. DION NOVAK: It's not a tarp. It's  
3 two-foot of dirt.

4 PUBLIC: Okay. So -- oh, you say the cap  
5 is dirt?

6 MR. DION NOVAK: The cap is two feet of  
7 dirt.

8 PUBLIC: So, you don't have anything in  
9 between that direct to --

10 MR. DION NOVAK: No. No, that -- that  
11 two-foot of dirt to provides the protection that we  
12 needed to provide from the contamination that we have  
13 out there.

14 Clarence, you want to add something?

15 MR. SMITH: We, Clarence Smith, again.  
16 We -- in the test trip program that we conducted last  
17 fall in the areas with the -- with the silty clay that  
18 was put out on the site and pushed out on the site we  
19 didn't, but Alcoa contractor did, they pushed the  
20 material, the cap material, out onto the site. They  
21 surveyed in markers that fill material and set markers  
22 to gauge sediment how the material settles over time.  
23 We put a load on this material a load that exceeded what  
24 the expected load of the -- of the potential solar

1 development is going to be. And we saw no settlement of  
2 the -- of the test strips in relation to the surveyed in  
3 markers.

4 Now, those test strips are still out there.  
5 We're still collecting data based on how -- how the  
6 settlement goes. We're in a wet season right now.  
7 We'll see how that -- that part affects those markers.  
8 We don't expect based on what we saw last fall and  
9 through several rain events last fall we don't expect to  
10 see any change in the elevation of those markers that  
11 have been surveyed in. They might -- that might be  
12 something that we have to address in the design phase of  
13 the -- of the program, but based on the information that  
14 we have right now based on the loads that have been  
15 placed on the -- on the material and how the material  
16 was applied, which is exactly the way the material is  
17 going to be applied over the entire site, we did not see  
18 any -- any subsidence or settlement of the clay cover  
19 material when it was placed and during the test strip  
20 program.

21 MR. DAVE NOVAK: If we can hang onto the  
22 questions for just a little bit we're going to go into  
23 the comment period right now. We'll get back to  
24 questions right after this comment period, but the Mayor

1 needs to leave and we'd like to afford him the  
2 opportunity so we could create a little envelope here  
3 for the comment period.

4           During the comments you're welcome to stand  
5 up. Your comment relative to the remedies that are be  
6 proposed here this evening, you have that 30-day period,  
7 the comment period in which to continue your comment,  
8 but to get to them this evening in the oral comments we  
9 are -- yes. Okay. So, we'll get into the comment  
10 period. We will not respond to the comments, but we  
11 will get back into questions after we finish with the  
12 comment period.

13           So, we'll start off with the Mayor.

14           MAYOR PARKS: Well, first of all, let me  
15 apologize for disrupting your evening a little bit here.  
16 I have a childcare issue. My wife is out of town and my  
17 daughter is upstairs in my office and I need to get her  
18 home in the bed.

19           But the main point that I'd like to share  
20 is, first of all, thank you, EPA, for all the work that  
21 you've done, whether Illinois EPA or the U.S. EPA, thank  
22 you for the work that you've done to help ensure that we  
23 now have a useable, while it's limited in it's use, a  
24 useable piece of land here in East St. Louis that will

1 end up being one of the most important pieces of land  
2 that we have in the entire city due to the fact of what  
3 our end use happens to be.

4           The only comment that I'll add is a  
5 reiteration of what you've already stated, which is that  
6 you'll be continually monitoring to ensure that the land  
7 itself is as healthy and as safe for every aspect of  
8 what we have to consider, whether we're talking about  
9 individuals being able to touch the soil or whether  
10 we're worried about the groundwater being what it should  
11 be when it actually goes into whatever other groundwater  
12 happens to be or ended up in the Mississippi River or  
13 where it's supposed to be we want it to be  
14 environmentally healthy and again, healthy for human  
15 life. We don't need to do anything else in this  
16 community that hurts human life. And I'm hearing you  
17 say that you pretty much got it in check and you got a  
18 solution that makes sense. I'm assuming you've been  
19 studying this for well over four years, lot longer than  
20 that probably off and on anyway, ever since going back  
21 to 1960.

22           So, again, keep up the good work. Keep  
23 looking out for not only East St. Louis, but the entire  
24 region that we're talking about here.

1 MR. DION NOVAK: Okay. Thank you.

2 MAYOR PARKS: Nice to meet you.

3 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Any other comments?

4 Again, we're not going to respond to them.

5 So, if you have a comment you're welcome to give it.

6 Yes, ma'am. Your name, spell it and then  
7 give your comment.

8 MR. DION NOVAK: And again, we're not going  
9 to comment tonight, but we will provide responses to  
10 these formal comments as a part of the responsive  
11 summary that I mention in the report.

12 MS. ANDRIA: My name is Kathy Andria,  
13 K-A-T-H-Y A-D-R-I-A. I am president of the American  
14 Bottom Conservancy and conservation chair of the  
15 Kaskaskia Group of the Sierra Club, both of which have  
16 members living in East St. Louis. I'm also a member of  
17 the Illinois EPA Environmental Justice Advisory Group.

18 We welcome the long awaited clean up of the  
19 North Alcoa site. We certainly strongly support the use  
20 of our solar energy and we support bringing projects to  
21 the City of East St. Louis that will benefit it's  
22 citizens. Towards those goals we have questions and  
23 concerns about this project. We want the clean up to be  
24 protective of human health and the environment both now

1 and in the future.

2 We want any solar energy project to be  
3 soundly engineered and constructed and to be financially  
4 viable so that the country does not face another solar  
5 energy disaster like Solyndra that turns citizens  
6 against renewable energy.

7 And we also want to make sure that the City  
8 of East St. Louis does not end up holding the bag.

9 I do have other questions that I would like  
10 to ask after the we go back into the question part.

11 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Okay.

12 MS. ANDRIA: In my comments I just want  
13 to -- part of my comments I do have concerns. I spoke  
14 with a nuclear engineer and I do have concerns about  
15 some of the radio activity on the site.

16 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Any other comments  
17 relative to the proposed remedies?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Any others?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. DION NOVAK: And again, you can make a  
22 comment tonight and you can also make, you know, add to  
23 that comment during the comment period you can add a  
24 separate comment later. So, don't feel that this is

1 your only shot, because you get -- you have a number of  
2 opportunities to provide feedback.

3 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Okay. So, we will end the  
4 comment and we'll get back into questions. Start with  
5 the gentleman in the front.

6 PUBLIC: Yeah, I noted you were talking  
7 about putting two feet of clay on top of red mud that's  
8 real soft, it's real soft. I notice that when they lay  
9 road they -- to concrete work I notice that they'll put  
10 maybe two inch rock and then they'll go back with some  
11 smaller rock and then they'll cover it. Why -- why  
12 wouldn't that be more useable, because if you gonna  
13 construct those solar panels and you have hundreds of  
14 thousands of solar panels, you know, it's weight on the  
15 ground at the time with rain with the weather you would  
16 think that this -- these -- this -- this -- these solar  
17 panels, you know, will -- the ground would -- how you  
18 say -- will give -- it would give to some degree to the  
19 weight of all this on that. So, why didn't they use  
20 rock or is it that the rock would filter the matter? I  
21 don't know what's -- what's the science behind it.

22 MR. DION NOVAK: That's a good question.  
23 The first thing that I will say is that the regulations  
24 that Clarence described before only require the two feet

1 of dirt, that's the first part of the answer.

2                   The second part of the answer is that  
3 the -- the construction equipment that we use to -- at  
4 the time that two feet of dirt or the bauxite material  
5 stressed the soil far more, the weight of that  
6 construction equipment going back and forth stressed  
7 that soil to a much greater degree than the weight of a  
8 solar energy facility, you know, the footprint of that  
9 facility. Underneath the solar itself they're talking  
10 about putting a layer of geo textile and then six inches  
11 of gravel over the top of that from which so that we can  
12 keep the solar panels within the gravel to keep them  
13 stable, obviously, because they need to be stable and to  
14 keep them in place.

15                   PUBLIC: Okay.

16                   MR. DION NOVAK: So -- so, to put it under,  
17 not -- not necessary, to put it over the top it's to  
18 maintain the stability of those panels themselves.

19                   PUBLIC: Okay.

20                   MR. DAVE NOVAK: Yes, ma'am.

21                   MS. ANDRIA: The fact sheet says that  
22 radium and other radionuclides were found at levels  
23 exceeding health standards. What radionuclides at what  
24 level and did you look at the products.

1                   MR. DION NOVAK: We looked at the tea city  
2 products radium 226 and 228 are the main radionuclides  
3 constituents of concern the combination of those two  
4 were as high as 45 parts per curios per gram as I  
5 mentioned before.

6                   There are regulations for radionuclides in  
7 soil and they're all just part of the risk analysis part  
8 of the feasibility study that -- that I'm pointing to  
9 over there has calculations in there to show that the  
10 two feet of dirt not only is going to preclude any  
11 direct contact touching the materials themselves, but  
12 any exposure from the radionuclides coming up through  
13 the soil.

14                  MS. ANDRIA: These are the questions that  
15 were asked by the engineer I talked to. Has there been  
16 an analysis of total curie content estimated to be on  
17 the site? And were each of the elements analyzed as to  
18 their various modes and uptakes in the environment of  
19 their impacts on water, sediment, flora and fawns within  
20 the pond?

21                  MR. DION NOVAK: I would encourage you that  
22 the person that you're quoting here I would encourage  
23 you to have that person look at the feasibility study,  
24 which contains the analyses that we did. The

1 constituents that we analyzed for and the calculation  
2 and the risk analysis that we did to show that our  
3 two-foot proposed remedy will address those issues.

4 MS. ANDRIA: Is the health risk assessment  
5 and the ecological risk assessment on the -- in the  
6 repository.

7 MR. DION NOVAK: It's in the feasibility  
8 study report, yes.

9 MS. ANDRIA: Okay. Okay.

10 PUBLIC: According to your last test do you  
11 have any information stating that the toxins have  
12 crossed the street the Lake Drive area? Because I can  
13 see the pond on the -- well, in my head I can see the  
14 pond. So, when you're saying Lake Drive you have two  
15 sides of the street, because you have one side Louisiana  
16 Boulevard and Lake Drive, you know, we're talking about  
17 between 29th and 35th Street, okay, that boundary. So,  
18 you have some few residents there. Okay. And I'm  
19 asking, because when we travel down Lake Drive many  
20 times that water is on the road and it comes from that  
21 pond that you were talking about and we notice this --  
22 that pond on the Lake Drive side on the -- I would say  
23 we call it maybe Frank Holten kind of park side.

24 MR. DION NOVAK: It's on the south side.

1                   PUBLIC: Yeah, south side. It's very --  
2 we've been watching it for the last several years. It  
3 really looks dangerous and contaminated. And when it  
4 rains we have that street that's almost fleshed out with  
5 water, you know. Many times we have to go around. I'm  
6 wondering -- I'm asking if the contamination has crossed  
7 the street or if that's a part of the -- is it the  
8 entire street or just the south side?

9                   MR. DION NOVAK: It's the south side and --  
10 and we don't have any indication that that's a problem.  
11 I will say that when we design this two-foot cover  
12 remedy and we design the storm water management  
13 component of that remedy this flooding issue here won't  
14 be an issue any more, that's the way it's going to be  
15 designed we'll -- we'll preclude that.

16                  PUBLIC: So, you're saying what I am  
17 looking at is not -- it looks very contaminated.  
18 Sections of that -- that little wilderness looking pond  
19 on the south side it looks bad.

20                  MR. DION NOVAK: It may look bad, but we've  
21 tested it and it's okay. And again, what we're going to  
22 do in this area up here is when the remedy is designed  
23 we're going to make sure that that water stays on the  
24 south side of the road where it should stay. So,

1 that -- that flooding issue, you know, our intent is to  
2 address that by the design of the remedy that we're  
3 proposing here.

4 PUBLIC: Did you do any testing outside of  
5 the boundary?

6 MR. DION NOVAK: Testing for?

7 PUBLIC: For contaminants that are migrated  
8 out, like she's saying about, have you -- have you  
9 tested outside of the boundary?

10 MR. DION NOVAK: We tested the matter in  
11 this area here. And we -- it doesn't have any issues,  
12 any contamination issues like -- like we have elsewhere  
13 on the site here. So, we -- we have done that testing  
14 of the water in that area.

15 MS. ANDRIA: The fact sheet says that more  
16 than a dozen metals were found in various  
17 concentrations. What are the metals? What are the  
18 concentrations? And why have you not listed them in  
19 your fact sheet?

20 MR. DION NOVAK: That's, again, I'm going  
21 to point you to -- this is the main -- the main  
22 support -- the main documentation for this fact sheet.

23 MS. ANDRIA: But that's an important  
24 something that citizens should know to -- in order to be

1 able to make comments on.

2 MR. DION NOVAK: And we encourage --  
3 when -- when we put -- because -- because for us to put  
4 out a fact sheet that this -- that's this long wouldn't  
5 work. So, what we do with your facts is we summarize  
6 the information that's presented in documents like this  
7 and --

8 MS. ANDRIA: It's real easy to list zinc,  
9 blah, blah, blah, you know, it takes two lines, three  
10 lines.

11 MR. DION NOVAK: Those -- those other  
12 contaminants that you're mentioning are not determined  
13 to be primary risk drivers for the -- for the risk  
14 assessment. The risk assessment were the radionuclides  
15 and the lead were the main reasons why the risk is  
16 unacceptable, but we did analyze all those other  
17 contaminants as part of risk assessment.

18 MS. ANDRIA: What is the hundred year storm  
19 water event for the site?

20 MR. DION NOVAK: It's the hundred year  
21 storm. It's -- it's a storm that happens every hundred  
22 years. There's certain --

23 MS. ANDRIA: No, that's --

24 MR. DION NOVAK: What is the number?

1 MS. ANDRIA: We all know that's not true  
2 any more.

3 MR. DION NOVAK: As time goes on as we  
4 gather more information -- what is the actual rainfall  
5 amount? I don't know. I can find that out for you.

6 MS. ANDRIA: Well, I would like to know  
7 that. And I would also like to know how recently it was  
8 calculated, because of climate change we're getting  
9 really intense rain events, all kinds of weather events  
10 and I was wondering if you consider having a five  
11 hundred year or two percent storm -- storm water?

12 MR. DION NOVAK: I'll say that I, and I  
13 think Clarence wants to quote from the study, but we  
14 will say when we design your remedies for water  
15 collection we typically use the hundred year storm. And  
16 we use as recent information as we can, but that's the  
17 normal engineering process where designing storm water  
18 collection for our remedies.

19 Clarence.

20 MR. SMITH: We base the 24-hour hundred  
21 year storm event as being 12 inches of water.

22 MR. DION NOVAK: Twelve inches of rain.  
23 Thank you, Clarence.

24 MR. SMITH: Now whether -- that's whether

1 that's current based on the last 25 years that's what  
2 our -- that's the process we went through. It may be  
3 off an inch or two.

4 MR. DION NOVAK: That's as current  
5 information as we can have.

6 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Yes, sir.

7 PUBLIC: I'm not clear on your storm water  
8 collection. If -- if you have an impermeable cap and  
9 you have no offsite migration of contaminants why are  
10 you collecting storm water?

11 MR. DION NOVAK: Because we're -- we have  
12 to -- we're maintaining the water. We can't sent it  
13 offsite and it has to be managed otherwise it's going to  
14 be, you know, we don't want it to flood surrounding  
15 areas. And so, when we put our cap over the top and we  
16 collect the matter there's two things we can do. We can  
17 either manage it onsite or we send it offsite, either  
18 the local treatment plant or to the sewers to go to an  
19 outfall that goes into the river perhaps, that capacity  
20 doesn't exist here in the city around this site.

21 PUBLIC: So, it's not issue of  
22 contamination?

23

24

1 MR. DION NOVAK: No.

2 PUBLIC: It's an issue of volume.

3 MR. DION NOVAK: It's water management,  
4 yes.

5 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Lady in the middle.

6 PUBLIC: I still have a question regarding  
7 the water, hopefully you all are hearing about the  
8 concern about the water the gentleman up front,  
9 Mr. Howard and the bitching about the water. Those of  
10 us living in the community see these things that he  
11 mentioned and that's a real concern about the water.

12 Now, your comment -- your response to her  
13 was when you examined it there were no contaminants, but  
14 I thought I understood the gentleman from the Illinois  
15 EPA state that you had not done a study of the water.

16 MR. DION NOVAK: We have. Part of the  
17 samples that are collected are of the water, the surface  
18 water, onsite? And we -- and we took that information  
19 and we -- we -- we filtered that through our risk  
20 assessment process to get to the -- to the conclusions  
21 that we have put forth in the proposed plan. So, we  
22 have tested the water and that's, again, contained in  
23 the feasibility study, which is available for you to  
24 look at, to take a look at. If you have questions about

1 that once you look at that I'm more than happy to answer  
2 those questions, but we have done that -- that testing?

3 PUBLIC: I guess my question is could you,  
4 again, state -- you weren't sure about certain water  
5 tests being done. Could you clarify that?

6 MR. SMITH: I was not -- I was not sure at  
7 the time. I since conferred with Chris if we had  
8 analyzed the surface water at the site for contaminants.  
9 Chris tells me we have. I'm looking -- I'm looking at  
10 the feasibility study right now. I see where it's at.

11 To answer the lady in the front row's  
12 question about the contaminants concern we can find that  
13 on page ten of the focus feasibility study. It has a  
14 complete list of the number of samples and the range of  
15 contaminants that are found in the document. This is  
16 why it's so very important if you raise these issues  
17 that you fully analyze and read the documentation that's  
18 been put together. A lot of technical effort has been  
19 put through -- gone through to get us to this phase.  
20 We're not just coming out here, throwing numbers around  
21 and throwing stuff at the wall to see if it sticks. We  
22 have tried to put this process through a very strenuous  
23 technical evaluation to get to this end point. And we  
24 are -- we're trying to provide information to the

1 community, to the public, to any interested party. The  
2 documentation is out there. It's an open and  
3 transparent process. If you have a questions please,  
4 please look at the documents. If you have a question  
5 after that contact Dion or Chris. Our lines are open.  
6 We're glad to help you at any time.

7 MR. DION NOVAK: Thank you, Clarence.

8 And again, if you're -- in looking at the  
9 information that we've provided as the support for this  
10 proposed plan that you -- that you have in front of you,  
11 if -- if in the process of looking at this information  
12 you have additional questions to allow you to make a  
13 better comment please feel free to -- to contact me and  
14 I can answer those questions so that you can, you know,  
15 make the best comment that you can make.

16 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Question here then here  
17 then her.

18 PUBLIC: I have a question. When you --  
19 when you -- when you were here in the area of Lake Drive  
20 area how are you going to elevate that area so that it  
21 won't -- I mean, I know you said that you want to put  
22 some dirt in there, right, to level it off, it will  
23 cover that part up, right? Going to put some dirt in  
24 here?

1                   MR. DION NOVAK: This area within the  
2 black -- within this black almost like a baseball  
3 diamond.

4                   PUBLIC: Lake Drive here.

5                   MR. DION NOVAK: Lake Drive is on the top.  
6 And there's the black line.

7                   PUBLIC: Are you going to put dirt right  
8 there?

9                   MR. DION NOVAK: Within this entire area --

10                  PUBLIC: Uh-huh.

11                  MR. DION NOVAK: -- the remedy that we're  
12 proposing is going to be designed so that it provides  
13 the proper level of protection. Its side slopes -- the  
14 edges of the soil cover are going to be sloped to allow  
15 the water to be directed to those ponds. And the design  
16 of the entire remedy within this area will preclude any  
17 of the water the offsite water issues that we have now.

18                  PUBLIC: I ask that question because, like  
19 I said, that's the part that's rising. I was just  
20 wondering are you going to fill with dirt the level that  
21 it's not a pond in that area or were you going to make  
22 it like you saying an architecture to where it's going  
23 to drift back off to where it's supposed to be and not  
24 go on the street, like I say, I mean.

1 MR. DION NOVAK: You're right, that's the  
2 second part of that.

3 PUBLIC: Have you ever been here at the  
4 time it was raining?

5 MR. DION NOVAK: I have been here a lot,  
6 yes.

7 PUBLIC: I am just asking, because you  
8 know, I say that part right there it's -- it's pretty  
9 much -- when it rains it comes right -- the whole  
10 street. You don't see the street. Slushing through the  
11 street. So, I was just wondering you're going to angle  
12 to where it's drifting back toward where it's going to  
13 be at?

14 MR. DION NOVAK: When we're done with --

15 PUBLIC: And how is it going to be usable  
16 when you get ready, you know, to use it to construct  
17 something on it?

18 MR. DION NOVAK: When we're done with  
19 designing and building this soil cover the water issues  
20 that you're talking about won't happen any more. So we  
21 won't have where the water goes across the street or in  
22 the street, it's all going to stay on the site.

23 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Yes, ma'am.

24 MS. ANDRIA: I wanted to address the

1 gentleman from EPA and -- and you also. East St. Louis  
2 is a recognized environmental justice community and this  
3 project should proceed along environmental justice  
4 guidelines, which they're both federal and state  
5 guidelines. And there should have been more outreach to  
6 the community. We should have more people from the  
7 community here. I learned of this from this Post  
8 Dispatch article. I was delighted to see that the  
9 project was and I -- I -- until today when we got that  
10 there's very little information on the website and  
11 that's not environmental justice the way it's supposed  
12 to be. You're -- you should reach out to the churches.  
13 You should -- the ministers. There are a lot of  
14 organizations in this community. People should know  
15 that in their community. And everybody knows about the  
16 red mud and everybody goes -- who goes to Frank Holten  
17 along Lake Drive sees stuff in the ponds and the ditches  
18 and everything. So, people know -- and you would have  
19 many more people involved than just a few of us who  
20 happen to find out about it. Something like this is  
21 very important and -- and both U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA  
22 should do a better job of community outreach and  
23 environmental justice community.

24 MR. DION NOVAK: I appreciate that -- the

1 question. And -- and -- and we can always do more, you  
2 are correct. We will through a lot of the EPA and  
3 Illinois EPA lead removal activities back in the past  
4 decade. We did a lot of community outreach for those  
5 activities and we worked with a lot of the local  
6 organizations in order to get the information out and  
7 explain what we were doing, the risks and why we were  
8 taking the actions we were taking. But you're right, we  
9 can always do more and -- and we will continue to  
10 provide information so that people in the community know  
11 what's going on.

12 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Lady in the middle and  
13 then you.

14 PUBLIC: Let me ditto what you just said is  
15 what I was going to say that you had stated that we  
16 should have read the study. And I would have loved to  
17 have read the study prior to coming to this meet so that  
18 I would be able to give informed questions or comments,  
19 but I just learned about this, same as you. And I'm  
20 very disappointed that the majority of the community is  
21 not represented here, because I know this community is  
22 concerned about red hill, that's what we call it, red  
23 hill. And that more people would have been here had the  
24 churches been notified that there was a public hearing.

1 I'm disappointed in that point.

2 I am delighted that you are doing what  
3 you're doing, but it's just disappointing that the  
4 community was not made aware that you're here tonight.

5 Then the other question that I have, which  
6 is a very, I guess, elementary, but I'm sure that most  
7 people would ask, and again, it goes back to what we see  
8 the water, the contaminants that we see on Lake Drive  
9 when you look at that or if you've been up on red hill,  
10 as we call it, there's -- there's nothing living.  
11 There's no life. What -- when that water hits the air  
12 that she's speaking of off Lake Drive everything dies  
13 there. So, we have a concern if a plant can't live in  
14 that how is it that it's not contaminated for human  
15 beings? It's really elementary, but been like this for  
16 years that -- that black area is just a black pond. And  
17 when it's real hot it dries out and it stays dried out,  
18 whatever is there. You can maybe see some litter maybe  
19 down there that's down under there, tires, whatever  
20 else, but when you go toward the hill to go up the hill  
21 you got, you know, that grow over there by the train  
22 track area back over there you have reservoir area over  
23 there, but that black area down there it's just water  
24 that fills up there and goes down, evaporates and it's

1 gone.

2 MR. DION NOVAK: The nature of the  
3 materials that are out there the Ph of the materials  
4 that are out there it's really -- it's -- that's the  
5 root reason why you don't see a lot of plant life out  
6 there, because the Ph in the materials, the waste  
7 materials in the soil doesn't support -- doesn't have  
8 the organic content to support the vegetation. Doesn't  
9 mean it's contaminated, it just means you don't have the  
10 proper Ph in order to grow the vegetation.

11 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Yes, ma'am on the wall.

12 PUBLIC: And thank you for that response.  
13 That's clear. I understand a little bit about Ph.

14 Okay. Going back to the community and  
15 awareness and going back to the boundary because I'm  
16 concerned about 29th Street and the Louisiana Boulevard  
17 where I think there's a church right there and we have  
18 some more residents and in terms of making them aware  
19 did -- were they informed, because that a part of the  
20 boundary those few people, not few, you know, but 29th  
21 and Louisiana Boulevard it's like a couple of blocks.

22 MR. DION NOVAK: We -- Dave, you can  
23 describe how we put out the information for this. We --  
24 we can and will be developing a mailing list so we can

1 have people to send information to and that's been an  
2 ever expanding ever changing kind of thing.

3 MR. DAVE NOVAK: We did not have -- I did  
4 not have -- I -- just not to distant future or future I  
5 was assigned to this. There was no mailing list. So, I  
6 had nobody no send material to. We went through the  
7 City, used the City, we used a few organizations to get  
8 some of the word out and the sign-in sheet at the back  
9 is another way of getting our mailing list expanded.  
10 So -- and we did put the announcement in two newspapers.  
11 So, it was out there, not enough, agreed.

12 PUBLIC: I am thinking about those people  
13 who are really directly affected being informed, you,  
14 know give them at least a choice, an option not to show  
15 up.

16 MR. DION NOVAK: I am going to ask  
17 Mike Wagner to kind of explain how we tried to work with  
18 him to get to as many people as we could.

19 MR. WANGER: We reached out through the  
20 neighborhood organizations and we did notice some of  
21 churches.

22 As far as those houses on Louisiana that is  
23 something -- the City's been involved in this process  
24 for more than a decade now. And we reached out to those

1 houses early on. And we did -- we got permission from  
2 them and did testing in their yards. We have had  
3 individual contact with those houses, with those  
4 properties. And we've given them the technical data  
5 that we've obtained as far as testing the soils in their  
6 areas. And so, they're very well aware of what's going  
7 on. We didn't reach out to them individually about this  
8 hearing tonight, but they have had information years in  
9 advance of -- we got permission from them and actually  
10 did the test borings in their yard and give them the  
11 data of what that there is. And in fact, if you look at  
12 how that site is actually drawn on the northwestern  
13 corner there those houses were excluded. And the reason  
14 they were excluded was because we didn't want to have to  
15 include them if there was no contamination. And we were  
16 very careful in that area of determining whether the  
17 contamination stopped.

18                   So, in answer to your question the City,  
19 Alcoa and EPA were very conscious of the homes that were  
20 included within the project area, as well as the  
21 businesses too that are down on the 29th Street and  
22 Missouri Avenue corridor and those are addressed in the  
23 second part of the clean up that Mr. Novak talked about  
24 that's coming up later on. So, just to answer that I

1 just wanted to make the record clear that there was a  
2 lot of contact with the citizens in those areas and they  
3 were given not only notice, but this testing done on  
4 their property and they were given this information so  
5 they knew what was going on.

6 PUBLIC: Thanks for answering my questions,  
7 because I was wondering why they were left out.

8 MR. WAGNER: It was specifically determined  
9 that the testing in that area was much more concentrated  
10 and it was specifically determined that the properties  
11 were to be excluded.

12 MR. DAVE NOVAK: You've got my e-mail  
13 there. If you would be so kind as to send me some  
14 information on some of the organizations that you think  
15 we should reach out to, you know them far better than I  
16 do, so send them to me. We can at least send -- if it's  
17 a church we'll get it into their newsletter, into their  
18 bulletin if we're going to have more meetings and more  
19 activities going on.

20 But I don't know the community it's  
21 impossible for me to know everybody here, every  
22 organization. So, I solicit yours and everybody else's  
23 help in getting that information out. So you've got my  
24 e-mail address, very easy, Novak dot Dave EPA dot gov

1 and I'm be happy to include them in a mailing list.

2 MR. SMITH: You can also contact the  
3 Illinois EPA Environmental Justice Coordinator, his name  
4 is Ken Page. He can be reached at Kenneth dot Page at  
5 Illinois dot gov. And you can contact Ken. We notified  
6 him of this meeting tonight. I don't know if something  
7 came up, whatever, but we have been working internally  
8 with the Illinois through our environmental justice fist  
9 coordinator to address -- we know this is an  
10 environmental justice issue. It was very concerning to  
11 us that -- that we make people aware of it. And we're  
12 trying to coordinate that through the existing protocols  
13 that we have.

14 And if there's additional information, if  
15 you have outreach groups, again, you can contact  
16 Mr. Novak, you can contact Mr. Page, you can contact me  
17 and I'll get you in contact with Mr. Page, you know,  
18 however, it works. We will make sure that you get  
19 contact with the people you need.

20 MR. DION NOVAK: And putting their names  
21 and addresses on our mailing list so we can send you --  
22 we will then send you updates as we get through the  
23 design and construction process and beyond we can then  
24 send the facts sheet that you see directly to the people

1 that asks for it.

2 MR. DAVE NOVAK: If you didn't sign it when  
3 you came in please do so before you leave.

4 MS. TOLDEN-HUGHES: Andrea Tolden-Hughes.  
5 I am TIFF Director for the City of East St. Louis and  
6 Economic Development.

7 I'm standing because on behalf of the City,  
8 of course, as Attorney Wagner is one of the things I  
9 want to mention is that the City is concerned and we  
10 want to get the message out. Just like Mike said  
11 earlier one of the things that the City has done to make  
12 sure we're reaching out is we look at the camera there,  
13 that is our local channel, East St. Louis channel, this  
14 is going to be aired on our local channel. So, I would  
15 like when you speak of addresses for people to contact  
16 you get closer to the camera, because the microphone  
17 only carries, speak into the camera, let our citizens  
18 know exactly where you're located, give them the e-mail  
19 addresses, because it's not going to carry as far as  
20 from back here. Tell them. Look into the camera, let  
21 them know how to contact you so the ministers can  
22 contact you, because they're going to view this. And  
23 they will contact you, lot of them were not -- probably  
24 did not know, they didn't read the papers. We have a

1 paper, I think it was in, monitored as well as the  
2 Belleville News Democrat, but just in case they missed  
3 it.

4           We as a City, because we are responsible,  
5 we want other citizens to know what's going on here in  
6 East St. Louis. We have called in our local channel for  
7 this so it's going to get out. This is another medium,  
8 of course, to reach -- to let our citizens know what's  
9 going on. Anything that we can do to answer questions  
10 or to guide our citizens to the Illinois EPA, as well as  
11 U.S. EPA we're glad that they came -- drove down from  
12 Chicago, as well as in the area to let you know what's  
13 going on. This is the first phase, of course. This is  
14 going to contain this. So, let's get this clear we want  
15 the EPA to work with us to contain the outdoor site for  
16 years. It's just out there. We don't know what's  
17 happening right now. If we don't contain it now then  
18 years later we'll be back with more problems. You  
19 understand where we're going to have human -- human  
20 saying hey, I went to the doctor and maybe something  
21 drastic can happen.

22           So, we're glad you're here. We're glad  
23 that you're going to work on containing this site. I'm  
24 sure that's your field it's not my field the best way to

1 contain the site. I'm glad to see you're not going to  
2 cheap way. And you're saying that the best way is to  
3 put a cover over it. I'm glad to hear that, because I  
4 see in -- in the -- in the proposal here you have two  
5 different proposals, one was a cheap way, you could have  
6 said okay, let's go that way, but you said no, that's  
7 not good enough for the citizens of East St. Louis.  
8 We're going to go the expensive route. We're going to  
9 cover it up. We're going to contain it.

10 So, we appreciate that. I know this is not  
11 the comment section, but I -- I wanted to -- I wanted to  
12 speak and let the citizens know that the City of East  
13 St. Louis we're responsible. We're concerned and we  
14 want you to know what's happening and we also want to  
15 make sure that it's done correctly. Thank you.

16 MR. DION NOVAK: Would you, first of all,  
17 thank you for that.

18 And Dave just asked me, would you like  
19 that -- I think you weren't here earlier. We had a  
20 normal comment period.

21 MS. TOLDEN-HUGHES: I was here.

22 MR. DION NOVAK: Would you like that to be  
23 a comment or just a statement or question? It's totally  
24 up to you.

1 MS. TOLDEN-HUGHES: That would be a  
2 comment.

3 MR. DION NOVAK: Okay. It will be a  
4 comment.

5 Our contact information is in the fact  
6 sheet. I will say it directly. I'm Dion Novak. My  
7 e-mail is Novak N-O-V-A-K dot D-I-O-N at EPA got G-O-V.  
8 My number is 312-886-4737.

9 MR. DAVE NOVAK: And mine is Novak dot Dave  
10 just change the Dion to Dave at EPA dot gov. And my  
11 phone number is 312-886-7478 or put it on our dime  
12 1-800-621p8431 and his extension is --

13 MR. DION NOVAK: My telephone number is my  
14 extension.

15 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Yeah, just use that 800  
16 toll free number. You can get ahold of me or Dion.

17 MR. DION NOVAK: And I would also like to  
18 ask if Chris-- Chris Hill and Tom Miller could also  
19 stand up and give your contact information from the  
20 Illinois EPA. They're in the back, please.

21 MR. HILL: Christopher Hill from the  
22 Illinois EPA and my e-mail address is Christopher dot  
23 Hill at Illinois dot Gov and the phone number is  
24 217-782-9292.

1 MR. DION NOVAK: Thank you.

2 MR. MILLER: Tom Miller at the Illinois EPA  
3 from the Collinsville Regional Office. My phone number  
4 is 618-346-5120. My e-mail address is T-O-M dot  
5 M-I-L-L-E-R at Illinois dot gov. That's spelled out.  
6 Thanks.

7 What's your position with the Collinsville  
8 Regional Office?

9 MR. MILLER: Site project manager in the  
10 Springfield headquarters.

11 Thank you, guys.

12 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Great comment, ma'am. We  
13 appreciate that.

14 Yes, ma'am.

15 MS. ANDRIA: I'm looking long term now.  
16 You mentioned that every five years that you visit. I  
17 have like three questions, I'm going to put them all out  
18 at once. Is there a followup plan for contingencies  
19 that develop in the future in between the five years?

20 Will you require?

21 MR. DION NOVAK: Can we do them one at a  
22 time?

23 MS. ANDRIA: As long as I don't get cut  
24 off. Okay. Sure.

1                   MR. DION NOVAK: That's fine. The first  
2 one: Our five year review process can be or a five-year  
3 review is a statutory process, it's required by the law.  
4 And every five years we have to come forth and evaluate  
5 how protective the remedy continues to be. And anything  
6 that's done to maintain that protectiveness in that  
7 five-year period, any -- any fixes to the remedy that  
8 need to be put into place for whatever reason have to be  
9 documented in that five-year review.

10                   MR. DAVE NOVAK: That review starts at the  
11 completion of the remedy.

12                   MR. DION NOVAK: Of the construction, yes.

13                   MS. ANDRIA: But that -- what happens if  
14 like solar panels, for instance, are put on there and  
15 somehow something gives way? Do you have written  
16 into -- are you able to go back and -- and do fixes?

17                   MR. DION NOVAK: Oh, yes. Yes.

18                   MS. ANDRIA: Okay.

19                   MR. DION NOVAK: The legal document that I  
20 talked about of -- not only talks about the design and  
21 the construction, but it also talks about the long-term  
22 maintenance and there are requirements for that.

23                   MS. ANDRIA: Is there some point when Alcoa  
24 receives a no further action letter?

1 MR. DION NOVAK: If there's no longer  
2 contamination issues down the road, yes, but that's  
3 many, many, many years down the road.

4 MR. DAVE NOVAK: The five years keep going  
5 on.

6 MR. DION NOVAK: We are maintaining waste  
7 in place, so as long as there's waste in place these  
8 reviews have to continue.

9 MS. ANDRIA: If something happens on like  
10 on the site where they're going to put solar panels if  
11 they put the solar panels who's responsible, Alcoa or  
12 the solar company or is that something that has to be  
13 negotiated?

14 MR. DION NOVAK: That's something that has  
15 to be worked out, but the maintenance of the remedy, the  
16 two foot of soil, the company that we're here for  
17 tonight is Alcoa and the City's responsibility.

18 MS. ANDRIA: Has all the soil that is the  
19 20 tanks from back in the 80's has that all been cleaned  
20 up? They've all been removed and there's no  
21 contamination left from that?

22 MR. DION NOVAK: We did some testing on the  
23 south side of Missouri Avenue, I don't know the answer  
24 to that question, other than the testing that we did

1 which didn't show any contamination levels of concern.

2 MR. SMITH: I will answer that there was a  
3 clean up of the U.S. Steel drum site back in the late  
4 80's where they removed -- the PRP the people that are  
5 responsible for taking the drums to that recycling  
6 facility actually paid for a major clean up and most of  
7 the waste and all the drums were removed at that time.

8 MS. ANDRIA: There's no soil contamination.

9 MR. DION NOVAK: All the waste materials  
10 went in the area within the black or within the red area  
11 there.

12 MS. ANDRIA: And then I have one other  
13 question about you said that there's no ecological  
14 impact on wildlife, but we're in the Mississippi River  
15 Fly Way. Frank Holten has a lot of shore birds, all  
16 kinds of wonderful birds, they don't read signs that say  
17 poison tank; how -- what do you -- how do you say that  
18 there's no risk to the -- to wildlife?

19 MR. DION NOVAK: There was as part, and  
20 you'll see that in the feasibility study, there was an  
21 analysis done of ecological risk and that included being  
22 onsite walking around looking to see what potential  
23 habitat might be there and that all was factored into  
24 the analysis that we did that came up with the

1 conclusion that there wasn't any risk, that was a pretty  
2 extensive investigation to look at that issue.

3 MS. ANDRIA: When they put this -- they put  
4 the solar panels will they have to put -- you said -- I  
5 wrote down what you said what they were going to do and  
6 that sounded a little alarming geo textile six inch  
7 grove or something.

8 MR. DION NOVAK: Gravel.

9 MS. ANDRIA: Oh, gravel. Gravel. That  
10 doesn't sound very sturdy to support solar panels.

11 And I was -- I was wondering do -- won't  
12 they have to drill into the soil?

13 MR. DION NOVAK: No. No, the way -- do you  
14 want me to answer first, Clarence, or --

15 MR. SMITH: I can help you out.

16 MR. DION NOVAK: Okay. Go ahead.

17 MR. SMITH: This is Clarence Smith again.

18 The way the design was contemplated for the  
19 solar panel field, and I forgot how many solar panels  
20 would be there, it's a lot.

21 MR. DION NOVAK: A lot.

22 MR. SMITH: There will be a geo fabric on  
23 top of the two-foot of compacted clay material. There  
24 will be six inches of gravel. Gravel is a relative

1 term. It will probably be between three-quarter and one  
2 inch size rock, crushed rock. And on top of that the  
3 panels will be installed. Now, the panels will probably  
4 be installed on a footing, a two-foot wide by eight-foot  
5 long concrete footing, every so often and that load that  
6 that panel will put on that specific area is about half  
7 a pound per square inch. It's not a lot. If you  
8 distribute among -- over that gravel it's going to be  
9 even further diluted before it gets to the cap material.  
10 We don't anticipate it's like a -- it's like the  
11 traditional macadam gravel road, which is compacted and  
12 placed on it. So, it's size such that a steel wheel  
13 doesn't penetrate into it. That's the -- that's the  
14 whole design philosophy behind that size of gravel  
15 pursuant to the load. Each -- each of the solar panel  
16 arrays will have probably three of these padded feet on  
17 them, the panels themselves, and negligible weight to  
18 the overall array. So, at most we're going to be  
19 looking at a load of the solar panel of about one PSI,  
20 which is not a lot.

21 MR. DION NOVAK: Ultimately the way that  
22 the design of that -- that system is presented -- been  
23 presented to us, as Clarence describes, is it's very  
24 much sufficiently based so there's really not an impact

1 to the subsurface from putting that on the top. And the  
2 gravel is put into place to keep them from moving. I  
3 mean, they move a little bit, but it's designed to keep  
4 them as stable as necessary.

5 MR. SMITH: The test load was about a  
6 ten-foot tall cone that was placed on it to determine  
7 what kind of settlement it would get, so it's much  
8 greater than one PSI.

9 MR. DION NOVAK: We stress the soil much  
10 greater by putting the test load on there than we would  
11 ever do with the solar facility.

12 PUBLIC: I haven't seen many solar farms,  
13 but the few I have seen on in pictures and on television  
14 they were on like flat land so for this area -- some of  
15 this area is not flat.

16 MR. DION NOVAK: They're going to be -- the  
17 area of the cover where they're going to go would be the  
18 flat part of the cover.

19 MS. ANDRIA: Are they going to smooth out  
20 the mud piles?

21 MR. DION NOVAK: Oh, yeah. Yeah. The top  
22 of the cover is going to be smooth. It will be sloped  
23 on the side, but the top will be contoured to be smooth  
24 and as level as possible.

1                   PUBLIC: I understand what you're saying is  
2 you're saying, basically, they're not going to use all  
3 of that land.

4                   MR. DION NOVAK: It's not going to be the  
5 entire amount, no, that's correct.

6                   PUBLIC: Okay.

7                   MR. DAVE NOVAK: Go ahead.

8                   MS. ANDRIA: Why was this -- I've been  
9 doing environmental stuff for a long time and I never  
10 heard of a Superfund Alternative Site. And I wondered  
11 why this site was chosen to be an Superfund Alternative  
12 Site.

13                  MR. DION NOVAK: That I would have to -- I  
14 could get the -- the criteria that we use to make this.  
15 This wasn't the only site that we call a Superfund  
16 Alternative Site back about ten years ago when -- when  
17 this officially became designated such, but I can  
18 certainly get you that information.

19                  MS. ANDRIA: Are -- are there any others in  
20 Illinois.

21                  MR. DION NOVAK: Yes, there's others. Our  
22 region, Region 5, which is where I'm based out of  
23 Chicago, we have the six states here in the Midwest and  
24 they're in each of the states. There are a number in

1 each of the states.

2 MS. ANDRIA: Are -- is there anything that  
3 would link them together like are they all in  
4 environmental justice communities?

5 MR. DION NOVAK: No. No. Again, we can  
6 get you that list.

7 MS. ANDRIA: Just curious.

8 MR. DION NOVAK: Definitely get you the  
9 criteria that we use to make the distinctions. I'd be  
10 happy to send you an e-mail, be happy to get this  
11 information to you or for you.

12 MS. ANDRIA: Thank you.

13 MR. DION NOVAK: Superfund alternate sites  
14 are we use the Superfund process much in the same way  
15 that we use for all the over Superfund sites that we  
16 deal with the only distinction that the Superfund  
17 alternate site is not on the Superfund list, that's the  
18 distinction. So, this site is not on the Superfund  
19 list, but we're using all the Superfund regulations.

20 PUBLIC: I was going to ask you at what  
21 point in time, I know talking about new jobs come in, at  
22 what point in your process are you going to start  
23 employing people from local area? And what is the  
24 procedure? What is the procedure going to be for them

1 to have to go through as far as where they apply at,  
2 you -- you know? Do they have to contact e-mail? Call  
3 you or will you have local office here for them to go to  
4 to -- to apply for a job? And will you have training  
5 for people who want to work or how is that going to go?

6 MR. DION NOVAK: I'm going to ask Mike to  
7 kind of speak from a City on the City's behalf.

8 I will say that we typically, you know, the  
9 City and Alcoa are, in essence, going to be running the  
10 project under the approval that -- the review and  
11 approval of Illinois EPA and U.S. EPA. And we typically  
12 use local union to the extent that we can to get people  
13 that are local to work local.

14 PUBLIC: Before you -- before you answer  
15 that question now they had a other jobs that were  
16 promised to East St. Louis since our local people in the  
17 area and when you say unions they just recently had lot  
18 of protests for jobs for African American minority  
19 contractors and people that were, you know, were  
20 promised jobs, but didn't get them, because they were  
21 asking for people from unions and -- and -- and the  
22 union people were not calling for African Americans the  
23 jobs or contractors. How is it going to be monitored  
24 where the contractor the Local Union 100 union or

1     whatever, I don't know what other union that you use.  
2     Are you going to use local East St. Louis area,  
3     Belleville area, you know, Waterloo? How far are you  
4     going to go when you start looking for people that are  
5     going to be working? Will it be people from  
6     East St. Louis, because like I say, they -- they -- they  
7     just had a huge -- I'm sure you heard of it, you know,  
8     huge protection for months to try to get jobs for people  
9     in the local area -- in this area here and you know,  
10    people stood on out there protesting. So, what's going  
11    to come to jobs of East St. Louisians.

12                   MR. WAGNER: And remember, you know, we  
13    kind of go off to the solar part of this project and  
14    we're not really here tonight to talk about that and  
15    there's a different answer to your question as it  
16    pertains to that part of the project as it does to this.

17                   This project has a -- has a technical  
18    nature to it and there is, you know, as a remediation  
19    worker there has to be certain training you have to  
20    have, you know, OSHA certification to work on a site  
21    like this. The City has worked with Alcoa and in fact,  
22    Alcoa has been proactive in working with the City and  
23    identifying contractors that would qualify under this.  
24    And what would happen is -- is Alcoa and the City will

1 choose a primary contractor that will handle that. And  
2 then they will have subcontracting jobs and you know,  
3 the City will look at that and make sure that we have  
4 individuals for this phase of the construction that are  
5 qualified to do that work.

6           Qualified is the operative word, because of  
7 the technical nature. What happens here this isn't  
8 going to be a project where you're drawing labor out of  
9 Local Labor 100, that's the kind of work this is. So,  
10 we would be working with East St. Louis contractors to  
11 the extent that we have qualified contractors and that  
12 those contractors also meet the criteria that need to  
13 happen to work on this specific project.

14           Now, as you move towards the solar part of  
15 it we have also been working with the company that is  
16 looking at the solar aspect of this in working with the  
17 IBEW in training specifically East St. Louis residents  
18 to learn how to install these panels and that would be a  
19 transferable skill for those folks. And you're talking,  
20 when we get to that phase of it, you're talking on the  
21 ordinance of about 300 construction jobs. So, that is a  
22 part of it where we really can capitalize on training  
23 and really reaching out to the community. This first  
24 part there's not really as much an opportunity to do

1 that, but to the extent it is the City is, obviously,  
2 very conscious of that and we will always try to help  
3 our residents, you know, kind of participate in a  
4 project of this magnitude, so...

5 PUBLIC: So, what is the timeline to when  
6 people start expecting jobs to come? What is  
7 the timeline looking at as far as once you get past the  
8 first phase?

9 MR. WAGNER: I don't know. I can't answer  
10 that. I don't want to give a timeline, because if I  
11 don't hit a timeline, you know, I'd like to give you a  
12 timeline and surprise you and be ahead of that. Just to  
13 know that that specific part of the phase that part that  
14 involves the solar panels is still not down in stone and  
15 that's why as the City, you know, we're excited about  
16 the opportunity. We're excited that the article was in  
17 the paper, but there are still details that need to be  
18 worked out to make sure that that project as Ms. Andria  
19 pointed out is financially viable and nice, solid  
20 project that we can all be proud of. We're confident  
21 that's going to occur. Once that happens and we're back  
22 here talking about that project then that we'll have  
23 answers to your questions, but know that that part of  
24 the project has a very large component to it that that

1 is looking for training and job -- long-term job skills  
2 coming from local labor.

3 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Yes, ma'am.

4 MS. ANDRIA: I just want to thank you all  
5 for answering all the questions and for the nice  
6 contingent of people from Illinois EPA coming. And look  
7 forward to the next steps.

8 And I was thinking maybe Alcoa might want  
9 to out of the bottom of their heart want to put some  
10 money toward training some East St. Louis citizens in  
11 hazardous us clean up.

12 PUBLIC: On that right there, I don't know  
13 if Mayor Parks told you all or not, but he does  
14 frequently clean ups and started last weekend it was  
15 scheduled to start last weekend, but it rained and every  
16 Saturday he has clean ups and that would go -- that  
17 would be great to learn, you know, about.

18 MS. ANDRIA: It's really rigorous training.

19 PUBLIC: But he does do different precincts  
20 throughout the City doing clean ups, so that would --  
21 that would be a great thing to have for the citizens.

22 MR. DAVE NOVAK: I'd like to thank you for  
23 all your questions and keeping us honest and letting  
24 that information get out.

1 MR. DION NOVAK: If anyone has any other  
2 questions that you think of after you leave tonight, I'm  
3 sure you will, please send me an e-mail and ask those  
4 questions or send an e-mail to Illinois EPA as well.  
5 We'll be happy to provide those.

6 Thanks. I mean, a lot of great questions.

7 It's important that you understand what  
8 we're doing. And I hope that our presentation and our  
9 response to your questions help you better understand so  
10 that not only you know what we're proposing to do, but  
11 you know what your response to that might be.

12 MR. DAVE NOVAK: You've got our e-mail  
13 addresses. We don't have yours. If you've got  
14 organizations that you think can help us help you let us  
15 know about it. You live here I don't.

16 PUBLIC: We'll be sending you comments.

17 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Great.

18 PUBLIC: We will send information to you.

19 Yes, we do have your e-mail.

20 MR. DION NOVAK: Thank you all for coming.

21 MR. DAVE NOVAK: Thank you all.

22

23 Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

24

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS )

) SS

2 COUNTY OF ST. CLAIR )

3

4 I, Bobbi L. Hamlin, a Certified Court Reporter  
5 in and for the County of St. Clair, State of Illinois,  
6 DO HEREBY CERTIFY that there appeared before me on April  
7 17, 2012, at the City Hall of East St. Louis, East St.  
8 Louis, Illinois, parties appeared and commented touching  
9 upon the matter in controversy aforesaid so far as  
10 concerning the same; the comments were taken down in  
11 shorthand by me and afterwards transcribed and said  
12 public hearing is herewith returned.

13 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
14 hand this 26th day of April, 2012.

15

---

16 Registered Merit Reporter

Illinois License #084-002797

17 Missouri License #1183

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