

1 PUBLIC MEETING

2 BETTER BRITE CHROME AND
3 ZINC SHOPS PROPOSED PLAN
4 FOR INTERIM CLEAN-UP ACTION.

5 May 9, 1991

6
7 PUBLIC MEETING concerning the Better Brite
8 Chrome and Zinc Shops Clean-up Action plan, reported by MYRNA
9 J. WILLIQUETTE, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary
10 Public in and for the State of Wisconsin, at the DE PERE CITY
11 HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 335 South Broadway, De Pere, Wisconsin,
12 on the 9th day of May, 1991, commencing at 7:35 p.m.

13
14 SUSAN PASTOR, U.S. EPA, Moderator.

15 TERRY KOEHN, Wisconsin DNR.

16 DAVID LINNEAR, U.S. EPA.

17 KIM BRO, Wisconsin Division of Health.

18 SUE LOUISNATHAN, U.S. EPA.

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I N D E X

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1 little bit and explain our proposed plan, our
2 recommendation for what we are calling an interim
3 clean-up. And Kim will be able to talk about any
4 health issues pertaining to the site. Please hold
5 your questions until after all the presentations are
6 made. We will stay and answer them as long as we
7 need to. Hopefully we will be able to answer all of
8 them to your satisfaction. If not, we are able to get
9 back to you or you can call us at the office any time.
10 If you'd like, our 800 number for EPA is down at the
11 bottom. You don't even have to spend any money to
12 call. We are available, Dave and I, through this
13 number. You can call us; we're pretty much on duty 8
14 to 4:30. You should be able to get ahold of us. I
15 just want to remind you it is a rather busy line and if
16 you have a hard time getting through or don't want to
17 leave a message, if you get the answering machine you
18 can call on our direct lines. Just let us know that
19 you called us long distance and we will call you right
20 back so you don't really have to spend a lot of money
21 on a long distance call that way, either, but we are
22 available so you can talk to us pretty much any time
23 you'd like, so any time you have something on your mind
24 do give us a call.

25 After we answer all your questions, you'll

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1 notice at the bottom of the agenda there is a portion
2 assigned for what we call public comments. We are in
3 the middle of our public comment period. It goes from
4 May 1st to May 31. So what we are asking you to do is
5 to comment on what Dave will pretty much be talking
6 about in a little while, our recommended alternatives,
7 and there are two alternatives that you can basically
8 comment on and Dave will tell you what those are in
9 little bit. There are comment sheets in the back. If
10 you would like to give us your comments verbally, we
11 have a court reporter at the end of the table. Now
12 she's taking down the entire meeting, and that will all
13 be public record and we will put the transcript in the
14 information repository. That's the center we keep all
15 of our documents in at the library right here in town.
16 That should probably be available in two or three weeks
17 so you'll be able to see exactly what went on here
18 tonight.

19 If you would like to write your comments
20 down, if you don't like to speak in front of a group, I
21 have a comment sheet here. You can write these down
22 and give them to pretty much anybody who has a name tag
23 on. We will make sure that that is also part of our
24 record. If you'd like to go home and think about it
25 for a while or if you'd like to go through the

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1 documents, the proposed plan which is a rather
2 technical document and it explains what we are talking
3 about in a technical fashion, but if you really want to
4 sit down and go through it and read it cover to cover
5 and make a comment or maybe call us and discuss some
6 questions then make a comment, you can do that too, but
7 you have until May 31 to do that.

8 I just ask when we get to the public
9 comment portion of the meeting, that you'll state your
10 comment in a statement form, not a question because
11 it's just comments for the record right now, and you'll
12 need to say your name, spell it, if it's something that
13 the court reporter would need spelled for her, and if
14 you represent a particular agency or governmental body
15 or just yourselves, she would like to know that too for
16 the record. For the public comments we will respond to
17 those later in a document called a responsiveness
18 summary and that's attached to a document called a
19 record of decision which ultimately outlines what we
20 will be doing at the Better Brite site pertaining to
21 this interim action so all the comments that we are
22 hearing tonight will be considered before we make a
23 decision. It's not set in stone what we are going to
24 do tonight. We will wait for the public comment period
25 to be over before we make a decision, and I expect that

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1 that record of decision will be signed by our
2 administrator sometime in June.

3 MR. LINNEAR: July.

4 MS. PASTOR: July, and that will also be part
5 of our record, that document, so later on in July,
6 early August, as quickly as we can get them copied and
7 mailed, that will also be in the repositories. It's
8 all public record so you can take a look at it. So
9 basically we are here to answer your questions, tell
10 you what we are doing at the site right now and give
11 you a little bit of history, a little bit of a look
12 into the future and then and take your comments. We
13 also have some other handouts I just want to make sure
14 you picked up. Some of them may look familiar to you.
15 This fact sheet went to everyone on our mailing list.
16 We have a very lengthy mailing list. If you didn't get
17 one, please pick it up and do sign in on those sign-in
18 sheets because then that ensures that you will be on
19 the mailing list for future mailings. So basically,
20 that gives you a free lifetime subscription to anything
21 pertaining to the Better Brite site. It's not a lot,
22 might be once or twice a year. But at least you'll be
23 sure to get all the mailings or any letters or
24 anything. Whenever we have anything to say about the
25 site, we'll let you know what we are doing, what's

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1 coming. You will be able to be informed right away,
2 and the Division of Health also has a fact sheet on
3 health matters pertaining to the site and they have
4 some different handouts on various chemicals like
5 chromium, for example, one you might be interested in,
6 and do pick those up and if you need anything, see any
7 of us for whatever it is you need and we will be glad
8 to send them on to you or answer your questions or give
9 you whatever it is you need.

10 So I guess I will now turn it over to
11 Terry and let him talk about his explanation of the
12 State's involvement here.

13 MR. KOEHN: Hello, I'm Terry Koehn.
14 I work with the DNR and as was mentioned, I'm the
15 project manager for the Better Brite site. It's noted
16 for the previous introduction, there's a number of
17 different groups that are involved in this project, and
18 a number of them are represented here tonight. At this
19 time I'd like to give you a brief introduction into the
20 roles of the different groups that are involved in this
21 work, and these groups are the Wisconsin Department of
22 Natural Resources, EPA Emergency Response Branch, the
23 EPA Remedial Project and also the Department of Health
24 and along with them -- I kind of grouped them together
25 is the -- I'll check this -- Agency for Toxic Substances

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1 and Disease Registry and they're referred to as ATSDR.

2 First I'd like to touch on the
3 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Is that
4 readable? In this interim action for which the
5 proposed plan was prepared, EPA is the lead. The DNR's
6 effort in this will be mainly as a support group. And
7 also we end up having to pay our share of the funding.
8 In general, the DNR is in agreement with what's
9 proposed in this interim action but we will have an
10 opportunity and we will be providing additional
11 comments to them in terms of detailed plans of the
12 actual work. This will include a technical review to
13 assure that the actions will be in line with the goals
14 of the eventual clean-up. Mr. Linnear will be
15 discussing that in a little bit of detail later on
16 tonight. Soon the DNR will be taking the lead at the
17 site for the performance of what's called their
18 remedial investigation feasibility study and that
19 acronym is the RI/FS. RI portion investigates the
20 degree and the extent of the site risk. The FS portion
21 evaluates clean-up alternatives that are identified and
22 then there will be a final remedy selected from that.

23 This investigation is needed to make
24 sure that the remedial measures selected adequately
25 address the problem and will actually clean up the

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1 site. As you might expect, this will include
2 installing more monitoring wells and taking out more
3 samples. Activities are designed to address the extent
4 and the degree of contamination that is coming from the
5 site. The sampling previously performed was basically
6 to identify immediate hazards to the residents in the
7 area or to the environment. Prior to the initiation of
8 the field work of the RI/FS, we will be holding another
9 public meeting where you will have an opportunity to
10 make your comments known to us on the proposed actions.

11 At this point the DNR is in the
12 process of obtaining a contract with the consulting
13 firm to perform the actual work of the RI/FS. With
14 luck in our intentions are to have the work begin
15 within one or two months.

16 Next I'd like to mention something
17 about EPA's emergency response branch. Basically, they
18 respond to immediate threats to the health of the
19 people around these areas or to the environment again.
20 They remove hazardous wastes from buildings that have
21 been stored there, something like that. They
22 decontaminate the building, vats, other equipment that
23 might have been left on the sites. And this work has
24 been performed at the Better Brite site. They also are
25 to provide site security in terms of the risks that

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1 have been identified to both people and the
2 environment. In the case of Better Brite, they will
3 also install a pre-treatment plant which treats water
4 before discharge to the city sanitary system. Some of
5 you might have been present at the open house that was
6 held in February where you had an opportunity to see
7 how that thing worked. The pre-treatment plant also
8 was constructed to reduce the amount of contaminants at
9 the source, at both the zinc shop and the chrome shop,
10 and the efforts done by the emergency branch have done
11 a great deal to help alleviate the problems at the site
12 both in terms of direct contact and in the way of
13 groundwater contamination.

14 Third, I'd like to mention EPA's
15 remedial program. In general, the remedial people
16 administer the remedial Superfund program in the
17 specific case, that of the interim action though the
18 remedial people are taking the lead. The RI/FS is
19 separate from the interim action. However, they're
20 both aimed at the final clean-up and they both will be
21 conducted simultaneously to some degree. Throughout
22 the RI/FS process, EPA will be acting as support for
23 the DNR.

24 Last thing that I'd like to mention that
25 the EPA does is to provide a large portion of the

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1 funding to get this type of work done.

2 Fourth is where I've grouped together
3 Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services and
4 the ATSDR. These two agencies work real closely
5 together to address health aspects at a project like
6 this. ATSDR is basically the health counterpart to
7 EPA. In general, they're responsible for identifying
8 immediate health threats and also those of a longer
9 term. Through health assessments and advisories
10 they're able to recommend actions to be taken to reduce
11 the threats to you as the public, and in this manner
12 they are also very influential in directing the
13 activities of the emergency response branch.

14 Prior to the performance of a Superfund
15 remedial investigation, they put together a health
16 assessment based on the available data, and this health
17 assessment is available at this time for your comment.
18 Following the performance of the remedial
19 investigation, they will prepare a new one which they
20 refer to as a full health assessment and it relies on
21 the data from the remedial investigation and the
22 previous stuff.

23 Final member of the team that I'd like
24 to mention is the City of De Pere, both its
25 administration and its citizens. Although this group

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1 may not have a directly-defined role in this process,
2 the city input and their cooperation are needed to
3 assure that we can come to a successful result out of
4 all of our efforts. I hope that this discussion is
5 helpful in describing the roles of the different groups
6 and agencies involved. As I originally mentioned it is
7 a team effort. Now I'd like to turn it over to the
8 next gentleman here.

9 MR. LINNEAR: If I start speaking and my voice
10 starts dropping, let me know. Raise your hand because
11 it has a tendency to do that. My name is David Linnear.
12 I am R.P.M. for the U.S. EPA. In case you guys wonder
13 what the R.P.M. is, that's the remedial project manager
14 for the EPA. I'll just start this evening off by kind
15 of giving you a brief description of who I am and what I
16 will be doing. I've been working for the agency for
17 about a year now, and I am responsible for, as Terry was
18 elaborating earlier, I'm responsible for the interim
19 action that we will be discussing here tonight. I'll be
20 working with Terry who's my equal counterpart for the
21 State in all aspects of the clean-up from this point
22 until its completion.

23 Let's see. About David Linnear.
24 I've worked as an engineer, civil engineer now for over
25 ten years. I graduated from the Illinois Institute of

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1 Technology and I've been working in construction and
2 engineering for some time so I'm a little acquainted
3 with some of the construction practices that we will be
4 dealing with. What I'd like to do is start this
5 presentation off with just a brief site history.

6 Can everyone see that? The Better Brite site
7 consists of two sites or two platings shops. There is
8 the chrome plating shop and the zinc plating shop. The
9 sites are located approximately about a half a mile
10 apart, and that's one of the reasons why this may be
11 called one site because of the close proximity. The
12 site's also located about oh, a quarter of a mile away
13 from the Fox River. We receive numerous reports from
14 concerned citizens such as yourself and from the
15 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that there
16 have been spills that have occurred at the site, and
17 that there's also been storage of hazardous waste at
18 the site. These basically are the primary culprits in
19 the ground water contamination and the soil
20 contamination that we are currently dealing with today.

21 If we can just talk about the sites,
22 this is the zinc shop. This is located on Sixth
23 Street. The zinc shop was founded or excuse me,
24 actually began operation in 1963 and ceased operations
25 in 1989. At that time, the U.S. EPA emergency response

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1 branch basically came in and started to remove. That
2 removal consisted of the removal of basically drums
3 that were in the facility, basically -- how can I put
4 this? There were thousands of gallons of contaminated
5 liquids that were removed, soils that were contaminated
6 and equipment that basically ran throughout the
7 facility that were removed as solid wastes. The
8 primary contamination concerned with at the site were
9 chromium by-products. The removal also consisted of
10 the installation of a groundwater extraction system
11 located about there and the construction of some
12 holding tanks for those groundwater extraction systems.
13 I'll get up into a little bit more detail about exactly
14 how those systems worked a little bit later on in the
15 presentation.

16 The chrome slop is located right off Lande
17 Street. It began operation in 1970 and ceased
18 operations in 1985. The chrome shop originally was the
19 zinc shop. It moved from Sixth Street over to Lande.
20 The facility also had spill problems and the response
21 team came on-site for the first time in 1985 at which
22 time it removed liquid waste from within the structure,
23 solid waste, and soils from around the structure, and
24 disposed of them. The primary contenders concerned
25 with at the chrome shop were also chromium by-products.

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1 We also, or excuse me, I shouldn't say we but the
2 emergency response team also constructed the
3 pre-treatment facility that's currently in place. They
4 installed a groundwater extraction system, and within a
5 the facility are what I'll call holding tanks. I think
6 some of you had the opportunity to go to the open
7 house, you saw the facility in operation, saw how it
8 operates. I'll kind of get into that in a little bit
9 more detail about how it works a little bit later on in
10 the discussion. At this time, the estimate of the
11 EPA's cost for this removal and clean-up is around
12 \$750,000.

13 What to talk about now is how all of this
14 works, see if I can fill in my blanks. All right.
15 Let's discuss the zinc shop. The zinc shop -- I'm just
16 going to do a real quick sketch here -- has an
17 extraction system located about right here which
18 consists of -- can you hear me back there? Okay.
19 Consists of a groundwater extraction system about, oh,
20 say 15 feet in diameter, sits down in the ground
21 probably another 15 feet. In the middle of it is a
22 sump pump similiar to the pumps you have in your own
23 homes branching out from a six inch diameter PVC pipe,
24 you're familiar with that, which basically acts as the
25 extraction of the contaminated groundwater, collects it

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1 in that holding area. That -- the extraction system
2 can be or actually is physically connected to the
3 holding tanks that are within the facility, or it can
4 be connected directly up to a waiting tanker. Excuse
5 me. My drawing -- I'm not -- okay, I'm just not an
6 artist but I hope you get the general picture, which is
7 going to be drawn off-site to Sixth Street. This is
8 Sixth Street. This is the chrome shop. Okay.

9 Another one of the key things I want to
10 talk about tonight is the exterior. The exterior of
11 the building is not a real aesthetically pleasing
12 structure. But structurely it's there. The exterior
13 is made of a wooden plank sort of like siding but made
14 of wood and beneath that is sort of a hard board sort
15 of insulation. It's not the greatest and we are going
16 to talk about that, too. Another key element is the
17 approximate location of what I'm going to call the MW
18 or the municipal well. This is one of the wells that
19 supplies drinking water to the residents, okay. That
20 is kind of a quick -- pardon me? I should be on the
21 right side. Thank you. It's over here. There it is.
22 Those are basically the highlights of the structure,
23 what's out there and what's going on with the zinc
24 shop.

25 Let me try to walk you through the

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1 chrome shop. I should have had you guys come up here
2 and draw this. Here is the chrome shop. This is the
3 pre-treatment facility. And about over here is the old
4 Better Brite chrome. The pre-treatment facility as I
5 told you before, has got two holding tanks. Basically
6 the holding tanks receive the contaminated groundwater
7 from an extraction system that lies right about here.
8 The old site, there's a birm. A birm is basically a
9 mound of soil that's running on the site, and beneath
10 that birm is buried another six inch PVC pipe which
11 extracts contaminated groundwater and there is also a
12 well buried beneath the site that's also extracting the
13 groundwater and they are connected to these holding
14 tanks, actually kind of merge them both going there.
15 Those holding tanks actually contain the groundwater
16 until they're treated and released to the City's waste
17 system to treat, of course. The site is fenced, and
18 it's basically capped with a clay cap so what we are
19 trying to do is trying to make sure that the
20 contaminated foundation is covered and that there is no
21 allowance for any trespassing onto the site. That's
22 basically the highlights of the chrome shop.

23 Which kind of brings us to why we are here
24 today. By the way, while I'm trying to grab this
25 overhead, one of the things that we have noticed from

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1 visual inspection is that the operation of the
2 pre-treatment facility is seeming to have a positive
3 effect. We have a contractor who's on-site who's
4 actually been watching the -- I'm going to say the
5 surface run-off water. Originally, the surface run-off
6 water was a bright yellow and seems like that
7 coloration is starting to, despite -- I don't want to
8 say it's clear but we are getting there, so visually it
9 looks like the facility is actually having a positive
10 effect which brings us to why we are here tonight. We
11 are here tonight to discuss our, the agency's
12 recommendations for the proposed plan which is to
13 propose to either do option A or option B, or actually
14 option one or option two.

15 Option one is to basically not install
16 any actual monitoring wells in the facility. Looking
17 at the facility for the zinc site, about two hundred
18 fifty feet away is the municipal well. Looking at
19 trying to install a monitoring well between the
20 facility and the municipal well to try and get some
21 kind of a feel for the groundwater flow and the level
22 of contamination. Also, not to install or let's say
23 upgrade any site security right now. The zinc shop if
24 you recall from that little slide -- let me throw it
25 back up again real quick -- the zinc shop if you recall

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1 didn't have any fencing around it. You know, the
2 building, even though the building is standing it
3 doesn't have any fencing around it so we want to go
4 ahead, try to provide the security necessary to at
5 least try and prevent any easy access to the building.
6 And also, with the chrome shop -- let's throw that back
7 up for a quick second here. With the chrome shop as
8 you can see, the fence is located here. And what we
9 want to try to do is make sure that the fence is still
10 sturdy and right now, I'm sure a few people can testify
11 to, it's not the greatest but we will make sure it's
12 tightened up. The other thing we want to do is try to
13 make sure that the building exterior will be -- make
14 sure the building exterior is closed in but we will get
15 to all that, too, and the third thing would be no
16 continued operation of the pre-treatment, okay. All
17 that is no action, okay.

18 Now, second alternative is to continue
19 operation at the facility to secure the zinc and the
20 chrome shop, install monitoring wells to determine
21 flows, the particular flow rate or the flow pattern.
22 All right. I've got a few more. All right. So
23 basically what we are recommending -- and this is just
24 a broader description -- I want to read these to you.
25 We are recommending to do all the things I've just been

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1 discussing. The alternatives for the proposed plan are
2 basically pretty simple. We can either do nothing and
3 let the system, you know, kind of run its course which
4 would mean that the facility as it's operating now
5 would cease operation in October of 1991, or we can do
6 all of these things.

7 One of the things that, like I said,
8 that needs to be mentioned is that we're looking at the
9 total cost of about a half a million dollars to do
10 this. And we want to get this thing started this fall,
11 if not earlier. That would mean that we could
12 definitely get out in public, start installing the
13 fencing as necessary and at least start work on trying
14 to get those monitoring wells in place. One of the
15 burning questions that's probably come up about now is
16 who pays for this?

17 PERSON FROM AUDIENCE: The taxpayers
18 don't have any money.

19 MR. LINNEAR: EPA has a fund that's
20 established to do this, okay. We will continue to
21 pursue the responsible parties for the contamination of
22 the groundwater and the soil to try and recover all
23 past costs, okay. At this particular time I've kind of
24 presented the alternatives which are, go back to them
25 real quick, which is to do nothing or to do it all, and

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1 I've tried to give you some type of a cost parameter
2 that we are looking at and when we are looking at to
3 try and get these things done. That's our proposed
4 plan.

5 At this particular time I'd like to turn
6 this over to Kim Bro. Can we hold questions until the
7 end? I'm sure there is a ton of questions out here.
8 I'll be glad to answer all of them. I'll be here all
9 night.

10 MR. BRO: Thanks very much, Dave. I
11 probably need to clarify something. It occurred to me
12 as I was hearing the presentation and Terry said it but
13 I think I'd like to say it again. The comment period
14 after we have question and answers really focuses in on
15 the comments about continuing the operation of the
16 system that Dave just described and taking the
17 additional measures he described. At the same time, as
18 Terry mentioned, the Wisconsin Division of Health in
19 cooperation with the Agency for Toxic Substances and
20 Disease Registry has just released a public comment
21 draft of what's called a Preliminary Health Assessment,
22 and Terry described that. And so we have two
23 simultaneous comment periods right now, and the benefit
24 is that both of these documents are available at the
25 same time and you can look at them and comment on them.

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1 The confusion is that the comment period tonight is
2 aimed at taking the action. The comment period
3 described in our Preliminary Health Assessment is for
4 you to let us know at the Division of Health concerns
5 you have about the Preliminary Health Assessment and any
6 additional information, anything else that we can add to
7 the document that can make it more accurate and targeted
8 at the key concerns, and your comments on that document,
9 the Preliminary Health Assessment, should be mailed to
10 the Division of Health at the address that is either on
11 the fact sheet, the site information sheet that we
12 passed out tonight or it's also on the Preliminary
13 Health Assessment document itself, and the deadline for
14 those comments is June 7, 1991, okay. So just to be
15 clear on that, we have two different documents we are
16 talking about here and two different types of comments.
17 The comments tonight are on the action, the comments
18 postmarked by June 7 are on the Preliminary Health
19 Assessment.

20 Every time a site is nominated for the
21 Superfund list, we, meaning the Agency for Toxic
22 Substances and Disease Registry or in Wisconsin's case,
23 the Wisconsin Division of Health, are responsible for
24 doing a preliminary health assessment. And that is the
25 document that is now available. After the remedial

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1 investigation is done, we will update the information,
2 take into account all the new information that's gained
3 and do another health assessment that you will then
4 have another opportunity to comment on it. Most of
5 what I'm going to say tonight is summarized in this
6 facts sheet, and information about the specific
7 chemicals are in the chemical facts sheets that are out
8 front. If you didn't pick them up you can get those,
9 so anybody who wants to get more specific than what I'm
10 saying right now can feel free to do that, and look at
11 that document, and then during the question and answer
12 period if you have comments or questions, really
13 questions about the preliminary health assessment
14 information, I can answer it then. But then when we
15 get to the comment period, focus in on the action
16 that's necessary to keep that operation functioning and
17 to take additional steps for protection.

18 Well, who's involved in doing the
19 health assessment at a Superfund site? There are a
20 number of people at the Wisconsin Division of Health
21 who are involved in looking at the health consequences
22 of contamination in Superfund sites. It's really a
23 team. I'm here tonight but there's a team of us
24 involved. I'm an environmental engineer and I look at
25 how contaminants move through the environment and ways

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1 that people might come in contact with them but also
2 involved in our team are public health people and we
3 work closely with local public health agencies and
4 people such as Shirley Rok here in the City of De Pere
5 and also the Wisconsin Division of Health has a
6 regional office in Green Bay and Dennis Hiebray is here
7 tonight. He's somebody locally that you can call when
8 you have questions and he can funnel them to us, so if
9 you have concerns you don't have to call or write
10 directly to us if you don't want to. There are people
11 here in the community who can be of help. We also have
12 people called an epidemiologist who look at patterns of
13 how disease occur, and toxicologists who understand the
14 specific chemical actions of toxicants at sites like
15 this on our bodies and different organ systems. And we
16 really work together as a team in evaluating what the
17 consequences of contamination at the site are.

18 What are the kinds of steps that go
19 into a health assessment? Well, we identify what we
20 know about chemicals at the site that might pose a
21 health threat. We look at what are the characteristics
22 of the site itself? What about the site, what kind of
23 actions took place there, what kinds of processes were
24 used that might affect the chemicals? We look at the
25 pathways that these chemicals might move through the

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1 environment to a place where people might come into
2 contact with them and finally, how's it that people
3 interact with the contaminated media like soil and
4 water, groundwater, air, and what kind of exposure do
5 they get to these substances and then the whole team
6 evaluates how these things work together and then we
7 make conclusions of what kind of health effects might
8 we see at a site like this, what kind of steps need to
9 be taken to protect public health, and finally we
10 recommend actions for the agencies responsible for
11 management and actions for the community as well.

12 What are some of the uses of documents
13 like health assessments? One is we identify where we
14 need to look for more information. Where are some of
15 the information gaps? If we see an immediate public
16 health threat we call for some kind of action to be
17 taken. At the Better Brite site, most of this action
18 that we have called for has happened prior to this
19 document itself, in the form of what we call
20 consultations where we have written, we have looked at
21 the information as it's gathered and then written
22 statements to the DNR and to EPA saying we think these
23 additional steps are necessary right now. And that has
24 played a role in the actions that have been taken up to
25 this point. We also issue advice to people in the

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1 community. When we started this process of the
2 Preliminary Health Assessment one of the questions was
3 asked, "Well, before your document comes out if we see
4 more puddles in our back yards what do we do?" And it
5 was a very good question and is an important one and in
6 response we developed this facts sheet that's been
7 available here on what to do if you happen to see the
8 seeping sludge or the seeping bright yellow water in
9 your backyard and you want to know whether it poses a
10 hazard or not. Finally, we look to see if there's a
11 basis for doing a long-term health study. Essentially
12 if people have been exposed to the contaminants and we
13 don't have information on what kind of effects we might
14 see from these contaminants, we try to evaluate whether
15 there's something we can learn from what happens to the
16 people who happen to be in that unfortunate position
17 and we can decide whether we can look at patterns of
18 disease occurrence or simply track them over time and
19 see if something happens, if particular health
20 conditions develop so we can learn more about what
21 kinds of problems these chemicals cause.

22 At this site, and I've just taken a
23 simplified representation of what our concerns are, the
24 company spilled contaminants out on the ground surface
25 and also down into this upper layer above the bedrock

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1 that underlies De Pere. It's a silty clay material and
2 it holds water very well and you all know about clay.
3 It doesn't allow water to move very fast through it but
4 it holds a lot of water. And it appears that quite a
5 bit, many, many gallons of the contaminated material
6 from the site went down into this upper layer, and this
7 is the layer where we have information, meaning that
8 there are monitoring wells around both the zinc shop
9 and the chrome shop. We are concerned about these
10 contaminants being in this area but one thing in terms
11 of emergency actions is we have some time in terms of
12 the public water supply, because there are many, many
13 feet of material between where the contamination is
14 known to be and where the city draws its water. So
15 it's -- the issue of the city water is one we are
16 concerned about but one for which we have some time
17 right now to be able to decide what action is necessary
18 to protect it.

19 The other way in which this
20 contamination that we know is in the area underneath
21 the shops gets out to where people might be exposed to
22 it is when it seeps either into a basement that also is
23 in this clay material or when it seeps out the ground
24 surface. And in this case we have situations that are
25 well-known here about how this contaminated material is

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1 obvious and how people are concerned about coming into
2 contact with it and we are hopeful that the systems
3 that have now been put in place will tend to draw the
4 contaminants that were underneath the shops in towards
5 those collection systems so that we should not be
6 seeing continued seepage into basements with
7 contaminated water, should not be seeing continued
8 seepage out to the ground surface while these systems
9 are operating, but we are going to find out.

10 What are the contaminants that we are
11 concerned about here? I have some examples of some of
12 the recent measurements in the past few years that have
13 been taken in the wells that are around the two sites
14 and here at the zinc shop. You can see that chromium
15 exists at levels that are way, way above what we would
16 consider acceptable for drinking water and that is why
17 we are concerned about the threat it poses in the long
18 run. There is also cyanide that was used at the shop
19 that is contaminating ground water and then the bottom
20 three are chlorinated solvents and they also exist in
21 that clay material around the zinc shop at levels that
22 exceed what we would call the Wisconsin Groundwater
23 Enforcement Standards, and these are the standards that
24 we would apply for water that people would be drinking
25 from private well supplies. It gives you some basis of

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1 comparison for why we are concerned about the
2 contamination that is there.

3 What kinds of problems might these
4 chemicals cause? The chromium, especially the form
5 that is found at this site, is a irritant. It can
6 cause -- it can upset internal systems when it's
7 ingested, just cause irritation, make people sick. If
8 people consume these very high levels we might see
9 some -- and they did it over a long time -- we might
10 see some more chronic types of problems, kidney damage,
11 for example. Cyanide is basically a problem to the
12 nervous system. And we know that some forms of cyanide
13 if they're high enough -- we hear a lot of cyanide as a
14 lethal poison -- and in this case we are well below the
15 level where that might happen, so it would be more in
16 the situation of if people were consuming this water
17 that we might have some problems with headaches. And
18 then the chlorinated solvents, one is dicloroethane and
19 tetrachloroethylene. Our basic concern with these is
20 their potential to cause cancer if people were exposed
21 to these at these elevated levels before standards over
22 a long period of time. Now, as it stands, nobody is
23 consuming water from this area. As far as we can tell
24 nobody is consuming water that is contaminated at these
25 levels and that is definitely a positive thing here.

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1 Over at the chrome shop, I put some older information
2 from 1986 for what was in the shallow groundwater in
3 the silty clay material and then you can see that the
4 numbers of level of chromium then in the next line for
5 what is there now is much, much lower in recent years
6 so we have a much, much reduced threat in the surface
7 material. We still have a concern as you look down at
8 this one, where we monitor just the upper part of the
9 bedrock below that and there are significant levels of
10 chromium in that upper part of that dolomite bedrock.

11 Now, the city water supply as I showed
12 before is still many, many feet down in the sandstone
13 bedrock beneath this one so it's still a long distance.
14 We have time to try to decide what action is necessary
15 to take. But also in this lower area, there has been
16 some benzene found, and benzene in drinking water is a
17 concern also, as I mentioned for some of those other
18 chlorinated solvents, as a potential for causing cancer.
19 And again, we don't have any indication that people
20 actually are exposed to these materials in the
21 groundwater.

22 So what are our basic concerns in terms
23 of the way people are exposed to these things? Most of
24 our concerns about exposure have been addressed already
25 by the emergency actions that the EPA has taken,

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1 meaning if people are consuming contaminated well
2 water, we want to know about it. If we are taking it
3 from near the site and as far as we are aware, nobody
4 is using private wells that extract water from that
5 dolomite aquifer from an area near the site but we
6 would like to see somebody go out and conduct a careful
7 survey to make sure that there aren't any private wells
8 that are still in operation. The area gets municipal
9 water which is clean. Then touching or drinking the
10 contaminated seepage water that comes out onto the
11 ground surface or in basements from here is a concern.
12 Now if people are sensitive to chromium, it's possible
13 that the levels we see, that we have seen in surface
14 water here could cause what would be a sensitization
15 reaction, an eczema or a rash-type reaction in people
16 who are sensitive. The levels that we have seen in the
17 surface water off of the site, away from the site, are
18 not the kinds of levels that we would expect to cause
19 people to become sensitive to chromium. But the levels
20 that people already are sensitive, it's possible that
21 they could have a reaction, and the information on this
22 is not complete. Nobody has come up with a level that
23 they say is okay for people who are sensitive so we
24 don't know for sure how much one can tolerate. We are
25 hopeful that the systems that are operating right now,

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1 and if they continue to operate, will protect people
2 from the seepage water, but we advise that people watch
3 out for it, and then finally -- well not finally -- the
4 insulation material from time to time on the zinc shop
5 building has been exposed and some of that has had
6 relatively high levels of cyanide in it, enough
7 possibly to cause a child to become sick if they were
8 playing around there pulling this stuff out and
9 sticking it in their mouths, so that is why we have
10 asked emergency response people to put siding covers
11 over that lose siding to make sure that this can't
12 happen. Also, we did find in one study that was done
13 in 1987 that there was one spot over by the chrome shop
14 in the surface soils where there were relatively high
15 levels of lead and there hasn't been additional testing
16 in this particular area near the tracks to see if that
17 in fact was something that was just in that one
18 isolated spot where that sample was taken or if it
19 might be more widespread now. Since 1987 a
20 considerable amount of earth moving has occurred in
21 that area so we can't say what was there then is
22 necessarily the same as what is there now and we think
23 that it needs to be investigated further.

24 At the zinc shop we saw some high levels
25 of lead right near the side, the area where the sump

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1 was installed so those soils had been removed and we
2 don't expect to see the lead problem there that was
3 found in 1987. But what does that mean in terms of
4 what we recommend?

5 First of all, it means that we'd like
6 to see more soil sampling and this what is planned for
7 the remedial investigation so that we can be sure that
8 there aren't chemicals that are in chromium that are in
9 the area that have not really been closely
10 investigated. Now the areas that have been
11 investigated are the residential soils near the shop,
12 not so much the back side of the shop heading over in
13 the zinc shop case where the trucking company is, or in
14 the chrome shop case, over towards the railroad tracks.
15 Those are areas where we'd like to see more sampling in
16 particular because of the lead we saw but we'd like to
17 see broader sampling for more chemicals all around the
18 site.

19 We strongly encourage that monitoring be
20 done of the contamination in the groundwater so we can
21 get a better idea of just how far the contamination has
22 spread from the site and get a better idea of what kind
23 of a time line there is in terms of how much the
24 concentrations are decreasing and how fast it's
25 dropping down in the aquifer, above the aquifer used by

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1 the city.

2 Thirdly, I mentioned we'd like to have
3 a more careful search for private wells in this area to
4 be sure that nobody is still using a private well. We
5 think it's important that access to the zinc shop
6 building materials be restricted, that there not be a
7 situation that after a few months the plywood that's
8 put up there starts to fall away and then we might see
9 kids playing around and perhaps playing around with
10 that contaminated material. We think the access should
11 be controlled.

12 And finally, if people -- we think
13 people should exercise caution. If you see puddles on
14 the surface in this vicinity or in basement water and
15 it is that bright yellow hue, it's important to note
16 that and to call Terry at the Department of Natural
17 Resources so that he can come out and check and see if
18 in fact it is contaminated. The systems that are there
19 should solve the problem but if for example there were
20 a heavy rain and a power failure and there wasn't a
21 quick enough response, perhaps we would have a
22 situation where we could have additional seepage and we
23 want to watch out for that. It's not one we expect.

24 One final thing I'd like to mention is
25 that when we look at the contamination at these sites,

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1 we look for the kinds of health effects that we know
2 about, from what has happened in other places, what has
3 happened in occupational settings when people are
4 exposed to these chemicals, but there are definitely
5 health effects that are associated with being in this
6 situation where we have a company that dumped material
7 illegally in a residential area and they have done it
8 for a long time and it's been a problem. It causes a
9 great deal of stress for anybody who has to deal with
10 the situation, and nobody can deny that that stress has
11 important effects on the lives of the people who have
12 to deal with the situation. The Health Assessment
13 acknowledges that that is definitely a concern for the
14 people who are faced with that situation. But what it
15 does not say is that the chemicals cause those health
16 effects necessarily. And so that's one thing to keep
17 clear. That we definitely have to -- we have to say
18 that it's a sad situation and I'm sure that people here
19 can have attested to that, and it's caused a lot of
20 disruption for people in the community so we have come
21 out now tonight and said the levels of the
22 contamination that we see that are present in the soils
23 now are not those, and actually since 1979, the
24 Wisconsin Division of Health has said that the levels
25 of contamination that we see in the soil at this site

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1 are not so much that we would expect to cause a health
2 effect in the people who are using the soils and
3 gardening in the soils, we don't see that and we
4 haven't seen it with the sampling that's gone on
5 through time. If people are sensitive then definitely
6 we have a question mark. We don't know what levels of
7 exposure to this stuff are enough to cause a reaction
8 in a person who's sensitive. Just recently I found out
9 about a test that we can use for people who are
10 interested in it, maybe exposed to this material to
11 identify if in fact they are sensitive to chromium. It
12 doesn't mean that the chemicals at the site caused that
13 sensitivity, but that we can find out if in fact they
14 are sensitive, and several of the people I've talked to
15 are interested in pursuing getting tested to see if
16 there in fact is sensitivity, so that is one option
17 that we can follow up on. It doesn't solve the problem
18 and it doesn't give us a lot of answers but it's one
19 direction that we will be able to move from here.

20 We have -- the Preliminary Health
21 Assessment has had comments internally from several of
22 the agencies that are involved. It's gone to the
23 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, to the EPA,
24 been through several divisions at the Agency for Toxic
25 Substances and Disease Registry but the people who know

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1 the most about this site are the ones who live right
2 here, and the people who have worked on this
3 Preliminary Health Assessment have put a lot of time
4 into it, but I think if there are gaps we are very
5 eager to know what you identify as those problems and
6 we will definitely take whatever comments you give us
7 into account when we make this a finalized document and
8 when we move ahead then as the remedial investigation
9 occurs to investigate further what kinds of health
10 problems might be associated with this site. Thanks.

11 MS. PASTOR: Okay. You heard from everyone so
12 if you have a question, raise your hands, and we will
13 call on you, try to answer it.

14 (Reporter's Note: Some speakers from the
15 audience did not identify themselves so they are listed
16 as such in the transcript, and some names are spelled
17 phonetically.)

18 MR. THOMAS ENGERS: I got a question for
19 David, okay. You talked about the cost, and where
20 you're going to try to get the money from. What are
21 the chances of the landowners having to pay some of
22 that cost?

23 MR. LINNEAR: When you say the landowners --
24 I'm trying to understand your question.

25 MR. THOMAS ENGERS: The people that live

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1 around the site that have contamination on the
2 properties having to pay for it.

3 MR. LINNEAR: What's the chances of them
4 having to pay a percentage or --

5 MR. THOMAS ENGERS: We were told different at
6 one time.

7 MR. LINNEAR: I'd like to know as to who told
8 you that so I could maybe try and go back and correct
9 that person. No. A lot of people here with me today
10 can testify to that.

11 MR. MICHAEL COWAN: A year ago there was a
12 meeting at the municipal center on the west side and it
13 seemed that nobody knew how the groundwater flowed
14 around that area because of the dam. Nobody had done
15 any off-site ground or water sampling. I was told by
16 one gentleman from the DNR, took my name, my address,
17 my phone number. He said we will be in contact with
18 you and we will do some sampling. I haven't heard
19 anything. What happened?

20 MR. LINNEAR: I don't know because I wasn't
21 there.

22 MR. COWAN: It's been a year since that
23 meeting at the municipal center. All you people have
24 done is put plywood up around the outside just to keep
25 the inside from falling out of it. It's contaminated

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1 with chromium, with zinc, with cyanide. We were told
2 the building was going to be demolished. It's still
3 standing.

4 MR. LINNEAR: Okay.

5 MR. COWAN: What have you done in the last
6 year?

7 MR. LINNEAR: What we have done in the past
8 year is that we have gone ahead and put up a
9 pre-treatment facility at the chrome shop. We have been
10 treating groundwater there since October of 1990. We
11 have also taken the contaminated groundwater from the
12 zinc shop and treated it at the chrome shop also so we
13 are also trying to go ahead and reduce the contaminated
14 water at the zinc shop.

15 MR. COWAN: And you still don't know how much
16 contamination is on adjacent properties?

17 MR. LINNEAR: I'll agree with you on that
18 point.

19 MR. COWAN: Why not?

20 MR. LINNEAR: That is one of the things we
21 are going to go ahead and try to do.

22 MR. COWAN: Wouldn't it make sense to
23 somebody if you have a contaminated site to sample
24 things around it to see how far it's spread?

25 MR. LINNEAR: Yes, we do, which we intend to

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do.

MR. COWAN: In over a year? That can't be done in a year?

MR. LINNEAR: We intend to still do that. I mean, we have been sampling.

MR. COWAN: Intentions are great. Everybody has got good intentions.

MR. LINNEAR: True. All I can say, sir, is we will continue to try to take those samples and we are going to be sampling from around the site. I don't know who you spoke to in the DNR, who told you this. I would love to hear it so I can go out and find out what they've told you. What we are proposing to do today I think are things that we are going to do.

MS. SUE LOUISNATHAN: I would like to add something. I'm Sue Louisnathan. I'm with the EPA in Chicago. I might need to clarify a little bit about funding. Now we all talked about money at the beginning of the meter, who pays for all this? There is the Superfund which is a tax on those people that -- companies that generate hazardous wastes and with that money we are able to take actions, two types of actions. One are the actions that have been taken at the Better Brite site. Those are actions to do, to take action on anything which is threatening public

1 health and the environment but there's also some monies
2 available in Superfund to take actions to do the kind
3 of study that you're talking about, and we can only use
4 that money on sites that are on the national priority
5 list and Better Brite has just become one of those
6 sites on the national priority list. Now it is
7 eligible to receive additional monies to do the
8 long-term studies and that's why Terry's here tonight.
9 We have allocated money, given it to the DNR and they
10 will begin the long-term study of the site so I just
11 wanted you to know about the different sources of
12 funding that we have available in the Superfund
13 program, and we will address that concern through the
14 long-term study but in the meantime, we are still going
15 to be taking the actions to continue with the
16 groundwater, pump and treat there and to do some things
17 to improve the site security so --

18 MS. PASTOR: This is all what Terry was
19 talking about in RI/FS, that is remedial investigation.
20 The long-term sampling is part of that. It will be
21 done.

22 MRS. KONRATH: I've got several. First I'm
23 going to -- you are under a misrepresentation as far as
24 how much stuff was spilled from the chrome plant. Mr.
25 Zenner when he was here at the counsel meeting stated

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1 that up to four hundred thousand gallons was lost
2 because not only did they dump and pump it out the back
3 door and store it, those tanks leaked for years and it
4 was found to be leaking for years so that has to be
5 taken into consideration, that that plant was allowed to
6 run for seven more years after it was found to be a
7 contaminated building and with all this stuff going on,
8 the second thing many people are not aware of, are you
9 going to do anything to stop it from going into the Fox
10 River? Now right now, all the years it's been in
11 operation, it goes directly to storm sewers, was only
12 hooked to storm sewers. Now are you going to close off
13 those storm sewers? Are you?

14 MR. LINNEAR: Are you asking --

15 MRS. KONRATH: I'm asking you, are you going
16 to do something about keeping it out of the Fox River?

17 MR. LINNEAR: Mrs. Konrath, what we are
18 intending to do to address the issue about what
19 contaminations are going into the Fox River and what's
20 going into the groundwater system is once again an
21 elaboration and that's what we are going to do in
22 remedial investigation. We have to continue.

23 MR. KONRATH: Okay. I'd ask you tell me how
24 deep is the well that you have by the chromium plant?
25 How far down does it actually go?

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MR. KOEHN: Which one, the extraction well?

MR. KONRATH: Right.

MR. LINNEAR: Just in the bedrock.

MR. KONRATH: Did it go to bedrock?

MR. LINNEAR: Right at the top of it.

MRS. KONRATH: Are you planning on posting these sites? I know you're not going to fence the whole chromium site, but are you intending to let people be aware that this is a hazardous waste site?

MR. LINNEAR: Are you asking are we going to put up signs that say this is a hazardous site and you should stay off it, don't play ball in here?

MRS. KONRATH: Great. I've been trying for that for years. When you do your samples can you take them deeper than the ones that were taken during during the drought last April? They took samples of dust and of course now that the drought has broken, most of those places that samples were taken should be retested.

MR. LINNEAR: What we intend to do is we intend to do an extensive and a total sampling of groundwater.

MRS. KONRATH: I don't know. You're not going to ignore where they did it already then?

MR. LINNEAR: The whole gamut.

MRS. KONRATH: Thank you.

MR. COWAN: You're going to try to make use of

1 the data obtained with the other stuff?

2 MR. LINNEAR: And in terms of sampling there
3 will be shallow samples; have to look at dust and the
4 potential for airborne particles moving around.

5 MR. KONRATH: Because it sits in rings, you
6 know. I've got samples.

7 MR. LINNEAR: If it's accepted by everyone to
8 go ahead and do the alternative two here which is to
9 continue operation, et cetera, when we do install the
10 monitoring wells we will probably have some results in
11 from that so like I say, we will be trying to do as
12 extensive as possible. Any other questions?

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just one. Are you
14 going to be able to use those wells that are already in?

15 MR. LINNEAR: We are doing them.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You say that you're
17 going to do a long term study now. Isn't there
18 something that you could put wells right in the
19 people's back yards while you're doing the studies to
20 make them feel safe in their own homes? We all have
21 children. We all know that as a parent, you can tell
22 them don't eat the dirt, don't touch, go play ball in
23 that fence but as you know children, that they will do
24 it anyway. Now, something should be -- you should be
25 able to feel safe in your own home. I know we

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1 requested wells at one time to be put in by and near
2 our sump pumps and the DNR refused to do that, and now
3 that was again like four years ago. Isn't there
4 something you can do for some of the people that live
5 in that area?

6 MR. LINNEAR: What we tried to do, what we
7 have tried to do already and we will continue to try to
8 do is look at whatever data we have got to try to figure
9 out some level of contamination so that we can take
10 actions, you know, for conditions that you're
11 describing. If we see that the levels are excessive
12 we'll try to take an immediate action. At this
13 particular point we are still evaluating. From what you
14 heard from Mr. Bro here, right now the levels are high
15 enough for him to make recommendations that we are
16 trying to actually face but that's about it. That's why
17 we are continuing to do more sampling to make sure we
18 haven't missed anything.

19 MR. WILLEMS: Kenneth Willems. I live
20 directly east. I own the property adjacent to the
21 railroad tracks across from the chromium plant, all the
22 properties, and I challenge that soil facts sheet that
23 you had up there where the clay, the buffer level of
24 clay in the area was such. All my property adjacent to
25 that which runs right into Better Brite is nothing but

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1 sand and pea gravel when I built, the whole excavation
2 nothing but gravel, a little bitty mound of black dirt.
3 I trucked two thousand yards of clay onto my property
4 just to give it a base. There was no clay in that
5 whole area. How can directly across the tracks you can
6 say that's solid clay? No way.

7 MR. LINNEAR: Okay. And I would not counter
8 your challenge. What I would say, though, is that the
9 cross-section that you saw was simplified and it was
10 not -- it was not a typical cross-section of all the
11 surrounding areas.

12 MR. WILLEMS: You were probably looking at a
13 cross-section, maybe, of the whole city of De Pere but
14 that particular area right there is nothing but solid
15 sand and real light soil. There's no clay whatsoever.
16 The only clay I ever seen over by Better Brite, I seen
17 it trucked in by trucks many years ago. Down east and
18 west of Better Brite is all clay. We live there.

19 MR. LINNEAR: We have seen examples that there
20 are different different layers and things, the whole
21 bit. We don't have a complete survey yet.

22 MR. WILLEMS: But it's right there. My land
23 is there, their land goes right there. There's no
24 differential. It goes right there. There's nothing in
25 between. Right there, there's nothing but pure sand.

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1 MR. KOEHN: At the Better Brite Shop, chrome
2 shop we have put borings in in the past. Those
3 portions are examined and the cuttings come up and the
4 cross-sections that have been shown use that
5 information and we are pretty sure that there is clay
6 there. The other thing Kim was trying to show, that
7 that cross-section is not so much the actual geology in
8 the area but trying to show that although the municipal
9 well is only 250 odd feet from the zinc shop, it has a
10 long way to go vertically. He wasn't trying to show it
11 as a geologic lesson.

12 MR. WILLEMS: I'm thinking that the
13 groundwater seeping through the sand and everything is
14 right there. Getting back to what the other lady said,
15 we had sumps pumps pump that groundwater. That's
16 contaminated water. It's coming directly through that
17 vein. There's no way it's going to go past my land and
18 just drop drastically down one way or the other. It
19 has to stay in the same plane.

20 MR. KOEHN: Which are different layers, some
21 sandy, some silty, some clay. At the chrome shop the
22 predominant feature is the clay.

23 MS. PASTOR: After the meeting maybe you
24 could show us where you live and we'd pinpoint it a
25 little bit.

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1 MR. LINNEAR: One of the things we could
2 possibly discuss, if you have visible signs of
3 contamination, we could talk about it, how we can
4 address it. I mean --

5 MS. PASTOR: I know your face but I don't know
6 your name.

7 MR. BAUMGART: Paul Baumgart. I had a
8 question related to groundwater flow. It states here
9 there's strong downward grading in the direction of the
10 municipal well. And that municipal well is thought to
11 influence that grading, in other words, draw it
12 downwards. Is there any -- do you have any idea how
13 strong that grading is towards the well and what
14 influence the well has upon that force?

15 MR. KOEHN: I don't have numbers or anything
16 like that with me. We do know that it is a fairly
17 strong gradient caused by the pumping, but I don't have
18 that with me. There was some work done by a consultant
19 firm. I don't remember the year but one of the
20 original studies when the wells were put in --

21 MR. BAUMGART: No idea as far as time?

22 MR. KOEHN: Some modeling has been done to
23 estimate the time that it would take to impact the
24 municipal well. Seems to me it was in the neighborhood
25 of 60 to 80 years or something on that order.

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1 MR. LINNEAR: Once again, that modeling
2 doesn't incorporate, you know, the extraction systems in
3 place now, and if you know anything about modeling, it's
4 really -- Hopefully after we really get into the RI,
5 remedial investigation, we will have some better data.

6 MR. KOEHN: And an awful lot of these
7 questions are getting into what a RI is, as to what is
8 a remedial investigation. You're also almost answering
9 your question, why do a remedial investigation?

10 MR. SCOTT SCHMITT: In the health assessment
11 you talk a lot about the chromium and the cyanide but
12 what about these solvents a little more? Got two
13 people who live close to here who developed cancer.
14 That's what worries me is these solvents. The health
15 assessment only tells about one case but there's
16 actually been two.

17 MR. BRO: What?

18 MR. SCHMITT: Cases of cancer, actually been
19 two. Isn't that kind a little ironic? Doesn't it
20 concern your guys? You've got solvents that you say are
21 cancer-causing, never really get into it or what the
22 number means. Seems all you guys mostly talk about is
23 chromium.

24 MR. BRO: We are definitely concerned about the
25 potential for cancer but the situation with how these

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1 solvents might get out and the ways that people would be
2 exposed to them, the chemicals that we are concerned
3 about from a cancer perspective are very volatile, so
4 when the water comes to the surface they come out into
5 the air. The levels that we see in this groundwater are
6 not such that seepage water such as in the basement
7 would have a sufficient quantity to pose a significant
8 cancer threat. The time we would be concerned about
9 that threat would be if that water were being run
10 frequently in a home water supply situation and if
11 people were drinking it.

12 MR. SCHMITT: Do you assure it's not, though?
13 Could it possibly be coming in?

14 MR. BRO: It's probably there at very, very
15 low levels, well below those that we would use for our
16 drinking water standards, for example, so those
17 chemicals are very likely there when that water seeps
18 but at very, very low levels. How long it may take from
19 when it causes cancers, it's years and years.

20 MR. KONRATH: 21, to be exact.

21 MR. LINNEAR: Did that answer it?

22 MR. KONRATH: Well, first I'd like to make a
23 comment on what has just been discussed. You say 60 to
24 80 years before it gets to the well. I hope you're not
25 as wrong on that figure as you were on the amount of

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1 water you estimated to treat at the plant because it
2 seems it's three times the amount now that was
3 originally, yes, so I hope you're right on the 60 to 80
4 years; give you a little time. Also, on the drawing
5 that you had, the second one, you said 1985 you removed
6 some soils. What soil did you remove from my property?

7 MR. LINNEAR: What I was saying when I said
8 that we removed some soil and we removed some solid
9 waste was that some soil was removed from at least at
10 the site that we know of. We also removed some
11 contamination that existed inside the structure.

12 MR. KONRATH: You drew a box right where my
13 property was.

14 MS. PASTOR: He claimed not to be an artist.

15 MR. LINNEAR: I wasn't trying to hit a
16 specific spot. If it happened to fall there, I'm sorry.
17 I wasn't trying to.

18 MR. KONRATH: Then the other questions are
19 for Mr. Bro. You say that these different things, if
20 we -- there's no real immediate threat now because
21 there's no groundwater pooling and that stuff. Well,
22 for 21 years, I have been in this.

23 MR. BRO: Right.

24 MR. KONRATH: I've been in these pools. I
25 worked in this soil and that. Are you telling me now

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1 that there's no health problem to me because you're not
2 finding these levels that were there?

3 MR. BRO: The question was the levels now we
4 see are not levels where we would expect a health
5 problem, and considering that the Konraths have been in
6 this situation for years since this all occurred, isn't
7 there a possibility that there's a health problem
8 associated with it? And the answer, Marvin, is that the
9 levels that we have seen over time, including those that
10 were measured back in the late '70's, are not those that
11 we would expect to cause health effects. The levels of
12 chromium in the soils, in the backyard soils, are not
13 those that we would expect to cause health effects and
14 the only -- the unanswered question is and what that
15 means is that they're not the levels where we would
16 expect to see a person become sensitive to chromium as a
17 result of what is there. But if you already are
18 sensitive to chromium, I can't say what levels it would
19 take to cause a reaction and so that is the question we
20 still need to answer; that is, are there people there
21 who are sensitive to chromium, and then what levels of
22 exposure would it take to cause that reaction?

23 MR. KONRATH: Are you saying that there never
24 was dangerous levels of chromium in my back yard?

25 MR. BRO: From the standpoint of being able to

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1 garden and being able to use the back yards, the levels
2 that we see there and that we have seen over time in the
3 back yards are not those that we would expect to see
4 health effects now.

5 MR. KONRATH: But then your figures, what your
6 acceptable levels are, far exceeding all the samples
7 that we -- the read-outs we got from the sampling from
8 years ago far exceeded these acceptable levels. Well,
9 why do you have an acceptable level when these high
10 levels aren't dangerous?

11 MR. BRO: The danger in this case with the
12 surface water, the highly contaminated surface water,
13 the danger would be if people were out there drinking
14 it. So what I'm distinguishing is what is the effect
15 from it affecting, touching your skin as opposed to if
16 you are out there and taking glasses of this stuff and
17 drinking it and in this case, it would be very, very
18 much, you know, ill-advised to do that and that was the
19 advice from the very beginning is don't let people and
20 especially like little kids, get into these puddles
21 where they might be inclined to do something like that,
22 but my understanding from talking with you is that you
23 knew better and you didn't do that.

24 MR. KONRATH: I didn't know better early.

25 MR. BRO: Right, but you were -- you handled

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1 this a lot, and that then is the real issue is the
2 dermal contact with this, the skin contact, and based
3 on the information we have been able to pull from
4 looking at other situations where this occurs, that
5 that then leaves it at the situation I mentioned.

6 MR. KONRATH: Then there's one other point I
7 have to disagree with you on. You said that stress is
8 there because you live in the situation and that but it
9 is not caused by chromium. Well, the chromium caused
10 the situation. The situation caused the stress so
11 therefore, I think you have to call stress a health
12 hazard due to these chemicals because the chemicals are
13 what started the whole chain reaction. You can't
14 disassociate them.

15 MR. BRO: Yeah. The only thing that I'm
16 trying to distinguish when I say that, is there's no
17 doubt that in the situation, now, the chemical could
18 have been something other than chromium. And it's just
19 the fact that you're in a situation that is very
20 undesirable. You had a neighbor who's a bad neighbor,
21 came along, dumped material illegally and did it for a
22 long period of time, went bankrupt and left you with the
23 mess and that is a source of stress. No matter what
24 chemicals are involved that's a source of stress. But
25 if we went someplace else, to another situation where

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1 people have been involved in chromium and they didn't
2 have it as a result of a bad neighbor, maybe where
3 they're just they're working in it occupationally, the
4 same level of exposure to chromium without the situation
5 didn't cause health effects, and that's what I'm trying
6 to distinguish is the difference between general effects
7 of a chemical and the situation of being in a terrible
8 mess with a bad neighbor.

9 MRS. KONRATH: The situation we have here, the
10 stress is a health factor.

11 MR. BRO: Definitely the stress is a major
12 concern and there's no denying that the stress is there.

13 MR. KONRATH: Okay.

14 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: I have a question for
15 Dave. Before we were talking about when you were going
16 to put these wells in and begin this testing. Now, do
17 you have a time element, you know? When are you going
18 to begin to put these wells down to test the soil?

19 MR. LINNEAR: Yes, I do. What I'm looking at
20 doing is trying to get this done this fall, at least get
21 it started, if I can, get out like to start fencing the
22 zinc shop, the chrome shop, putting up some type of
23 Visqueen or some type of maybe a siding over the wood
24 zinc shop so the plaster board doesn't get, you know,
25 weathered and allow the insulation to be shown.

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1 MR. COWAN: Why didn't you tear it down?

2 MR. KONRATH: Why don't you fence it, at
3 least?

4 MR. LINNEAR: And fencing it. I'm trying to
5 do all that this fall.

6 MR. COWAN: Why didn't you tear the zinc shop
7 down, the building down?

8 MR. LINNEAR: We can do that.

9 MR. COWAN: Why not?

10 MR. LINNEAR: We could do that but if we do
11 that then we're possibly opening up the elements to even
12 more contamination because we know --

13 MR. COWAN: it's going to have to come down
14 sooner or later.

15 MR. LINNEAR: Yes, it is.

16 MR. COWAN: Why not do it sooner?

17 MR. LINNEAR: We want to go ahead and tear it
18 down when we know everything we can about it before we
19 take it down, and not have created a bigger problem.

20 MR. COWAN: You already knew it's
21 contaminated, chrome and zinc and cyanide and zinc and
22 lead.

23 MR. LINNEAR: We don't know the levels. It's
24 visibly contaminated.

25 MR. COWAN: I was told it had been. That's

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1 why the insulation had been hauled out of the outside
2 walls, to test them.

3 MR. LINNEAR: Lab tested.

4 MR. COWAN: I was told that every board and
5 every rafter in there is contaminated, all the
6 insulation is contaminated.

7 MR. LINNEAR: I'm not denying it.

8 MR. COWAN: Why leave it up? You know it's
9 contaminated. Why leave it up?

10 MR. LINNEAR: The contamination is still inside
11 the structure.

12 MR. COWAN: If the structure is gone there's
13 no contamination.

14 MR. LINNEAR: No, after all the walls are
15 torn down, the foundation still sits there. That's why
16 we watch the site foundation.

17 MR. COWAN: Tear it down and cap it.

18 MR. LINNEAR: We still have to do some more
19 investigation.

20 MR. COWAN: How many years are you going to
21 be investigating?

22 MR. LINNEAR: The investigation is going to
23 go on until we can come up with all the possible answers
24 to all scenarios so we can clean up the entire site.

25 MR. COWAN: It's been 20 some years now.

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1 MR. LINNEAR: I'm going to try to answer now
2 and we could continue this discussion later.

3 MR. COWAN: Yeah, we could. If I had a job
4 to do and I couldn't get it done in 20 years I think I'd
5 be terminated. My employment would be terminated.

6 MR. LINNEAR: I can understand your point but
7 I want to try and address some other questions and we
8 can come back and answer --

9 MRS. DE VOS: Are you going to check any
10 other areas? We live on South Sixth Street right
11 across from their house and Konraths. They have got
12 contaminated property, grass is growing up to their
13 knees, all that coming right across to our house. Are
14 you going to check the properties on the other side of
15 the road?

16 MR. LINNEAR: We have already selected a
17 contractor, negotiated for one. Right now we're going
18 to be looking on-site and off-site.

19 MRS. DE VOS: I called DNR a year ago. They
20 said they would do something about it.

21 MR. LINNEAR: I hope you didn't talk to the
22 same person.

23 MRS. DE VOS: I've got it written down at home
24 someplace. They told me it would cost me \$7,000 to do
25 it myself. I can't afford it because I probably

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1 couldn't even sell my property.

2 MR. LINNEAR: Why don't you make sure you give
3 us your name and address before you leave, make sure one
4 of us gets that.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Will there be a chance
6 to review the RI/FS work plan at some point or before
7 it's initiated?

8 MR. LINNEAR: Before it's initiated, yeah.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We're going to start
10 work this fall. You haven't negotiated a contract yet.
11 You don't have a lot of time left. Is there going to
12 be time for public review?

13 MR. LINNEAR: I am going to refer that
14 question.

15 MS. PASTOR: Generally what we do before we
16 begin a construction project is we have another meeting
17 to let people know what it is we plan to do because it
18 may impact the things that -- you know it impacts them.
19 We want to let them know when people will be at the
20 site, when they are going to be working, what to expect
21 to see so we can hold another session to let people know
22 exactly what's going to happen before we get out there
23 but we think that some of the things are pretty
24 straightforward and will be easy to explain.

25 MR. LINNEAR: One of the things I hope -- this

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1 may not answer the question but it might give you sort
2 of a parameter what we are looking at. We try to
3 analyze and look at every possible angle that we can,
4 either we see contamination, how to identify the source
5 of contamination and come up with the best remedy to try
6 to remove the contamination to try to return the site to
7 it's first condition. So I hope that culminates with
8 the answer, sort of addresses the question.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I didn't think a lot of
10 people had ideas where sampling was going to be taken.

11 MR. LINNEAR: We sort of do, but in the same
12 sense, we don't want to say we know because if you go
13 out there and you can't find anything, you might have to
14 go farther than you thought you had to go, you might
15 have to go deeper than you thought you had to, so we
16 don't want to say, you stop right here. We are going to
17 go as far as it takes to get it done.

18 MS. PASTOR: Chad; right?

19 CHAD SMET: Yeah. Is it possible that the
20 contaminants are entering the water lines that are
21 coming to the individual houses because they always
22 check the city well but what if there is contamination
23 as it was coming into the houses, in the lines that go
24 through the contaminated ground?

25 MR. LINNEAR: Is it possible? Anything is

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1 possible.

2 CHAD SMET: Shouldn't the actual water
3 supplies in the houses be checked, too?

4 MR. LINNEAR: One of the test samples that we
5 potentially do is called a tap sample where we sample
6 the tap water, so that will be done. At that point we
7 will know whether or not we are getting contamination.

8 MRS. DE VOS: Are you going to go up and down
9 the street, sample everything or just pick and choose
10 here and there?

11 MR. LINNEAR: No, what we have done, this gets
12 back to how far do you go? What we have done in the
13 past that I know of, that I can speak to -- maybe
14 there's other people in the room with a little more
15 experience and expertise -- definitely look at source
16 contamination area, look around that area and then if we
17 finds levels -- continue to go around until we find
18 levels that are what we call background levels that are
19 equal to the levels that would normally exist in some
20 areas that receive the contamination.

21 MR. KOEHN: This has to do with the health
22 thing as far as saying it's not a health hazard.

23 MR. HENDRICKS: That's a crock because me and
24 my ex-wife over here, when we lived there before we
25 left our house, we were raising two children, and my

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1 daughter especially, she was sick all the time. She
2 was losing weight and well, she was hyper to the point
3 where you would think she would have to be locked up.
4 Anyway, when we left our house, she doubled her weight
5 in about six months. She actually grew hair.

6 MR. LINNEAR: Maybe we can talk to you after
7 the meeting.

8 MR. HENDRICKS: So whatever. I got to get out
9 of here.

10 MR. BRO: The situation that the Hendricks
11 experienced is one that is clearly one that would lead
12 one to be concerned about this and the only answer I
13 have is that the type of effects that we saw are not
14 those that we can relate to the chemicals that we see
15 in the yards, so we have a situation where we have an
16 individual family, an individual child where in one
17 place, the child was not developing well, and when they
18 moved, the child did but we cannot connect that. We
19 cannot say, ah, this chemical is known to cause these
20 kinds of effects and we can attribute it to this type
21 of exposure. So that is a problem from the standpoint
22 of we cannot find that connection.

23 MRS. DE VOS: Again, like I said, the grass
24 is growing to your knees now behind their house. I
25 don't think that grass or lawn or weeds have been cut

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1 since you -- for the last five or six years. Now is
2 there any danger in that we have grandchildren, I'm
3 almost afraid to have them come over to the house.

4 MR. MANNING: They all come in the yard right
5 next door to Hendricks' place. They don't check my
6 land either. They said they were going to take care of
7 the weeds. Why don't they poison the damn stuff?

8 MR. LINNEAR: What I can say is that I can
9 look and see who cuts the weeds, try to get back to you
10 is all I can say.

11 MR. MANNING: I live right next door to
12 Hendricks' property. They don't come across the fence.
13 They have got a fence there.

14 MS. PASTOR: Give us your name and address
15 before you leave and we will have a list of names and
16 addresses for various concerns.

17 MR. LINNEAR: Everything that's being said is
18 being recorded. We will respond.

19 MS. PASTOR: That's why we are here.

20 MR. BRO: There was actually an earlier
21 question that we should probably respond to. One thing
22 we know about chrome is that high levels of chromium in
23 soil, they're much more dangerous to plants at the level
24 that they are -- they affect the plants long before they
25 would affect people and that's one reason that the

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1 Preliminary Health Assessment says that the problem of
2 chromium in vegetables shouldn't be a problem. We did
3 test one sample back when this problem was first
4 identified and the levels weren't different from those
5 that are commercially available but the reason is -- and
6 we checked it out with people who are experts in this,
7 is that the chromium will affect the plants. People
8 have observed dead trees around there long before it
9 would be at a level where we would say it would affect
10 people, so there could well be an effect on the
11 vegetation around there.

12 MR. SMET: Sue, could you clarify where the
13 proposed -- the funding is proposed for \$750,000; is
14 that correct??

15 MS. LOUISNATHAN: No, that is how much has
16 been spent from the emergency program to take all the
17 actions that we have talked about tonight. Now what we
18 are going to have to do is get more funding for the
19 sites but we can carry out the activities that we want
20 to get done in fall.

21 MR. SMET: How much has been spent and how
22 much is proposed to be spent?

23 MS. LOUISNATHAN: \$750,000 has been spent by
24 the emergency program. In addition to that, \$800,000
25 has been obligated to the State of Wisconsin so that

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1 they can begin this long-term study of the site, doing
2 all the sampling that needs to be done, and then coming
3 up with a feasibility study that tells us how we are
4 going to clean up the site and then in addition to that
5 we are going to have to obligate more money so that we
6 can do some of these interim actions that we are
7 talking about tonight such as putting in the monitoring
8 wells, upgrading that pre-treatment system so there is
9 going to be some more money that we are obligating
10 based on what we say we are going to do tonight.

11 MR. SMET: We have \$750,000 in the Better
12 Brite clean-up fund?

13 MS. LOUISNATHAN: You are right on this.
14 That's Better Brite site clean-up, yes.

15 MR. SMET: And we have for sure \$800,000
16 proposed?

17 MS. LOUISNATHAN: Yes, monies given to the
18 DNR so that they can do the long-term study of the
19 site, taking all the samples, doing the groundwater
20 investigation such as Terry is going to be in charge of
21 that. And then in addition to that, perhaps a half a
22 million dollars more to do these interim measures that
23 we want to get done in the fall.

24 MR. SMET: Just speaking with the seven and a
25 half already spent, eight hundred, that all came from

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1 the Superfund?

2 MS. LOUISNATHAN: All came from the Superfund
3 monies, yes. Different types of money. Now the
4 \$750,000 is emergency money and as you can appreciate,
5 we try to conserve that fund because it has to be
6 available for when there's train spills and car spills
7 and truck spills. Now we are into accessing money
8 that's for sites just like Better Brite. They're on
9 the NPL. Better Brite is eligible for funds on the
10 NPL. It's a very high priority for both EPA and the
11 DNR.

12 MR. SMET: That's good. I want to get up the
13 ladder here. The Superfund fund gets its money where?

14 MS. LOUISNATHAN: That is a tax on people
15 that generate hazardous wastes that produce chemicals.
16 There's a certain tax that they pay that goes into the
17 fund and that's part of the Superfund but there's also,
18 whenever we spend the money we try and get the money
19 back from people that have caused the problem. And so
20 we also are constantly recovering money to add to the
21 fund but, you know, this is a site where we think it's
22 going to be pretty much using all of the funds. We
23 don't think that we are going to be able to find
24 somebody who has the money to clean it up.

25 MR. SMET: Okay. Is it safe to say then that

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1 none of this is direct taxpayer money?

2 MS. LOUISNATHAN: It's not direct taxpayer
3 money.

4 MR. SMET: Okay. Now, we are talking seven
5 fifty spent, eight hundred proposed, and you just
6 mentioned another figure of \$500,000 you're going to
7 need?

8 MS. LOUISNATHAN: It's a very rough estimate.

9 MR. SMET: But that all rounds out to about
10 two million bucks?

11 MS. LOUISNATHAN: Right.

12 MR. SMET: Would you say two million dollars
13 which would take me about three lifetimes to earn is a
14 reasonable cost for this?

15 MS. LOUISNATHAN: Well, I've been in this
16 field for approximately seven years and I can tell you
17 that dealing with hazardous wastes, it's very expensive
18 because, you know, drilling the monitoring wells,
19 collecting the samples, sending them to the lab like
20 the consultants, taking the waste away, like there was
21 a lot of that \$750,000 was for actual disposal fees
22 that we paid when we were carting the zinc stuff out.

23 MR. SMET: You don't have to go through all
24 that. Just is it a reasonable cost?

25 MS. LOUISNATHAN: I believe it's a reasonable

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1 cost, again, that this Superfund cost is a factor but
2 it's the action that we do to protect -- the reason the
3 fund is there is so that we can spend the money, not
4 worry about how much it costs because we want to
5 protect. We are here to protect.

6 MR. SMET: Will the two million bucks put an
7 end to the problem?

8 MS. LOUISNATHAN: No, I think that we will be
9 spending a lot more money at Better Brite to take care
10 of the problem, because we are talking about money to
11 do an investigation. After we do the investigation,
12 that we will probably be doing more clean-up there.
13 That's going to cost money there, too, so I can't tell
14 you at this point how much more. Part of what the DNR
15 will do in its study is provide estimates to the EPA of
16 what they think it will take to do the clean-up. It's
17 our job, Dave and I, to make sure that those funds be
18 obligated to the Better Brite site.

19 MR. COWAN: Nobody is going to be held
20 responsible for it? Nobody's going to pay any
21 penalties? Nobody's going to go to jail?

22 MS. PASTOR: We are trying.

23 MR. COWAN: I can't put my garbage out a day
24 early without getting a warning ticket from the police.
25 We have got a two million dollar mess and nobody's

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1 responsible for it.

2 MS. LOUISNATHAN: I can't comment on what our
3 enforcement strategy is. I'm sure you understand
4 that's sensitive. We will do what we can to try and
5 recover our money. That's the reason why Superfunds
6 are really created because there are people that can
7 through just inappropriate waste disposal practice
8 create things that are very big problems and they don't
9 have the money to clean them up.

10 MR. COWAN: Nobody's responsible for them?

11 MS. LOUISNATHAN: We call them orphan sites.
12 Nobody there that has the ability for funds to clean it
13 up, and unfortunately, I think it's our assessment that
14 Better Brite might fall into that category.

15 MR. KONRATH: With this assessment, I mean the
16 study and then after the study, the clean-up proposals
17 and the actual clean-ups themselves, what are we talking
18 here in terms of years, something like your 60 to 80
19 years for this municipal well, or what?

20 MS. LOUISNATHAN: Not talking 60 to 80 years
21 but our intention, and Terry can probably add to this,
22 we will keep on taking actions based on the data that
23 we collect so we are going to try and phase this
24 project so if we collect facts that shows that there's
25 a problem somewhere else on the site we are going to

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1 stop and take the action and so you'll see a lot of
2 different actions like this. As time goes on in
3 meetings like this where we tell you that is what we
4 are going to do now so before we can spend the
5 Superfund money we have to allow public comments.

6 MRS. KONRATH: You have no idea of the amount
7 of time it would take to clean up something like this
8 totally?

9 MS. LOUISNATHAN: I could tell you there are
10 a lot of projects that are going on three to seven
11 years.

12 MR. SMET: One more question on the
13 Superfund. This is the same as before. When you
14 receive money from the Superfund, whatever the figure
15 may be, does that Superfund have the money sitting in
16 the bank or is the Superfund working on possibly
17 applications that they are going to receive?

18 MS. LOUISNATHAN: We do have to work on
19 allocations from the fund. Congress appropriates money
20 to us, you know, that we use in the Superfund program
21 so we have like the Superfund but Congress appropriates
22 the money to us each year and what we tell Congress is
23 that we have this many sites and this is the actions
24 planned and then therefore we need money for this site.
25 That's how we go through the process.

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1 MR. SMET: But Congress has received that
2 money from tax out of previous culprits?

3 MS. LOUISNATHAN: Yes, and the fund. It's --

4 MS. PASTOR: The money is not the problem.

5 MRS. HENDRICKS: This is not a question. For
6 many of us there is a lot of frustrated people in this
7 room. We have lived in it for ten years and no one's
8 listening and none of the questions -- you just revert
9 everything back to the tests, the tests, the tests, but
10 is there ever going to be a time where you can actually
11 do your job and say okay, this chemical causes cancer,
12 this is what happened to your family, this is what
13 happened to your girl? Will any of you ever be able to
14 answer the true questions asked?

15 MS. LOUISNATHAN: I think the Superfund
16 program was created to, you know, to discover,
17 investigate and clean-up sites and that's kind of what
18 our goal is and in helping us meet that goal, we rely
19 on the health people to direct us in those actions but
20 you know, I can't tell you that we will ever have the
21 answer to that question because again, you're talking
22 about things that happened maybe ten years ago. And
23 you know, we may never know the answer to that
24 question.

25 MS. PASTOR: One more question to the public

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1 comments part of the meeting. If you have more
2 questions we can stay and deal with that, but Scott?

3 SCOTT SCHMITT: Some of these health problems
4 like the stunted growth and that, could that have
5 anything to do with solvents? Have you ever checked
6 that? You talked about chromium and that. The reason
7 I asked was I was talking to a chemical engineer and
8 things he said about chromium and cyanide were
9 basically the same as what you guys said. I told them
10 what was all there. As soon as I told him there was
11 solvents they are like, oh, okay. That's a whole
12 different story; they could go into all kinds of
13 problems with solvents but you know, a lot of things,
14 maybe a lot of these things could be happening from
15 solvents, not the chromium.

16 MR. BRO: We did look at the health effects
17 that are known for all of the chemicals that occur
18 there, including the solvents and the problems of the
19 solvents at these levels. Are those associated with
20 long-term exposure like lifetime exposure to people who
21 drink it and use it frequently, and we didn't see
22 anything from the history on those solvents that we
23 could attribute to the kinds of problems that were
24 described so the answer is if there's something that's
25 doing it, we haven't identified it yet. If there's

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1 something that's there, it hasn't been found yet. It's
2 not on the list of things that people are looking for,
3 so we don't know the answer yet.

4 MS. PASTOR: Let's try to take public
5 comments. One more?

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Now Mrs. Hendricks,
7 her daughter that she was talking about, all right, now
8 all these toxic chemicals underground in the water,
9 Mrs. Hendricks' home is right beside Konrath's home.
10 Now let's say hypothetically I was to get married to
11 Mrs. Konrath's daughter and moved in with them and she
12 got pregnant, would my kid have to be housebound, too,
13 not to have the problems that Mrs. Hendricks' kid has?
14 Can you guarantee the chemicals will not get into this
15 lady's home which is right across the street?

16 MR. BRO: The chemicals that we see there in
17 the yards are not at a level where we would expect a
18 problem.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Her daughter was very,
20 very ill. That's why Mr. Hendricks walked out of the
21 room. You're saying one thing and the doctors are
22 saying another thing, and you know --

23 MR. BRO: Unless Allie has a different answer
24 I think the doctors and I are saying the same thing.
25 It's we don't know what it is. Isn't that what it is,

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1 Allie?

2 MRS. HENDRICKS: Right, because they don't
3 know what it's capable of doing, but when she was
4 losing all of the weight, the one and only thing I
5 changed in her diet, okay, was the food which I canned
6 from the garden which Jim from the DNR said he wouldn't
7 touch. That was the only thing. She gained some
8 weight, not enough to make a difference. She never hit
9 the charts until she was what, six years old in average
10 for height and weight, never, not once, and since I've
11 moved, they have kept up with her and it's the greatest
12 thing we have done.

13 MR. BRO: Absolutely.

14 MRS. HENDRICKS: So I guess it goes back to
15 the standpoint because of your job you cannot say that
16 that chemical -- I mean you can't put a claim on it but
17 I can. Orally I'm not afraid to. I feel that chemical
18 caused it. I'm not -- if anyone wants to sue me for
19 that --

20 MR. BRO: At that location, meaning what we
21 know, what's been tested and we have tested what we
22 know is used but we don't know everything about every
23 single chemical there and that is where I have to just
24 leave it with a question mark because none of those
25 that we have information on add up to that. That's as

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1 far as I can get but I cannot deny it. I'm not about
2 to deny that there was a significant change that
3 occurred. I just can't, with all the investigation and
4 looking at the chemicals and tracking down what kind of
5 effects are associated with the chemicals, I haven't
6 been able to find any correlation for the ones that we
7 have studied there.

8 MRS. HENDRICKS: No, and I don't mean to
9 sound that I'm blaming you, but you have to wonder how
10 much longer their grandchildren and themselves can live
11 in a place while everyone does their studies without it
12 hurting them.

13 MR. BRO: That's a perfectly valid question.

14 MR. KONRATH: If you found this happening once
15 or twice more, say in Appleton, Ashwaubenon, even out of
16 the state, you could relate it to this problem and say
17 maybe there's some connection with it. Then you would
18 have new information and you could put it in your file.
19 Why can't you do it with one case and say possibly these
20 chemicals do cause this? We maybe have to study the
21 country over to find another case like it. This might
22 be the first one in the country.

23 MR. BRO: What Marvin was saying, could this
24 be the first documented situation and what are we going
25 to do with that news, and the answer is that is why

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1 there's this program in ATSDR. It's to look at the
2 health consequences and the situations that we see
3 around these sites and to pull all that information
4 together so that they actually do a computer analysis
5 and say where have we seen these kinds of health effects
6 around these sites, and then what chemicals have we seen
7 at these sites and do we see a correlation, and then it
8 might provide information that we haven't had before.
9 In addition to that, they look at all the chemicals and
10 they do an evaluation of well, where are the areas that
11 we have tested these chemicals, what kinds of problems,
12 what are the information gaps, and so the situation I
13 mentioned on how much chromium does it take to cause a
14 reaction in a sensitive individual, the literature says
15 we don't know. We know that they can react but we don't
16 know how much it takes to cause it, so that will be, you
17 know, one of the issues here, is if we have sensitive
18 individuals to try to get to fill in some of those
19 information gaps.

20 MR. KONRATH: Good. I hope you do.

21 MS. PASTOR: Public comments? I know
22 everyone has a lot of things on their mind and a lot of
23 different agendas. Everyone's got all different
24 situations. What we really came for are your comments
25 on just our alternatives. I just want to put this up,

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1 because we really need your comments on these two
2 alternatives. Basically, we are asking you to comment
3 on either of these. Now what we are proposing to do in
4 the interim while we are going to start that long-term
5 investigation, we still want to do these things. We
6 are proposing number two, to continue operation of the
7 pre-treatment facility, to secure the chrome and zinc
8 shops with fencing and make the zinc building more
9 structurally sound and install more monitoring wells.
10 That's what we are proposing to do right now. Or the
11 other alternative was nothing, so what we need your
12 comments on is if you support us doing these things or
13 nothing, so one second. This is the time where I
14 really need you to give your name to the court
15 reporter, spell it if you need to. If you represent an
16 agency or a governmental body or something like that,
17 she would need to know that, too, and if you could just
18 tell us what your pleasure is here. That's really what
19 we need to do, then we can get back to any other
20 matters you have. We're not pressed for time.

21 MRS. HENDRICKS: I think Dave is the one I'm
22 talking to. I don't think you can let them stop doing
23 what they're doing. It's better than nothing. It is
24 helping, so the more monitor wells you put in, the
25 better you'll be able to monitor so I guess you can't

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1 let them stop in October. You said they would stop.

2 MR. LINNEAR: Yes, October this year.

3 MRS. HENDRICKS: The fencing and stuff, you
4 have to put some protection up for people. You have to.

5 MR. LINNEAR: That's what we are proposing.

6 MARGE DE VOS: Marge DeVos, D-e-V-o-s. I
7 think you should continue, but I don't know why these
8 studies have to take so long. I mean, we have been
9 living with this mess for all these years. Please
10 hurry it up.

11 MARVIN KONRATH: Marvin Konrath. I'm in
12 favor of alternative number two when you consider what
13 alternative number one is.

14 MS. PASTOR: Okay. Another comment? All or
15 nothing?

16 DENNIS HIEBRAY: Dennis Heibray,
17 H-i-e-b-r-a-y. I think alternative number two is
18 really the only way to go. However, it would be nice
19 to look at other ways such as preventing this from
20 happening elsewhere throughout the city, the county and
21 the state.

22 MS. PASTOR: Yes.

23 BUD MANNING: Bud Manning. I live right next
24 door to the Hendricks property, have a snow fence right
25 on their line. Are they going to take any tests on my

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1 side? Tell me they didn't contaminate on my side. One
2 year when the water table was up, it was all yellow. I
3 told my wife to take some samples of it. I didn't know
4 what the stuff was at the time. After Mrs. Konrath
5 told me one time what the heck that was, I finally take
6 a sample of it. When the water went down, it went
7 down. When are you going to take any tests on my side?
8 Like we were saying about the weeds, I got all those
9 big weeds --

10 MS. PASTOR: Right now it's a comment, a
11 statement on one or two.

12 MR. MANNING: Pardon me?

13 MS. PASTOR: We're just taking statements
14 now. This is not for questions, just if you support one
15 or two.

16 MR. MANNING: I don't know what you're
17 talking about, one or two.

18 MS. PASTOR: The alternative is whether we
19 want to do number two, we want to do all those
20 activities and we want to know if the community
21 supports it. That's what we are asking right now. We
22 will either do all those things or nothing.

23 MAYOR NUSBAUM: Nancy Nusbaum. I also would
24 very much support alternative two. I think from
25 everything you told us there's still more that we can

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1 learn. The more we learn, the more we can either
2 remediate or maybe give people reassurance and also, to
3 live with that, that knowledge that as the situation is
4 changing, you're continuing to monitor it and we are
5 knowing what's going on, so definitely option two.

6 MS. PASTOR: For the record you are --

7 MAYOR NUSBAUM: The mayor.

8 MR. BAUMGART: Paul Baumgart. I'm in favor of
9 alternative number two.

10 MS. PASTOR: Okay. Anyone else?

11 MS. FISCHER: Shirley Fischer. I'm also in
12 favor of alternative number two.

13 MS. ROK: Shirley Rok. I'm also in favor of
14 alternative number two.

15 MR. WEBER: Carl Weber, Director of Public
16 Works. I'm speaking for city staff. We support
17 selection of and expediting alternative number two.

18 MS. PASTOR: Thank you.

19 MR. WILLEMS: Ken Willems, in favor of
20 alternate two.

21 MS. PASTOR: Anyone else? Okay. Well, we
22 thank you for those comments. I know it might seem a
23 little strange to do something or nothing but really
24 the law requires us to look at what we call a no-action
25 alternative. We kind of use it as a point of

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1 comparison, if we were to do nothing or what we are
2 proposing to do, so we are proposing to do something
3 but we still have to look at no action. You never
4 know. Someone out there may want us to do something.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Was there ever an
6 alternative discussed of just totally obliterating the
7 site, take it down, take 20 feet of top soil, whatever?
8 Was that plan ever looked at?

9 MR. LINNEAR: That plan would have -- would
10 require what we are about to do. The interim measure is
11 a go-between between what emergency has done and what we
12 intend to do, what emergency has done as an action and
13 what we intend to do as a remedial action to clean up
14 the entire site, bring the bridge together so it doesn't
15 just stop while these two things are going on, so what
16 we're talking about, total obliteration, that would
17 definitely be the end remedial so this is in between.

18 MS. PASTOR: This long-term investigation will
19 be starting that Terry will be in charge of. About the
20 investigation, a lot of questions that you have tonight
21 are probably questions that we also share with you and
22 there will be another meeting to probably talk about
23 really what's going to be happening, what's going to be
24 looked at. The investigation really is a massive
25 sampling, massive amounts of data gathering, filling in

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1 all these gaps that we have all those question marks,
2 then there will be another meeting once we have all this
3 information gathered, more alternatives, how to clean it
4 up on a more permanent basis. This is just in the
5 interim. Until we get to that point, we want to keep
6 doing something until we get to that end point and there
7 will be another comment period. I assure you that there
8 will be more meetings, more alternatives than something
9 or nothing. When we have a list of alternatives we will
10 have a good list, at least a half a dozen or so, give or
11 take, with something like from no action to total
12 obliteration of a building to a few in-between steps
13 will be looked at and I would imagine when we come back
14 and have another meeting in whatever it takes, a year or
15 two, you'll see a lot more information gathered and a
16 lot of questions answered and some other alternatives,
17 how to deal with it in the long term but right now we
18 just needed your input on this interim plan.

19 MR. BAUMGART: They mentioned something about
20 lead being very high there. Would you give me an idea
21 where that lead may have come from, how high a
22 concentration it was?

23 MR. BRO: That concentration in the soil was
24 in the ballpark of two thousand five hundred parts per
25 million, two thousand seven hundred.

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1 MR. BAUMGART: Is that associated in any way to
2 plating? The person I got the answer from there was
3 Doug Russberg. Do you want me to repeat what he told
4 me?

5 MR. BRO: There apparently were some sludges
6 at the zinc shop that were known to contain high levels
7 of lead and there was an employee at the zinc shop who
8 informed the DNR that some of the employees were told to
9 carry barrels containing these sludges and dump them
10 alongside the railroad tracks in the wintertime so it's
11 possible that a high level of lead was associated with
12 that type of dumping in that area. Here is the answer.
13 I gave you the wrong number. It was seven thousand nine
14 hundred parts per million.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Talk about those barrels
16 of sludge, you know why the barrels of sludge were
17 there? Better Brite had hundreds of empty barrels and
18 he had them alongside their plant and all their
19 equipment, the cables were frayed and when they dropped
20 the cylinder it went to the bottom of the tank and they
21 had to pump the sludge out as much as they could and
22 into the barrels, not keep it from contaminating but to
23 save the chromium, and they did that time and time
24 again because all their equipment was real bad and
25 anyways, well, half of it got in the barrels, half of

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1 it ran out one door, ran out the other door, put it in
2 containers. They had big holding tanks along the
3 railroad tracks and a high wind went through one day
4 there, box cars parked on the siding and I have my dog
5 kennels in the back and I work my dog along the tracks
6 and was walking there. All the box cars were dripping
7 because one of the tarps came loose. One of these big
8 holding tanks which I didn't know was chromium at the
9 time and it was dripping and blowing up in the air and
10 blowing it all eastwards along the tracks. The box
11 cars were dripping onto my property.

12 MRS. KONRATH: He's talking about a clean-up
13 effort.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What about something
15 like that? Finally the city came along and the city
16 made them get rid of them barrels because they didn't
17 look good because they cluttered up the area and they
18 had to get rid of all the barrels so the next time they
19 had a big spill and they pumped all the stuff ran right
20 out in Marvin's yard. They pumped right out the back
21 door because they didn't have any barrels in there to
22 save it.

23 MS. PASTOR: I think we are losing people
24 here.

25 MR. BRO: I heard that story. Essentially

1 the point you're making is that there's a need to much
2 better define what kinds of contamination exist east
3 of the shop and over along the tracks and to the other
4 side.

5 MR. LINNEAR: But we are going to be going back
6 out doing it differently.

7 MS. PASTOR: Anybody have anything else to
8 say? Most people aren't even here any more. Thanks for
9 coming, staying with us as long as you did. If you have
10 any questions or anything you can still mail us those
11 comments. Do use these sheets. Thank you for coming.

12 (Hearing concluded at 10:00 p.m.)
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BAY REPORTING SERVICE

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