

FW 96-7

Administrative Record

FORT WINGATE DEPOT ACTIVITY, GALLUP, NEW MEXICO

Document No. 96-7

*Fort Wingate Depot Activity,
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting,
September 10, 1996*

Paul Baca Professional Court Reporters

September 1996



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FORT WINGATE DEPOT ACTIVITY
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING
Tuesday, September 10, 1996
6:30 p.m.
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115 WEST HILL AVENUE
GALLUP, NEW MEXICO

A P P E A R A N C E S

RAB MEMBERS

LARRY D. FISHER, TEAD
Environmental Division Engineer
BRAC Environmental Coordinator (FWDA)
Directorate of Industrial Risk Management
Tooele Army Depot, SDSTE-IRE
Tooele, Utah 84074

MALCOLM WALDEN
BRAC Transition Coordinator
Fort Wingate, New Mexico

LYNN SHELTON
Environmental Manager/Giant
Bloomfield, New Mexico

ROBERT (BOB) HERREN
Gallup, New Mexico 87301

REPORTED BY: Beverly Ann Schleimer, CCR #66
Paul Baca Professional Court Reporters
400 Gold Avenue, SW, Suite 200
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE ROSTER

- 1
- 2 Joe Mares
David Kelly
- 3 Carol Youkey
Roseria Duwyenie
- 4 Cecil W. Morgan
Mary Jane Stell
- 5 Gerald Curley
J. Roy Murphy
- 6 Allen Sedik
Mark N. Cadman
- 7 Timothy A. Alexander
Arlene Luther
- 8 Charles Hendrickson
Steven Egnaczyk
- 9 Chris Whitman
Bob Sweeney
- 10 Dwayne Ford
Katrina M. Agemian
- 11 Dennis Mulnix
Phillip Solano
- 12 Robert Menapace
Norma Cady
- 13 Calvin Quimayousie
Ann Sasahara
- 14 Duane Johnson
Debbie McBride
- 15 Douglas W. Decker
Tom Turner
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P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. FISHER: We would like to welcome everyone here tonight on the Fort Wingate RAB meeting, Restoration Advisory Board Meeting. This is the most people we have had in a long time, and it's kind of nice. Usually we are talking, maybe one person out here. Dave is usually the only one that shows up. But, anyway, we are glad to have you here.

A couple of things here, we would like everybody to fill out the sheets that are in the back to make sure that we have your name and your phone number, and hopefully your fax number, if you have a fax number there, so that we can send information to you and get it to you faster that way, if anything happens with the agendas or anything else like that.

Also, the reason we have it set up like -- we might have it set up a little bit different next time, but the reason we have it set up like this is this is basically that the Restoration Advisory Board members were supposed to be sitting around the table here and Phil -- I know Phil doesn't like to sit up here.

MR. SOLANO: I am not a BCT member.

MR. FISHER: Oh, he is, okay. We usually have Phil sitting up here. That's fine. And my co-chair for the Restoration Advisory Board meeting is Lynn

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1 Shelton, he just came in, he is signing up here, so he
2 will come on back. This might be unusual, but what I
3 would like to do is -- I would like to just go around and
4 have everybody introduce their selves, so you kind of know
5 who all of the players are here, or who everybody is, so
6 you won't be looking around and saying, "Hum, somebody --
7 he looks familiar, I wonder who he works for," or you
8 know, "Why he is here," or whatever. So, we will just
9 wait for a couple of more people to get seated here.
10 Then we will go ahead and get started. Well, they just
11 keep coming in. We will go ahead and get started anyway.
12 What we would like to do is just go right here and kind of
13 around the table and then start right there and just work
14 our way back and forth and wind up over here, if you will,
15 please.

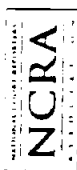
16 MR. WALDEN: My name is Malcom Walden, I'm
17 the Federal Base Transition Coordinator for Fort Wingate,
18 and I am here tonight in that role.

19 MR. FISHER: And, again, my name is Larry
20 Fisher, I am the BRAC Environmental Coordinator, and I am
21 the Environmental Coordinator for Fort Wingate. I am
22 located at Tooele Army Depot in Utah.

23 MR. SHELTON: I am Lynn Shelton, I am the
24 Community Co-Chair of RAB.

25 MR. WHITMAN: My name is Chris Whitman, I am

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1 a Geologist with New Mexico's Environment Department in
2 the Ground Water Quality Bureau.

3 MR. HERREN: I am Bob Herren. I am with
4 Cope Memorial Chapel, on the board.

5 MS. STELL: I am Mary Jane Stell, I am the
6 Assistant Project Manager for Environmental Resources
7 Management. We are a consulting firm working for the Army
8 Environmental Center here at Fort Wingate.

9 MR. EGNACZYK: I'm Steve Egnaczyk, the
10 Project Manager for the ERM, to the Army Environmental
11 Center.

12 MS. YOUKEY: I am Carol Youkey, I'm the
13 Project Manager for the Ordnance Removal Project, I am
14 from the Army Corps of Engineers in Huntsville, Alabama.

15 MR. MORGAN: I'm Bud Morgan, I'm with the
16 the Corps of Engineers out of Huntsville, Alabama, I am
17 the Technical Manager for the project.

18 MS. DUWYENIE: I am Roseria Duwyenie with
19 the BIA Environmental Quality, Gallup.

20 MR. CURLEY: My name is Gerald Curley, I'm
21 with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

22 MR. CADMAN: My name is Mark Cadman, I'm
23 with the Navajo Nation Property Management.

24 MR. MULNIX: I am Dennis Mulnix, I am also
25 from Huntsville, I am the Safety Specialist out here on

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1 the project for the Ordnance Removal action.

2 MR. MARES: My name is Joe Mares, I am with
3 CMS Environmental out of Tampa, Florida, I am the Project
4 Manager for the ordnance for the Corps of Engineers.

5 MR. MURPHY: Roy Murphy, Bureau of Indian
6 Affairs here in Gallup.

7 MR. SEDIK: I am Al Sedik with the Bureau of
8 Indian Affairs out of the Albuquerque area office,
9 Environmental Scientist.

10 MR. FORD: Dwayne Ford, U.S. Army Corps of
11 Engineers.

12 MS. AGEMIAN: I am Katrina Agemian, and I am
13 also with the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

14 MR. MENAPACE: I'm Bob Menapace, in case
15 anybody is interested.

16 MS. CADY: My name is Norma Cady, I am a
17 citizen in the area, and I work for the Navajo Nation.

18 MR. ALEXANDER: Tim Alexander, and I am with
19 the Army Environmental Center.

20 MR. TURNER: I'm Tom Turner, I'm the
21 Director of Industrial Risk Management at the Tooele Army
22 Depot in Tooele, Utah.

23 MR. JOHNSON: TPL, Incorporated, I am Duane
24 Johnson, Plant Manager at Fort Wingate.

25 MR. HENDRICKSON: I'm Chuck Hendrickson, and

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1 I am with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
2 Dallas, Geologist.

3 MR. DECKER: Doug Decker, I am the McKinley
4 County Attorney here in Gallup.

5 MR. SOLANO: I am Phillip Solano, I am with
6 the New Mexico Environment Department, Hazardous Reactive
7 Materials Bureau.

8 MR. SWEENEY: I am Bob Sweeney, also with
9 the New Mexico Environment Department in Santa Fe,

10 MS. LUTHER: Arlene Luther, Environmental
11 Specialist, Hazardous Waste Department, Navajo Nation EPA.

12 MR. KELLY: Finally, David Kelly with Navajo
13 EPA Air Quality Program.

14 MR. FISHER: Thank you, we really appreciate
15 that. I hope everybody got a copy of the Public Notice
16 that kind of outlines our program for this evening. To
17 start off, what I would like to do is tell you a little
18 bit about what we are doing, as far as the working with
19 the State of New Mexico and EPA. Right now we are working
20 with them to draw up some kind of an agreement so that we
21 can get the work done out there, basically. And we are
22 working -- like I said, with the State of New Mexico, and
23 EPA, and I am not sure what the agreement is going to be
24 titled, but it will be an agreement where everybody works
25 together and has schedules in it, and when we are supposed

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1 to have things done, and it will be pretty much something
2 laid out that we can follow, and it will be a very big
3 help to us, and we are working on that.

4 What we would like to do is give you a
5 little bit of an idea, in this agreement, what we are
6 planning to do is basically have what we call a land base
7 unit -- we have -- a part of the installation is the open
8 burning detonation area that Fort Wingate used to use up
9 there, that area has a lot of ordnance material up there
10 that's economically -- you know, cannot be removed from
11 about 1300 acres, approximately -- 1300 acres, so what we
12 are basically going to do is to fence that area and keep
13 it under Army control forever. And what we want to do,
14 and that we are working this out with the State of New
15 Mexico, is to have what we call a "Land Base Unit"
16 located within that facility so that when we clean up the
17 other sites around Fort Wingate, we can take the waste
18 maybe from the landfills from other areas that are
19 contaminated, or maybe not contaminated, but we need to
20 remove the waste up into this area and store it in a Land
21 Base Unit, and the reason for doing this is, of course,
22 economics. And we also want to clean up the area so that
23 people can come in and use these areas so we don't have to
24 put any restrictions on them, or fence these other areas
25 off, it will open up some more land to be used there.

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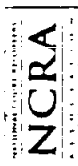
1 And this is our main reason for getting into
2 this agreement to do the closure on the OB/OD area, and to
3 come into agreement with some kind of a Land Base Unit
4 there. And this will help us all out a lot, really.
5 That's kind of it, you know, from -- we are working with
6 the State, if you guys have anything to add on that.
7 Okay. Put them on the spot here.

8 What I would like to do now is I would turn
9 the time over to Mr. Malcolm Walden. He would just like
10 to bring everybody up to date on the reuse of Fort
11 Wingate, and after Malcolm speaks we will have Steve
12 Egnaczyk and Mary Jane talk about the work that we have
13 been doing out there these past few months in the areas of
14 the OB/OD area, and some other areas, and then after them,
15 we will have Ms. Carol Youkey give a little presentation
16 on the work they have been doing up there, clearing
17 certain areas of Fort Wingate.

18 MR. WALDEN: Good evening. Most of you have
19 been involved or associated with what's been going on at
20 Fort Wingate. I see that there are a few new faces, so I
21 am going to make the assumption that there's at least some
22 of you who have not been intimately involved with it, so I
23 will give a little bit more of a broad-based background
24 than I would normally do.

25 Fort Wingate was a 1988 BRAC action. It was

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1 one of the first in the nation that was identified for
2 realignment or closure. As part of the process, the Army
3 moved out approximately 30,000 tons of ammunition from
4 Fort Wingate that had been stored there, and we completed
5 that action and closed the installation in January of '93.
6 It was one of the first BRAC actions that was completed.

7 At that time, it was put into caretaker
8 status. In the summer of '93, after we had closed the
9 installation, President Clinton announced his five-part
10 plan for rapid redevelopment and economic reuse of BRAC
11 installations.

12 Prior to that time, the intent of Congress
13 had been that the BRAC installations across the country
14 would be closed and not much thought had been given to
15 what will happen to them from that time forward.

16 In the summer of '93, when the president
17 announced his plan, that mind-set changed, and the thrust
18 of Congress and of the Administration then became, "After
19 we've got them closed, what do we do then?" In certain
20 places in the country, a base closure was a truly
21 traumatic event, it put a lot of people out of work and
22 was a serious economic blow to those communities. That
23 became the thrust of the drive to get them back into
24 economic reuse. After the president announced his plan,
25 it was put into law by what was called the Pryor Amendment

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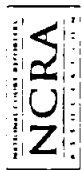
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1 to Title 29. Since that time, there have been a couple of
2 other laws passed, the most notable of which the Base
3 Closure Community Assistance Act.

4 The sum effect of this Legislation of the
5 Administration's plan was to get BRAC properties back into
6 the hands of the community so that the community could
7 decide what its reuse was going to be, and so that jobs
8 could be created and that economic redevelopment could
9 take place on these installations, and get them back into
10 productive reuse. That became the Administration's bottom
11 line.

12 Fort Wingate is unique among all the BRAC
13 properties in the country of which there are now well up
14 over 300. It is the only one that is one hundred percent
15 withdrawn public domain land. There are some others which
16 are portions. There is at least one of them which is
17 half, but Fort Wingate is the only one that is 100
18 percent. Because of that, it offers a set of unique
19 challenges and problems. The primary one is that it could
20 not follow the normal BRAC pattern which had been
21 established, which across the country is that a Reuse
22 Committee is formed, it comes up with a Reuse Plan, which
23 represents the community's desires to put the installation
24 back into reuse, and then evolved into a local
25 redevelopment authority, which usually acquires the

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1 property and then resells it, leases it, or gets them in
2 some sort of productive reuse.

3 Because Fort Wingate was 100 percent
4 withdrawn public domain land, another player came into
5 effect here, which was not the case in most BRAC
6 installations, that was the Department of Interior.

7 By law, the land had to be -- when it was no
8 longer required for military purpose, which was the reason
9 it was withdrawn from the public domain, it was to be
10 offered back up for relinquishment to the Department of
11 the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, which these days
12 is the land manager for the United States of America.

13 There was one other factor that came into
14 play at Fort Wingate, and that was the Ballistic Missile
15 Defense, which had a requirement to find a site to launch
16 test missiles as part of the Nation's Ballistic Missile
17 Defense Program.

18 An Environmental Impact Study was done and
19 Fort Wingate was selected in a record decision as being
20 one of the installations that missiles would be launched
21 from.

22 The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization,
23 which is not an Army organization, it's a Department of
24 Defense level organization, which means that it could
25 continue to conduct operations at Fort Wingate without

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1 violating BRAC law, kept approximately half of the profit.
 2 The other half was offered back up to Bureau of Land
 3 Management, of the Department of Interior, in accordance
 4 with the law under an intent to relinquish.

5 BLM and Army negotiated last summer as to
 6 what conditions BLM would accept the property back from
 7 Army. They were not able to come to agreement, BLM's
 8 position is they did not want to accept any property back
 9 until it had been environmentally remediated. Bureau of
 10 Indian Affairs was also a subordinate Department of
 11 Interior Agency, there were internal negotiations between
 12 BLM and BIA as to what the eventual disposition of that
 13 property would be.

14 The effect that leads us to the status that
 15 we are now is that BLM's current position is, they won't
 16 accept any property back until it has been remediated. As
 17 you will hear tonight, remediation is under way, has been
 18 under way, but still has a ways to go. Current thinking
 19 is someplace in the neighborhood of four, five, six years,
 20 depending upon funding availability and funding realities.

21 At the same time, Congress had the intent of
 22 getting property back into reuse, they passed laws that
 23 enabled things called "Interim Leases" to take place, the
 24 idea being to get reuse going while things such as
 25 environmental remediation and administrative problems were

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1 being overcome. We have started to look at that
2 possibility at Fort Wingate, the Navajo Nation has asked
3 for some leases of igloos. We have a company, TPL,
4 Incorporated, which has a Facility's Use Contract with the
5 Army to do "demil," using one of our old "demil" buildings
6 out there. Their employment has been high, it could be
7 higher in the future, they are at a low point right now,
8 but there is a possibility of getting some jobs created
9 and getting some citizens employed.

10 So, we are looking at things that can be
11 done to both get employment and to reduce the burden to
12 the taxpayer of having to maintain and caretake Fort
13 Wingate while we are awaiting its eventual disposal.

14 I have a Caretaker Force out there that
15 occupies the installation and maintains it in the
16 condition that it was when it was closed, the idea being
17 that we will maintain it to that point until disposal
18 actions are completed. Any revenues that we can generate
19 from leases, anything like that, goes to decreasing that
20 burden to the taxpayer.

21 The normal practice in the country is that a
22 local redevelopment authority of local citizens exists and
23 determines what reuse is going to be. That has not
24 occurred here. One of the reasons it didn't occur was
25 because of the unique status of having withdrawn public

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1 domain land. Another was that the community -- the
 2 different factions in the community have not been able to
 3 gather together and speak with a single voice. It's
 4 unlikely that a local redevelopment authority will exist
 5 any time soon.

6 Senator Domenici did task the Northwest New
 7 Mexico Council of Governments to try to come up with a
 8 Reuse Plan for economic development that would be
 9 satisfactory to the four major parties involved, which
 10 are the City of Gallup, McKinley County, the Navajo Nation
 11 and the Zuni Pueblo. They have been working on that for a
 12 number of months now. There is some folks here who are a
 13 part of that group. They -- I believe that they hope to
 14 have something done before the end of the year.

15 That's basically where we stand on reuse
 16 right now. I don't anticipate that any property will
 17 actually be transposed, or will be disposed of, or
 18 transferred for at least three to four years. We will try
 19 to get some interim things going in the meantime with the
 20 understanding that nothing permanent can be done because
 21 of the land transfer still in question. There are some
 22 political actions taking place. There is different
 23 constituent parties that have different ideas about what
 24 to do with Fort Wingate, but it remains an ongoing
 25 situation.

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1 Anybody have any questions?

2 MR. FISHER: Steve?

3 MR. EGNACZYK: Thanks, Larry. Good evening.

4 Larry has asked me to kind of give you-all an update on
5 the activities we currently have going on in the closure.
6 Because there are so many new people here, I thought I
7 would just quickly throw out the overall site map. It
8 shows the location we will be talking about today. The
9 OB/OD area is located along the western border of the
10 installation.

11 Here is the overall installation itself.
12 This is in a northerly direction right here, up to the
13 north, here is the main access to the installation, a lot
14 of you might see off of Highway 66. The area we will be
15 talking about tonight is the OB/OD area that is located
16 along the western border of the installation, about midway
17 along the property. In the past RAB meetings, we have
18 given you-all kind of an update of the overall activities
19 we had under way. Currently we have a field program that
20 is currently being done in the OB/OD area in support of
21 the regular closure of that area. That activity started
22 in about the second week of July. We had been doing some
23 planning for that, the work plans had been submitted to
24 the State EPA and related parties, and what we would like
25 to do today, or tonight, is just give you a quick update

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1 of those activities, and what I will do first is really
2 just kind of give you an overview of what the objective of
3 our activities were and what I am focusing on, really, are
4 some of the characterization activities we were doing in
5 the debris and residue pile areas, and then Mary Jane
6 Stell, who has also served as the Project Geologist, the
7 lead geologist in the project, will kind of give you an
8 overview of what we have done from the monitor well
9 installation standpoint.

10 Basically, we have two arroyos of concern in
11 the OB/OD area. What was the current OB/OD area, which
12 was the area which was active at the close of the
13 installation, in support of installation activities, and
14 then we had the closed OB/OD area, that really had been
15 closed around the 1950 -- mid-1950, 1960 time frame. This
16 area then was opened up around 1960 or so, and used until
17 the installation closed to OB/OD activities.

18 Both arroyos, during some of our initial
19 site activities, presented a difficult situation in that
20 there is unexploded ordnance located throughout both
21 locations based on previous site activities. So, it took
22 us quite a while to put plans together in concert with
23 required safety programs, to go in and investigate and
24 characterize these areas. There is not a lot of
25 characterization of OB/OD areas that have really been done

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1 in the past. We really want to make sure that we are
2 making an effective use of our dollars from both the
3 characterization standpoint, as well as making sure we
4 were hearing safety concerns we might have.

5 So, basically based on our visual surveys
6 and walkovers of the areas, we identified a group of
7 debris and residue pile areas throughout both set of
8 arroyos that required further investigation back in '93
9 and '94.

10 We also did a preliminary sampling event
11 that really was based on a grid approach through both
12 areas to confirm that the areas of concern that we had
13 within both arroyos were really the visual original
14 residue and debris areas that we saw throughout both sets
15 of arroyos. Because of the UXO concern, the method of
16 investigation we chose to take was to excavate trenches
17 through these areas, remembering that our main focus here
18 is to really determine if there is any environmental
19 impact, and then to characterize or delineate the
20 environmental impact within these areas, not necessarily
21 to do a complete UXO clearance removal of these areas at
22 the same time. Because of that, what we did was a series
23 of trenches through each of the residue debris areas that
24 was supported by field screening, field test kits for
25 explosives, and also XRF screening for metals on an

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1 on-site fuel laboratory, to characterize and delineate any
2 potential contaminates throughout each of these residue
3 debris areas.

4 What we are currently working on right now
5 is finishing off this section of the current OB/OD area.
6 As you can see, each of these little circles really
7 represent a residue or debris area that was originally
8 identifiable to us when we did our walkovers. So what we
9 did then is through a series of trenches, either laterally
10 through the area, or cross-sectionally through the area,
11 that would be depth, take us down to native soil, and then
12 use the field screening to confirm that we were out of any
13 contaminates of concern, so that we really characterize --
14 all of this waste material would be a three-dimensional
15 perspective view. I am known for writing on everything,
16 so bear with me here. If you will look at an arroyo,
17 being the kind of water courses you are all very familiar
18 with, a lot of pieces, surface deposition along the front
19 face of the arroyo, so basically if you look at that in
20 three-dimensional format, what we are doing is excavating
21 down to get to the material by depth, and then inward to
22 also get its full extent, so basically all of these
23 excavation of trenches was meant to give us really a
24 three-dimensional picture of the nature and extent of
25 contamination within these debris or residue areas



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1 throughout each set of arroyos.

2 Also, in concert with that, we have taken
3 surface water and sediment samples, as nature allows us,
4 during the course of our field exercise. We have also
5 installed a number of monitoring wells that Mary Jane will
6 speak more directly to now. Mary Jane?

7 MS. STELL: Ready?

8 MR. EGNACZYK: Yes.

9 MS. STELL: Okay. What we have tried to do
10 was -- based upon what Steve was talking about, there was
11 a series of residue and debris piles along each of these
12 arroyos. We wanted to characterize the nature and extent
13 of any ground water that was present, and then
14 characterize any contaminants that may have entered those
15 from the waste materials that we could see.

16 So, what we have done, and we are still in
17 the process, the drill rig is just breaking down for the
18 day at 7:00 o'clock, but we are still drilling and we're
19 working on the interpretation, but if you get a chance to
20 get up and look at these maps, you will see the brown
21 color here, they were the wells originally proposed in the
22 work plans, what we thought we would need to characterize
23 the ground water. There were two existing, a dug well
24 that is in existence in the bottom of the arroyo, and a
25 shallow hand dug point that we had put in the years in the

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1 past just to sort of get an idea of the point in the
2 subsurface here for ground water, and as we started to
3 drill these wells, we picked a couple of additional
4 locations, and they are on this map in blue, to say, "Gee,
5 we think we need a few more farther down the arroyo here
6 to kind of complete our picture."

7 What we have done right now, is we have
8 drilled many of these wells, they are -- not all have been
9 drilled yet. Some of them we found have been dry, there
10 were hand dug holes that were installed in the bottom of
11 the arroyo, we've also used different types of drill rigs,
12 and our wells are between 10 and approximately 170 feet,
13 so we think we've intercepted various zones of water and
14 we have done some down-hole video camera work to try and
15 look at the different units that we are seeing in the
16 subsurface to try and correlate them better and to make
17 sure that we complete our wells, or screen and sample the
18 water at the most appropriate depths. That has just been
19 completed on Saturday and we have yet to get that data.

20 In the closed area, again the brown wells,
21 three of these have been completed and we haven't finished
22 the drilling program here. At this point, we plan to
23 finish it this month, sampling is projected to occur in
24 October, and some slug testing, so the results will not be
25 available until some time in November, so then we will

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1 have a chance to evaluate those.

2 MR. EGNACZYK: The overall objective of this
3 will then be to come up with a closure option and in
4 concert with the status closure plan that's currently
5 being finalized also with the State of New Mexico, and the
6 closure option, as you might remember from our previous
7 meeting, will encompass two basic options, closure
8 in-place, or possibly some focus removal and placement in
9 the on-site land based unit that Larry had mentioned
10 earlier. What we are trying to do now is, is from an
11 engineering standpoint, is look at what the available
12 options will be to us based on the nature and extent of
13 contamination, and the possible volume of soil that may
14 need to be removed from various portions of the arroyo,
15 and then also what we need to do to stabilize that arroyo,
16 really restore it to native conditions.

17 Two other critical points in the planning
18 process that we mentioned in the past is that we have had
19 a possible series of falling down to the length of both
20 arroyos prior to our initiation of excavation activity in
21 coordination with the Corps of Engineers in Albuquerque.
22 Sensitive habitat areas were identified principally in
23 current OB/OD area, and with the approval from
24 Albuquerque, we minimized or impacted those areas by
25 leaving our excavator either on top of the arroyo itself

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1 or a selected location down at the base of the arroyo to
2 minimize our impact between the potential sensitive
3 ecological areas.

4 Secondly, we have also had an archeologist
5 on-site who did survey our proposed investigation areas
6 and confirmed that we were not impacting any potential
7 historical cultural resources. Most of these areas down
8 through this area, because of the historical deposition of
9 residue and waste materials, really were disturbed areas,
10 and really were not of concern from an archeologic
11 standpoint from our initial investigation activities.

12 Also, within this effort, we have also been
13 doing a preliminary setting of potential landfill sites
14 within the OB/OD area which is the area that we maintained
15 under Army control. Four initial landfill sites were
16 initially identified. What we do in this case is
17 basically go in and look at what soil might be available
18 within those areas for landfill if there is proper
19 topography, proper soil conditions, if we find clay, and
20 things like that, we all go into the proper landfill, and
21 also require conformance with proper siting criteria of
22 any kind of a landfill facility, and as nature would do,
23 and those are the four areas, and we came up with a fifth
24 area, and we are now currently doing more extensive
25 investigations into it. Those activities are currently

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1 under way. What they involve are some test drilling,
2 going down and looking at where bedrock may be present
3 within the potential land site area, but also confirming
4 the depth of ground water, that will all be rolled into a
5 design. On all of the closure options in the design of
6 the Land Base Unit, then, will be provided a preliminary
7 design, and it will then be submitted to the State of New
8 Mexico as part of the closure plan.

9 Are there any questions that I can answer on
10 this portion? Thank you.

11 MR. FISHER: If I may, I will put Steve on
12 the spot here. If you have any questions about -- Steve
13 has been working on the project for years -- several
14 years. He's not that old, but he is very familiar with
15 all of the work that we have been doing out there in the
16 areas of concern, so if any of you have any other
17 questions about anything else, it might be a good time to
18 bring them up.

19 MR. KELLY: I do.

20 MR. FISHER: Would you state your name
21 again?

22 MR. KELLY: David Kelly with Navajo EPA.
23 You are talking about retaining land that the Army will
24 retain forever, and we are talking about giving lands back
25 to the Indians, Navajo and the Zuni, in the future, but we

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1 will be getting land back where we are not allowed to have
2 our kids play in those areas, or something, or near those
3 areas. I have a real problem with that. The reason I say
4 that is, how long are we talking about "forever." The
5 military is here now and we're -- we have sites like that,
6 I am sure, across the country, where the military used to
7 have bases, and now they are closed, and now we are
8 talking about leaving something behind that will be there
9 forever, and I know it's contaminated, or the soil may be
10 contaminated, or whatever, it's degraded; but now we are
11 also talking -- or you guys are proposing to use that as a
12 landfill for other debris that -- debris from some of the
13 infrastructures that were there, asbestos, whatever, be
14 put into huge trucks and then taken to these new landfills
15 that you guys are creating, and that it will make it off
16 limits forever. Am I getting the right picture, or what?

17 MR. WALDEN: Exactly.

18 MR. KELLY: Why, why is it? Is this a
19 normal OB/OD policy,

20 MR. FISHER: To maintain that property
21 because of economics, really, and it's going to cost
22 millions of millions of dollars to get in there and
23 totally clear it. I don't think -- we can totally clear
24 that area. We can maybe clear it down to 10 feet, but
25 there is a lot of problem areas, not just the flat, you

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1 know. We have the hogback in there, we have mountainous,
 2 very steep areas where things could -- ordnance could be
 3 up in there from kick-out, you know, from the operations
 4 there. And it's just noneconomical, really, to go in
 5 there. It would be more economical, actually, to fence
 6 that off and keep it, and we will be monitoring that
 7 forever, basically, as long as -- you know, what forever
 8 is, unless the Army --

9 MR. WALDEN: As long as there is a United
 10 States and a United States Army.

11 MR. FISHER: Yeah.

12 MS. DUWYENIE: I have a question.

13 MR. FISHER: Name, please?

14 MS. DUWYENIE: Oh, I'm sorry, Rose Duwyenie,
 15 where the two arroyos seem to converge, what do they drain
 16 into?

17 MR. EGNACZYK: Actually, they drain -- if
 18 you look at it, this is actually a breakoff of this map
 19 right here, this map right here actually continues right
 20 here, you are exactly right, both arroyos basically form a
 21 confluence right here, and then go downgrade to a smaller
 22 arroyo system that washes out a little bit farther here.

23 MS. DUWYENIE: What, into the Puerco?

24 MS. STELL: They do -- I mean, the two of
 25 them eventually go to the north fork of the Puerco, but

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1 just so you know, we've been trying to get surface water
2 sediments out here for two months now, and we've had two
3 events where we saw any flow in the closed OB/OD area
4 arroyo and it was gone within about a 12-hour period, and
5 it certainly never got as far as the north fork of the
6 Puerco.

7 MR. EGNACZYK: I think we are also looking
8 at a two- to three-mile distance from the OB/OD area.

9 MS. STELL: Very, very large area.

10 MR. EGNACZYK: The area we are talking about
11 in this map here is about a two- to three-mile distance
12 from the OB/OD area we're talking about, to the northern
13 installation boundary.

14 MS. STELL: And this is where the north fork
15 of the Puerco runs, this dashed line here, and then the
16 current OB/OD area, in all of the times we have been out
17 here, we have never seen any indication in the last three
18 years of any surface flow at all, no bent-over grass, no
19 erosion, no anything.

20 MR. EGNACZYK: And I think it is important
21 to note in the initial -- what you are seeing now really
22 are the result of the investigation specifically for the
23 OB/OD area, and just to follow on Mary's comments in this
24 area, the main reason we are keeping this area under
25 control is safety, not environmental. The safety concerns

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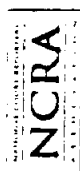
1 really was keeping this area kind of excluded from any
2 future use. Back when we were doing the initial
3 investigation of the installation, we looked at the
4 surface water and drainage features throughout the
5 installation, not only from the OB/OD area, but from just
6 about every aspect of the installation, and all of these
7 surface water and sediment areas were all sampled, as well
8 as the Puerco River through several -- we actually found
9 few sampling events when the Puerco River was actually
10 flowing. So, we have actually looked at potential surface
11 water and drainage areas from all -- from a full
12 circumference of the installation. Not only from just a
13 specific source area, but specific areas that might have
14 had previous Army activities. We also looked off post in
15 the drainage areas that were leaving the installation.

16 MR. FISHER: Yes.

17 MS. CADY: My name is Norma Cady, I work for
18 the Navajo Nation, EPA. The question I have is, there is
19 the word "forever," and putting a solid waste facility, or
20 something in that area, in the same breath. So, when do
21 we change the definition of "forever," and when do we
22 change the definition of things like when the channel is
23 no longer flowing. I mean, channels don't flow regularly
24 year after year in the same area, they flow -- depending
25 on conditions over a long period of time.

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1 MR. EGNACZYK: I think maybe I need a better
2 explanation of what we are doing for the potential closure
3 options here. What we had initially seen were visual
4 areas that looked like they were disturbed residue or
5 debris had been placed in those areas, there was no
6 confirmation whether or not there was any environmental
7 impact from those areas, whether there was any
8 environmental waste that actually occurred within those
9 areas. In a lot of cases, it looks to be surface
10 standing, which would give you some indication that maybe
11 there is some concern. In a lot of cases, it's metal
12 strapping and debris that might have been associated with
13 some of the Army's activities, so I talk about the closure
14 options, our options are to, in fact, take care of those
15 waste areas that are located within there, or stabilize
16 those in place so that there is then no erosion or
17 potential erosion of those waste materials into the arroyo
18 area, and also to monitor that arroyo, so just as you
19 said, in any event in the future if water would start
20 flowing down that arroyo channel from surface water
21 standpoint, that waste materials, or any potential
22 contamination that had been there, or was left there above
23 any potential clean-up levels, that we are negotiating
24 with the State of New Mexico, will all be controlled.

25 So, basically, what we are talking about in

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1 our closure option is a control option to either remove
2 all of those waste materials and place them in a secure
3 Land Base Unit, or to stabilize those materials in-place,
4 and the only reason they would be stabilized in place was
5 two-fold, really; number one, that any waste materials
6 were identified to be below any concentrations of concern,
7 as we negotiated, and agreed upon with the State of New
8 Mexico and EPA, or those waste materials basically were
9 unsafe to remove, and there is a major concern in looking
10 at the closure option for the OB/OD area for the safety of
11 the people who would be doing the remediation work.

12 MS. FISHER: Yes?

13 MS. DUWYENIE: In other words -- Rose
14 Duwyenie, again. If you are negotiating with the State of
15 New Mexico and EPA, what are you negotiating, what areas
16 of solid waste are you --

17 MR. EGNACZYK: We are not negotiating the
18 areas of solid waste, but I think that would be the extent
19 of removal or contaminate in-place that would be agreed
20 upon through the closure itself. Right now we don't know
21 what we have here. We know we have residue and debris
22 areas that might be located throughout the facility, we
23 know that there is a safety concern, and we know that
24 there is some TNT contamination as a result of past Army
25 activities. If that TNT contamination is removed from the

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1 area, then that area is then basically clean, there is no
2 concern. I think then you come into the gray area where
3 there is an area that is unsafe, or potentially would need
4 some further restoration, what is the cost effective
5 balance then of those activities in regards to the safety
6 concerns, and then also possible in-place stabilization
7 method measures.

8 MS. LUTHER: My name is Arlene Luther, I am
9 with the Navajo Nation EPA. When you say it's unsafe to
10 remove, you are talking about basically unexploded
11 ordnance?

12 MR. EGNACZYK: That's correct.

13 MS. LUTHER: Do you know what types of
14 unexploded ordnance are there?

15 MR. EGNACZYK: We have -- I guess it would
16 be a survey, say, of ordnance items that have been found
17 to date. I don't think there are records that exist that
18 would tell us everything that might have been detonated
19 over the life of the installation unit in that area, so
20 really, it's almost an "after the fact" identification of
21 items that have been uncovered. The purpose of using
22 these areas was to destroy ammunition or ordnance items in
23 support of the installation's activities. I think that
24 might be left, it was something that wasn't done properly
25 or correctly, or who knows, over the history of the

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1 installation, what might be remaining there, so anything
2 we do uncover is something uncovered as part of -- really
3 our avoidance surveys, what we are trying to avoid in
4 order to do our environmental assessment activities.

5 MS. LUTHER: I want to follow that up with
6 you. How can you determine whether that unexploded
7 ordnance is below either State levels or U.S. EPA
8 standards for certain types of metal?

9 MR. EGNACZYK: Actually, that's kind of a
10 mixture of two concerns there, I would say, and we
11 certainly have the experts here from the ordnance
12 standpoint, but really the ordnance -- visually identified
13 ordnance item, and what I will be talking about more is
14 environmental contamination that might be resulting from,
15 for example, the degradation of metal canisters or things
16 that might have fuses in them that might have had metal
17 components within them. In some cases, those
18 concentrations -- or those contaminants might have
19 migrated to the soil or potentially onward into the
20 environment and what we are looking at then is the soil --
21 resulting soil surrounding those items, not necessarily
22 the items themselves. The items themselves are a safety
23 concern when they break apart, or when they are blown up
24 and they degrade. For example, iron, the iron would rust
25 and degrade over time. Some of the fuses, I think, have

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1 got different metal system within them that might create
2 some metals contamination. There is also some TNT
3 contamination as a result of some of this historical Army
4 activities that were done in TNT washout areas, that were
5 brought up into that area that would be different -- a
6 different type of contamination, and necessarily something
7 directly associated to unexploded ordnance.

8 MS. LUTHER: Is the Land Base Unit -- is
9 there an area already identified for that to establish the
10 Land Base Unit?

11 MR. FISHER: We are looking at an area.

12 MS. LUTHER: Can you tell us tonight what
13 areas you are looking at?

14 MR. FISHER: Yes, Steve, why don't you go
15 ahead.

16 MR. EGNACZYK: I think the area that we are
17 looking at is basically within the same area that would be
18 kept under Army control. As I mentioned to you earlier,
19 within the OB/OD area we had basically four locations that
20 we had looked at. What we did initially was look at
21 volume estimates of the type of waste materials that could
22 potentially be placed in a Land Base Unit, and then based
23 on that, looked at topography of the area and what that
24 gives you is an approximate footprint on something that is
25 the size of this room, something that's the size of this

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1 building, you know, basically with the certain height
2 requirement to it, you basically come up with a footprint
3 of an area that you might need for a landfill facility.
4 Based on that, based on the topographic maps, we
5 identified four locations throughout, two that were within
6 the current OB/OD area, two that were in the closed OB/OD
7 area, and as I told you before, our fifth area was
8 actually somewhat out of kilter to what one of our areas
9 that was identified as the most optimal locations based on
10 some testing we did. In other words, the nature of
11 underlying soils that existed within that location, and
12 just having enough topographical surface area and
13 elevation to support a landfill facility, and that area
14 within the OB/OD area is currently the area that we are
15 looking at from the siting criteria, that the area hasn't
16 been selected yet, that there is a much more involved
17 process in doing the siting of a Land Base Unit, or any
18 kind of landfill unit, there are a lot of criteria that go
19 into that, as well as discussions and confirmation with
20 both the State and EPA on location.

21 MS. LUTHER: When that was mentioned
22 originally, you talked about -- you briefly mentioned
23 something about receiving waste from other facilities into
24 that Land Base Unit?

25 MR. FISHER: No. Off post, you mean?

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1 MS. LUTHER: From off of Fort Wingate?

2 MR. FISHER: No, no.

3 MS. LUTHER: So, it wouldn't be receiving
4 waste?

5 MR. FISHER: From other areas within Fort
6 Wingate, but not from Gallup nor any other place, just be
7 other areas within --

8 MR. WALDEN: There's no off-site
9 contamination, no off-site waste that's intended to be
10 brought in to Fort Wingate.

11 MS. LUTHER: Do you see the launching -- the
12 current missile activities utilizing that Land Base Unit?

13 MR. FISHER: No.

14 MR. WALDEN: No.

15 MS. LUTHER: Debris from the missile
16 launching, or anything being disposed of there?

17 MR. FISHER: No. They will have to take
18 care of that, whatever it is, but, no, we will not dispose
19 of anything.

20 MR. WALDEN: That's a straight flat, no.

21 MS. LUTHER: Will the public have an
22 opportunity to comment on the Land Base Unit site process?

23 MR. FISHER: Yes, they will, once the --
24 well, yeah, you have had an opportunity to.

25 MR. SOLANO: My name is Phillip Solano with

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1 the New Mexico Environmental Department. There was a
2 public notice period that was advertised through the
3 Gallup newspaper and radio station here locally, I think
4 it was June 19th, or June the 20th through July the 19th.
5 And I am sure as we progress through the closure, there
6 will be other amendments that will follow, and those,
7 again, will be public noticed, also.

8 MS. LUTHER: I would like to recommend to
9 New Mexico ED to also publish the notice in the Navajo
10 Times.

11 MS. CADY: My name is Norma Cady. The
12 question I have is on that notice of the hearings, are you
13 required to do a certain basic kind of notice, or do
14 you -- or are you saying sort of the basics, because we
15 have different variety of populations here, and you get
16 news in different manners.

17 MR. FISHER: We will have to let Phil
18 respond to that because they are the ones that did that
19 statement. Phil, do you want to respond to that?

20 MR. SOLANO: Okay, you asked again for --

21 MS. CADY: Just what -- is there a basic
22 method of notifying people, or do you go beyond the basic
23 method of notifying people and letting them know of
24 things?

25 MR. SOLANO: You can contact the

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1 Environmental Department and tell them you want it based
2 on mailings and also --

3 MS. CADY: I mean, how do people find out if
4 you are not on a mailing list, that aren't here? We have
5 outreach needs in our communities here which are different
6 than what you find in other sites.

7 MR. SOLANO: Larry, can that be handled
8 through --

9 MR. FISHER: Through the RAB meeting here,
10 names can be given and asked to be put on the mailing list
11 so that we can provide that with the State, it will be in
12 the Minutes, also which will be supplied to everyone that
13 attends these meetings. We can handle it that way, unless
14 there is another suggestion.

15 MR. WALDEN: The Restoration Advisory Boards
16 across the country -- first of all, let me say here a
17 couple of things, if I could, Restoration Advisory Boards'
18 existence is a matter of public law. It was -- you know,
19 it is in the Base Closure Community Assistance Act. The
20 intent was to establish this exactly for the purpose that
21 you are speaking to, so that the community has access to
22 and input into the restoration plans that are coming out.
23 This is along the lines of the sixth, seventh, eighth, or
24 something like that, Restoration Advisory Board meeting
25 that we have had. They have all been -- notices

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1 advertising them have been put out for up to six weeks
 2 ahead of time, primarily, I will admit, in the Gallup
 3 paper; and this forum was intended to put out the type of
 4 information you are asking. If the thrust of your
 5 question is that maybe we need to go a step farther and
 6 put it out in maybe the Navajo Times, or in a different
 7 language, I suppose we could take that proactive extra
 8 step. It hasn't been done yet, but we all recognize that
 9 Fort Wingate is a unique situation in the country. And
 10 following the spirit and the intent of the law, that might
 11 be a good extra step to take,

12 MR. FISHER: We can do that.

13 MR. KELLY: David Kelly here. There is
 14 several issues that we also are concerned about. First of
 15 all, New Mexico ED being involved in this, which is fine.
 16 In the future this land is going to be turned back over to
 17 the Navajo Nations.

18 MR. WALDEN: No sir. Can I correct that?
 19 It's going to be turned over to the Department of
 20 Interior.

21 MR. KELLY: Yes, and again turned eventually
 22 from there on to the tribes. That's where we come in. We
 23 are the end recipient of that land pretty much. That's
 24 why I am concerned that -- and I am appalled and ashamed
 25 that the military -- or the U.S. military is leaving

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1 behind debris like this. I thought this only happened in
2 Rumania, so the Army withdrawing. I thought this only
3 happened overseas, but I am surprised that this is
4 happening right here. I think that we need to work --
5 continue work in this, and maybe even request additional
6 funds to where we won't have an eyesore like this, this is
7 really not good public relations for the Department of
8 Defense pretty much. We occupy a piece of land and we are
9 supposed to take care of it, be stewards of the earth and
10 all of that, and then leave it in the best condition as
11 how we entered it, and I am not seeing this here. I know
12 we are talking about economics, and stuff like that, but
13 the thing is this really isn't good for the military.

14 MR. WALDEN: Tim, maybe you could address
15 that issue. I know that we are talking maybe the
16 difference between millions or hundreds of millions here,
17 but I don't know what the real scope of it is.

18 MR. KELLY: What I am getting at is, if we
19 are going to leave something behind, let's minimize it to
20 the max.

21 MR. ALEXANDER: I will offer some response.
22 Tim Alexander, again, I am with the Army Environmental
23 Center. And what our intent is -- is to do, is basically
24 close this record interim status unit and conduct a
25 restoration outside of that unit in accordance with the

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1 law. That's what our intention is, that's what we are
2 doing. The law requires us to close it in a fashion
3 that's protective of human health and the environment.
4 That's a pretty plain statement. It's a complicated
5 process. Many of you are employed in the field and
6 understand that. So, that's our intent that's our
7 obligation, and we are not walking away from our
8 obligation. I think that's -- you know, we have to -- you
9 know, considering economics is only one factor that we
10 look at in determining what alternatives, or what ways we
11 will basically close their record OB/OD area and address
12 concerns outside of the OB/OD area. You have to take into
13 consideration -- I mean, one of the major features of what
14 we are seriously considering right now is to address
15 formerly used landfills outside of the OB/OD area, remove
16 that waste so that we don't have the same institutional
17 controls to consider. We don't have the same access needs
18 to consider, and move that material into an area which the
19 Army cannot walk away from, not just because of -- let's
20 put it this way, you can't walk away from our obligation
21 under the law to conduct post-closure care for that
22 interim status unit once we close the facility. So we
23 have an obligation to maintain that area.

24 So, given that we are going to keep that
25 area and remove waste which we frankly -- there are other

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1 alternatives which would probably be viable under law
2 which would allow us to leave that waste in place outside
3 of the OB/OD area. Capping, you are familiar with
4 capping. That is not what is on the table here. What is
5 on the table is basically to remove that waste, and then
6 maybe address some of your concerns, David. And by
7 using -- you know, efficiently, an area, you know, that
8 has been used as an open burning, an open detonation
9 ground for a long, long -- many, many decades, which we
10 have an obligation to essentially -- you know, close and
11 maintain after RCRA closure, and use that as part of our
12 plan to restore areas outside of the OB/OD area, and I
13 think that is an important consideration. So, we have an
14 obligation under the law to implement remedies that are
15 protective of public and the environment, which we are not
16 walking away from.

17 And, frankly, we have gone further in areas
18 outside of the OB/OD area, and say, "How can we best
19 maximize use of that OB/OD area, and basically cleaning up
20 that area outside of the OB/OD area which will be -- you
21 know, returned to the Department of the Interior and then
22 from who knows where.

23 So, I think that is an important
24 consideration.

25 MR. EGNACZYK: Just to carry on from your

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1 discussion, Tim, I think it's important to note that a lot
 2 of the locations we are also looking at for further
 3 Restoration activities, one of the options that will be
 4 considered, in fact, probably the only option that would
 5 be considered to some of those areas, would be to excavate
 6 those areas and take those soils across the road to other
 7 landfills within the State of New Mexico, whether solid
 8 waste or hazardous waste landfills potentially existing
 9 within the State of New Mexico. So, I think what the
 10 Army, in cooperation with the State of New Mexico and EPA
 11 are looking at is how can we, number one, minimizing the
 12 impact on other landfills or other solid waste facilities
 13 throughout the state that might be better used for other
 14 services, consolidate those materials, as we said, in a
 15 landfill that's already being constructed in support of
 16 the RCRA closure. So, in a sense, we are doing exactly
 17 what you had noted, David, in actually minimizing the
 18 impact that we would have left on the installation, and
 19 also minimize the impact of any waste residues being
 20 placed in landfills throughout the State of New Mexico or
 21 other solid or hazardous waste facilities,

22 MR. ALEXANDER: Tim Alexander. Or in the
 23 area outside of the OB/OD area. I mean, that's important,
 24 and that's the area that's being returned.

25 MR. SHELTON: Lynn Shelton. I will ask this

1 and hopefully it will supply a little bit of an answer to
2 some other people.

3 In reviewing some of the data, I get the
4 impression that ERM and the military is using what is
5 reasonably prudent remediation activities that takes place
6 throughout the United States, and this is normally an
7 accepted remediation technique everywhere.

8 MR. EGNACZYK: That's correct, yes.

9 MR. SHELTON: A lot that is happening at
10 Fort Wingate is not unique to Fort Wingate, it's using the
11 technology that's available, and trying to do it in the
12 most economical and exoteric fashion.

13 MR. EGNACZYK: Correct.

14 MR. FISHER: Yes, sir?

15 MR. CURLEY: Gerald Curley, BIA. On this
16 particular thing, I guess what you are saying is you are
17 using the best available technology in order to take this
18 approach, right, rather than just, this is an alternative
19 because of the economics, you throw economics in there,
20 then you are not equalizing the -- what is available to
21 you, because the alternatives would be a lot less, based
22 on economics; isn't that right?

23 MR. EGNACZYK: The alternatives would be a
24 lot more based on economics. If you are looking at
25 excavation and off-site removal, those alternatives are

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1 much more expensive than possibly consolidating, and
2 that's something that's typically used on all sites across
3 the country under the Campbell concept, or under other
4 concepts, trying to minimize the impact to other landfill
5 facilities, if there is a way possible. There are
6 treatment alternatives that are available to some of
7 these, but they are economical and if you watch what we
8 do, the level of explosive contamination within those
9 basically don't allow incineration, basically don't allow
10 composting of any kind of a feasible sense, so the real
11 alternative to that is excavation removal. In that case,
12 excavation removal would be to another landfill --
13 permanent landfill within the State of New Mexico, taking
14 up that available landfill capacity with what is basically
15 below levels of dirt.

16 MR. CURLEY: I had another question.
17 Assuming that this -- I gather from the discussion here,
18 that a Land Base Unit has already been determined, that's
19 a done deal, right? Is that something that's already
20 decided?

21 MR. FISHER: No, it's not.

22 MR. TURNER: This is Tom Turner. No, it's
23 not a done deal. It's an option that's being considered.
24 I think there will be more discussion about the landfill
25 option and information presented about the landfill option

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1 in future meetings, and I would recommend that possibly we
2 move on with the agenda and defer those questions to the
3 future meetings. We have not made any decisions on the
4 landfill, we are investigating the option, and that
5 information will be presented to you in future meetings.

6 MR. FISHER: Yes, thank you, Steve.

7 MR. EGNACZYK: I think actually we are going
8 to follow up on some of the ground water investigations
9 that are also being done in the other portions of the
10 installation, and just in a brief sense, that is the other
11 focus of our ongoing field activity, we just have a short
12 update on that.

13 MS. STELL: There are -- some concern was
14 raised as far as the RFS work that we did out here, that
15 there were a couple of sources of potential contamination
16 to ground water. This was raised by the regulators. One
17 of those would be -- was the TNT leaching beds where as of
18 the washout process that they put them through in there,
19 basically on-line ponds, it would evaporate, infiltrate
20 into the ground. There were a couple of wells existing --
21 again, in green on here, three of which were dry, and one
22 of which had water in it, it was sampled, and it did not
23 detect any explosives, but the concern was raised that we
24 really not -- had not characterized the extent of any
25 ground water, if it was present under the beds, and then



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1 if present, what potential impacts had occurred to that
2 ground water. So, again, just within the last month, we
3 have installed what we are hoping is an up-gradient well,
4 and then three in downgrading locations, just assuming
5 downgrading is very flat up here, but should generally
6 flow toward the river. So we have installed those. They
7 are on schedule to be sampled next week, and then we will,
8 maybe by the next -- later on this fall, we will have some
9 data that we can evaluate.

10 Also, a second location where some concern
11 was raised was this old sewage treatment plant, there is
12 some beds there, again, they would put their effluent into
13 to evaporate/infiltrate into the ground. There was one
14 existing well there and we have since put in one --
15 another well, again, what should be a down-gradient
16 location to determine is the ground water there, and we do
17 have it in the well, and if there's been any potential
18 impacts to that. Again, it's on the schedule to be
19 sampled next week, we were planning to split samples with
20 the State of New Mexico Environment Department, and we
21 should have some data in approximately four to five days
22 from them.

23 MR. FISHER: Thank you, Mary Jane. Carol?

24 MS. YOUKEY: We are going to pass out some
25 maps so you can see for yourself on the ground, where we

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1 are working on the ordnance end of the program.

2 I want to repeat that I am a project manager
3 and I'm not an ordnance expert, but we do have ordnance
4 experts here tonight, and I will quickly direct any
5 technical questions to them. We have Dennis Mulnix with
6 who is with the Corps of Engineers, Safety Specialist, who
7 is assigned to the ordnance project here. And we have Joe
8 Mares, who represents our contractor, CMS, he is the
9 Project Manager for the contractor. And Bud, who passed
10 around the maps, is our Technical Manager. He is the lead
11 engineer for the Wingate project.

12 I thought you might be interested in why
13 Huntsville Corps of Engineers is involved in this project,
14 and it's because the Ordnance Removal Program is not a
15 very old program. It's fairly new. I think about five
16 years ago, the first ordnance project really came on the
17 boards. And, at that time, there were a few people in
18 Huntsville who had some ordnance expertise, and they
19 formed a little group, and became the little cell that
20 worked ordnance removal for the U.S. Army. It grew from
21 there, and then we have, I think around 70 people in
22 Huntsville Corps of Engineers that work the Ordnance
23 Program.

24 I guess, as it happens, on all of programs
25 that we do in Huntsville, we are a little unique in that

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1 we can go all over the United States, all over the world,
2 in fact, but it so happens that when we work programs and
3 get them to a mature stage, you might say, then our
4 headquarters pressures us -- and it is a good time, at
5 that point, to give the program out to the districts,
6 build the expertise, pass it out to the districts that are
7 closer to the installations, closer to the customer, so
8 that's what we are going to be doing in the next couple of
9 years, is passing the ordnance program out to various
10 districts. We don't know which districts yet will be
11 involved, but we expect several of them will be. So,
12 that's what you will see in the future.

13 But up until now, for the past five years,
14 we have been receiving most of the ordnance removal
15 projects by the Army, including the BRAC projects and the
16 funds projects, which was formerly used defense sites.

17 So, this being a BRAC project we are
18 required to do the execution of the ordnance removal. And
19 while we are doing that, of course, you know probably
20 better, or as much as I do, that there have been ordnance
21 sites cited on Fort Wingate, there has been evidence of
22 ordnance, we know it's there, AEC has done studies and
23 there have been archive search reports. A lot of
24 documentation in the field verification that the ordnance
25 exists. So, we have used information that is available to

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1 write a statement of work for the contractor, and
2 statement of work is basically the directions, the
3 instructions, to him to clear all of the ordnance from
4 Fort Wingate. And that, of course, was issued by
5 Huntsville to CMS, represented by Joe Mares. They are
6 based in Tampa. The contract was issued back in May of
7 '95. And from May of '95 through the fall of last year,
8 the contractor prepared a work plan which laid out his
9 procedures, which defined the personnel, the equipment,
10 all of the things that he was going to use to do the
11 project. And that was then reviewed by the users, by AEC,
12 by the U.S. Army, and also, at the same time, we have
13 submitted an explosive safety submittal to the Department
14 of Defense, as well as the Safety Board. And that has to
15 be done before we proceed with any removal work for
16 ordnance. That has to be approved by them. So we were up
17 until the winter months, at that point we decided not to
18 proceed, we couldn't proceed because we didn't have
19 approval from the DDSC and also because the winter months
20 were approaching. So, we decided to wait until the spring
21 to get started with the ordnance removal, and at that
22 time, in I think April, the approval came from the
23 Department of Defense and we mobilized the contractor, I
24 believe they came to work in late May and began work
25 actually in June with ordnance removal. They have been

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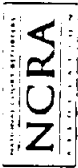
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1 working since June. The plans right now are to work
2 through November and demobilize at that point for the
3 winter months, and then come back in March of next year to
4 complete the project.

5 They are doing two kinds of clearing.
6 Basically, a surface clearance in some areas, and
7 subsurface clearance in some areas. The surface clearance
8 is just that, they remove any ordnance or ordnance related
9 items from the surface of the ground. And that's not just
10 a visual inspection, now, they do use the metal detectors,
11 the magnetometers to locate any of the metals that might
12 be under the vegetation. So they are doing this on -- I
13 think on your maps you are going to see seven different
14 sites. All of these sites will be cleared for -- or
15 sub-cleared on the surface. And some of those will be
16 cleared for subsurface. And the subsurface clearance
17 involves actually digging down, they locate the item, it
18 may be ordnance, it may not be, but then they will dig it
19 to find out exactly what it is and if it is ordnance, of
20 course, they dispose of it. It may -- and generally we're
21 digging down to four feet when we do the subsurface
22 clearance.

23 The clearance can be done -- surface
24 clearance has been done partially by local hires. CMS
25 hired, I think 16 workers when they mobilized here, and

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1 they trained these workers, and they were using those to
2 do the magnetometer searches for the on-the-surface
3 clearance. The subsurface clearance has to be done by the
4 trained UXO's technicians, and these technicians are
5 mostly military trained, they worked in that field in the
6 military -- Air Force or Army, for an average 20, 25
7 years, I guess, and now, they work for contractors, such
8 as CMS, to do the actual UXO clearance.

9 So, if you will follow along on your maps, I
10 can tell you the status of where we are in the clearance
11 actions by the sites. The first site, Site 1 is the
12 sewage treatment plant and it's over on the left side of
13 your drawing. This is a five-acre site, and we have done
14 surface clearance only. We will come back next spring to
15 do the subsurface clearance. When they did the five acres
16 surface clearance, no live ordnance was found, but they
17 did find lots of OE scraps.

18 Moving on up from there, Site 4, is one of
19 the larger areas, and you will see that the functional
20 test range 2/3, that's over 500 acres. Surface clearance
21 has been completed on that site, it was completed on
22 August the 13th. They found some ordnance items, they
23 found 42,000 pounds of OE-related scrap. And they have
24 found 8,000 pounds of non-OE-related scraps. And we will
25 come back in the spring. When we mobilize next spring, we

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1 will start with subsurface clearance of that area. And it
2 will cover about 88 acres of the 550 acres.

3 MR. MURPHY: Question.

4 MS. YOUKEY: Yes.

5 MR. MURPHY: Roy Murphy with BIA. My
6 understanding when I was talking to one of our ordnance
7 contractors back several months ago, was that this
8 required a clear cutting of that acreage prior to doing
9 the four feet of excavation; is that correct, or is this
10 all a spot type of thing?

11 MS. YOUKEY: It can be surface cleared
12 without cutting. Was that the question?

13 MR. MURPHY: No, I was given the
14 understanding that he was talking about bush hogging
15 whatever the acreage was prior to excavating four feet,
16 so, in this case we're talking about clear-cutting 88
17 acres; is that true, or not?

18 MR. MULNIX: Dennis Mulnix. That has been
19 done in some locations where they have done brush
20 clearings selectively basically, but in this case, they
21 are using the magnetometers to check within the brush.

22 MR. MURPHY: Just one spot?

23 MR. MULNIX: Right, and now if they got a
24 subsurface anomaly, then they will have to excavate it at
25 one point, it won't be a mass area.

1 MR. MURPHY: Thank you.

2 MS. YOUKEY: Okay, moving on to Site 5,
3 that's Functional Test Range Number 1, and it is about 340
4 acres, we are working on that right now. They are about
5 20 to 25 percent complete in the surface clearance of that
6 parcel. So far they have found 3200 pounds of OE-related
7 scraps -- ordnance-related scrap, and over 3,000 pounds of
8 other scrap. They have found 15 ordnance items, which
9 they moved to the OB/OD area for detonation, and they blew
10 in place four ordnance items. That's -- but it's not
11 completed yet, and we also will come back in the spring
12 and do a portion of subsurface clearance there. It's 63
13 acres, I believe, or about, for next spring.

14 Okay. Moving on to Site 10 the OB/OD area.
15 All we are doing there is disposing of the ordnance that
16 is there, stockpiled in the area. We will eventually get
17 rid of everything that is on the surface in the OB/OD
18 area. And, of course, we are supporting ERM as they are
19 doing their investigations through the OB/OD area.

20 Site 11 is the Group C disposal area, which
21 is down at the -- near the bottom of the drawing. There
22 is 20 acres there to be surface cleared, and we plan to do
23 that this month.

24 Site 14 is the deactivation furnace, and
25 it's to the left of your drawing, 10 acres there. Today,

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1 I think we finished the surface clearance of that parcel,
2 and we will come back and do subsurface to four-foot depth
3 next spring.

4 And the last item is the ballistic missile
5 site launch pad up in the -- on the right side of your
6 drawing, a 20-acre site that will be surface clearance
7 only, and we hope to get that done -- we hope to get all
8 of the surface clearance done before the end of November
9 when we demobilize.

10 And, that will -- again, that will leave the
11 subsurface clearance to be done next year. Not nearly as
12 much in acreage to be done next year, but it did -- it
13 goes a lot -- as you can imagine, it goes a lot slower
14 when you are doing subsurface investigation and surface
15 investigation.

16 So, to summarize, as far as the items, Joe
17 gave me the list of 716 items that have been destroyed,
18 ordnance items have been destroyed in the OB/OD area.
19 Some were stockpiled, and some were found and moved there.
20 18 items were blown in place for ERM in their work, and
21 five items have been blown in place on FTR, Functional
22 Test Range Number 1. And our goal is to complete the
23 project and clear the identified sites of ordnance as much
24 as we can. We are employing QCMQA procedures to ensure
25 that we are doing as much as our equipment will allow us

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1 to do.

2 We want to do it safely. That's the key

3 thing on ordnance work. It is a dangerous -- or can be a

4 dangerous operation. So, there are lots of rules and lots

5 of restrictions placed on the contractor, placed on

6 people, civilians coming into the site. It's something

7 that is taken very seriously. And that's our goal to be

8 accident free and clear the parcels by next year. Any

9 questions?

10 MS. DUWYENIE: I just have a question on

11 your map, it's so small I can't read it. What is the

12 scale on this?

13 MS. YOUKEY: Joe, do you remember the scale?

14 I can't remember the sale, either.

15 MR. EGNACZYK: The map has been reduced,

16 also, so you might want to be careful on the scale.

17 MS. YOUKEY: Yeah, it's not -- it has been

18 reduced, so don't use it to calculate distances with, but

19 does anybody have a frame of reference as to where the

20 property lines or anything are? I don't know.

21 MR. MORGAN: It has been reduced, you

22 can't -- it's been reduced, each one is a little -- a

23 hundred feet. So, that's approximately 105.

24 MR. SHELTON: Lynn Shelton. I have a

25 question for Bob Sweeney, when we are talking about

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1 location of these places. Are these specific "SNEW's"
2 listed with the New Mexico Coordinates on the plan, could
3 it be looked at that way?

4 MR. SWEENEY: Not that I know of.

5 MR. SHELTON: It will be surveyed after, I
6 assume?

7 MR. MORGAN: It looks like this scale is
8 from the zero to the right-hand is 4,000 feet.

9 MS. YOUKEY: The longest section there of
10 the bar scale?

11 MR. MORGAN: 100, goes 500, a thousand,
12 2,000 and 4,000.

13 MS. YOUKEY: Okay, the longest bar on this
14 scale is 4,000 feet.

15 MR. FISHER: Excuse me, Larry Fisher, but it
16 has been reduced, and there is a possible way to get her a
17 regular size-to-scale map.

18 MR. MORGAN: We can get her a regular size.

19 MS. YOUKEY: Sure, we will get you one you
20 can read.

21 MS. DUWYENIE: Thank you.

22 MS. YOUKEY: Any other questions?

23 MR. FISHER: Okay, thank you very much
24 Carol.

25 MS. DUWYENIE: I'm sorry, one more question.

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1 Rose Duwyenie. When we went out and we looked at the
2 sewage lagoon, sewage treatment plant by Site 1, we were
3 told there was an incinerator that was used to burn paper
4 and some small caliber munitions. That's not being looked
5 at?

6 MR. MORGAN: I can answer that. Bud Morgan,
7 Corps of Engineers. There is a small document incinerator
8 there, and that is -- like I said, it is just a small
9 little furnace, and it's primarily for documents, but they
10 did use it for demilling all arms rounds up to, I guess,
11 what, 20 millimeters, in there. So that area in that
12 particular facility -- there is really no concern, because
13 all it is is just a concrete furnace area. But it will be
14 looked at it, it will be taken care of.

15 MR. FISHER: Okay. Thank you very much. I
16 appreciate everybody coming. Sorry, I have to kind of end
17 this, because the library closes at 8:00 o'clock and we
18 still have to pick up chairs and everything. Maybe what
19 we will try to do is -- would 6:00 o'clock be -- if we
20 started maybe our next meeting at 6:00 o'clock, would that
21 be better for everybody? Is there anybody here that
22 couldn't be here at 6:00?

23 MS. DUWYENIE: How about the afternoon?

24 MR. FISHER: In the afternoon? Some people
25 work and can't make it.

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1 MR. WALDEN: The idea of having this after
2 hours was so that the citizens who work during the day can
3 attend the meetings. This is supposed to be a
4 citizens-based group.

5 MR. FISHER: We could start at 6:00 o'clock
6 and that would give us a little more time for questions
7 and answers. Usually we haven't been having anybody come,
8 so now if we have more people here, you know, we can move
9 the time up to allow for more questions than that. But if
10 you have questions you would like answered, if you would
11 like to write them down and you can leave them on -- there
12 is a pad there, you have, leave them on the back table, we
13 will be glad to respond to them.

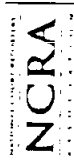
14 If there isn't anything else, thank you much
15 for coming, and we will let you know when the next one is,
16 it will be in the December time frame, we haven't chosen a
17 date, but we will send an announcement out, it will be put
18 in the papers and everything ahead of time, hopefully
19 further than we did this time, we apologize.

20 MR. WALDEN: And we will also publish that
21 in the Navajo Times,

22 MR. FISHER: And if anybody has the address
23 and the phone number and whatever for the Navajo Times, we
24 would appreciate that.

25 MR. KELLY: This area is going to be

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1 off-limits forever? We need to also put that in the Navajo
2 times, too. I don't think a lot of people got the last
3 public notice, it just went by us. We didn't see it at
4 all. Normally, we would check the newspaper.

5 MR. WALDEN: Does the State have a problem
6 with that?

7 MR. SOLANO: I don't think so, I will have
8 to check on the publisher.

9 MR. WALDEN: I would think the State would
10 probably be able to work that out.

11 MR. FISHER: Okay. Thank you very much.

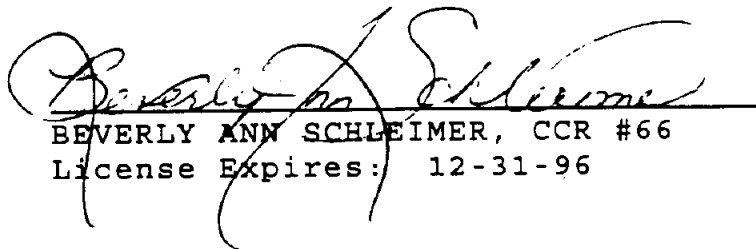
12 (The above hearing was concluded at
13 approximately 7:50 p.m.)
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, BEVERLY ANN SCHLEIMER, a Certified Court Reporter in the State of New Mexico, do hereby certify, that the foregoing Public Hearing before the Restoration Advisory Board, Fort Wingate Depot Activity, taken September 10, 1996, at Gallup, New Mexico, is a complete and accurate record of the proceedings taken by me in stenographic shorthand, and transcribed, to the best of my ability.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither employed by nor related to any of the parties in this proceeding and that I have no interest whatsoever in the outcome of the proceedings.

WITNESS MY HAND this 27th day of September, 1996, at 400 Gold Avenue, Southwest, Suite 200, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87103.


 BEVERLY ANN SCHLEIMER, CCR #66
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