EPA PROPOSED PLAN

PENTA WOOD PRODUCTS SUPERFUND SITE

Siren, Wisconsin, July 15, 1998

Public Meeting

Appearances:

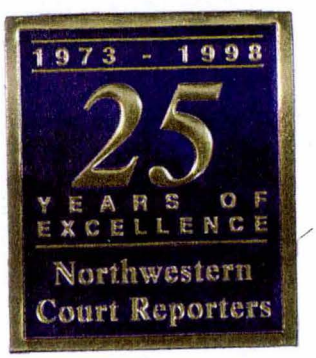
Susan Pastor, U.S. EPA

Ken Glatz, U.S. EPA

Tom Kendzierski, WDNR

Mary Young, Wisconsin Department of Health

Gina Bayer, CH2M Hill



NORTHWESTERN COURT REPORTERS

MS. PASTOR: My name is Sue Pastor and I'm the Community Involvement Coordinator on the Penta Wood Products site. And Ken Glatz, my co-worker, is the project manager. We also work for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Chicago. And Tom Kendzierski up here in the front is Ken's counterpart with the DNR. And also who works on this project with us is Gina Bayer with a company called CH2M Hill out of Milwaukee, and she's on-site an awful lot and very helpful in maybe answering questions or talking about some of the day-to-day investigatory work that was going on at the site.

I had a strict agenda planned here. And that was because I was assuming there would be lots of people and we'd need to kind of keep a format going. But since there aren't lots of people, we don't have to be as formal as I had envisioned.

So if you, you know, you want to move up closer, if you want to, you know, ask a question, or we have a nice slide presentation to show you and maybe, you know, Ken can just flip through some of the slides and if you want to ask something, I -- you can, you know, ask for a little point of clarification or something. It doesn't have to be as strict as my normal wait 'til everybody goes through their presentations and then

ask a question, since there are only a handful of you out there.

But as you notice, Ken is on the agenda, is talking about the clean-up options that we have available to us, and then the one that we'll be recommending. And Tom will be able to talk a little bit about his involvement working with the -- with the U.S. EPA and his role with the DNR. And Mary Young with the Wisconsin Department of Health will talk a little bit about some of the potential health effects and well, questions, I guess at this point if something pops into your mind we'll go ahead and answer it.

The part, though, that we are really interested in, though, is where it says public comments at the bottom, and maybe there will be a point in the meeting we can set aside a moment or two for public comments and if you have one, we'd be interested in hearing it. That's the point in time where you'll make a statement and say you like what we're proposing, you don't like, you have another idea, another opinion or thought, that would be the time to do that.

And if you notice, we have a court reporter here who is taking down the proceedings of the meeting tonight. And she'd be very interesting in hearing

your name and if it needs to be spelled she'd appreciate that. And if you represent a company or organization or governmental body, she would need to know that, too.

Otherwise, everyone has one of the gray facts sheets? That went out in the mail around the first of July, the very end of June, and that pretty much hits the highlights of the recommended alternative that we're looking at, as well as the other options that were reviewed. It also highlights the locations of the technical documents associated with this site at the Burnett library and then Grantsburg. So if the gray facts sheet piece doesn't quite do it for you and you really like this kind of stuff and you want to read more, then there will be quite a bit more to read in those libraries. And if you have a question as you go through these, feel free to call Ken. Our numbers are all over the facts sheet and on the agenda. We have an 800 number, we have Email. We have a lot of ways to reach us. We have voice mail. So if we're not there and you have a question, we'll return your call. If you're looking at the documents and you can't find something, Ken can probably at least point you in the right direction so you don't have to go through a document that big and try to find a passage

that might be interesting to you.

So before I let Ken go through his slides, though, pardon my back, this is why we're cleaning up the Penta Wood site. I don't even have to take it out of the plastic to smell it. This is -- I will wear the gloves because that smell stays on your hands without even opening this jar, we discovered yesterday.

MR. GLATZ: This is one of those no-nos where you put the sample in your desk drawer at work and hope nobody catches you because it's not supposed to be done. This is actually taken out of the groundwater, floating on the surface of the groundwater on the site. It's a combination of fuel oil and pentachlorophenol, and, fortunately, it's not moving off the site, but this is probably the -- it's what's called a source material and basically it's -- it really drives the risk at the site. And one of the objectives of the Superfund Program is to remove all this material and restore the -- the groundwater particular to its most beneficial use. So --

MS. PASTOR: This is what the groundwater looks like underneath Penta Wood.

MR. GLATZ: Yeah, about a three-acre chunk, 550,000 gallons of that stuff in the groundwater in

one form or another. Some of it's held up in the sand.

MR. KENDZIERSKI: Does it support bacteria or anything like that?

MR. GLATZ: Not in that form, no. You could burn that stuff.

MS. PASTOR: I suppose you could smell it from there, probably.

MS. YOUNG: Isn't what we're smelling fuel oil?

MS. PASTOR: We thought maybe we would have to go out in the parking lot if anyone was interested and open up the jar, but we decided we don't even have to open up the jar and just by touching it, it's all over our hands, the smell can --

MR. GLATZ: Called LNAPL, in case I get into it and don't describe that, LNAPL. It's a light, nonaqueous liquid. Our worst fear was to open this up in this room and have somebody accidentally drop it on the floor.

MS. PASTOR: Like me. So let me hit the lights and you can see the slides that Ken will show. We have some nice slides of the site, and the work that was done out there, oh, last fall, and he'll flip through some of those and then talk a little bit about

what we want to do in the way of cleaning up this site, what we'll be suggesting.

MR. GLATZ: Okay. I guess I'd just like to preface my statements by saying that the Penta Wood Products site is on the NPL which makes it a Superfund site.

MS. PASTOR: Short for National Priorities List.

MR. GLATZ: And as we go, there's a definite process that all sites have to go through when they're on the NPL list, and basically at the end a Record of Decision has to be written, and that's at the state we're at now which identifies what the remedial action is planned for the site. Obviously this is a nice site of a lake and the area and we're hoping that the remedial actions at the Penta Wood site will continue to keep these lakes pristine as they are now. That is a site map and actually the site map itself is probably better shown in your brochure, if you'd look at Figure 4, I believe it is, Figure 2.

MS. PASTOR: Kind of follow along.

MR. GLATZ: Figure 2 on page three, you will see that in a little better form, more readable, anyway. The -- the slides are basically taken at the site over the last several years. First series will

be in the wood chip pile area and in this -- there's a wood scrap pile and there's actually a ravine starting back there that I'll identify when we get into this. A lot of the slides are from an area just north of where it says lagoon, and that lagoon was built with -- with the debris from the process, and in the process they actually ran fluid down the gully, what you see as the little blue arms there, and it actually sank into the ground.

Now, pentachlorophenol had not been dissolved in fuel oil, it would never have gotten down to the groundwater because pentachlorophenol in its pure form is not particularly soluble in water. And so the fact that they were using the process is a five percent solution of fuel oil, allowed it to get -- and some of their operating practices, obviously, allowed it to get down into the groundwater.

The other slight contaminant that drives the risk and for a site to be on the Superfund, on the NPL list, has to trigger a risk, and this site does, primarily from the groundwater and from the potential contact, skin contact with arsenic-contaminated soil and also pentachlorophenol-contaminated soil.

So the series of slides here, as I've said, you'll see in the middle of Figure 2 there's a whole

series of buildings, some of the buildings I'll be able to identify when I get into the slides, but basically this is -- this is what the -- this is what the site looks like. That again is on the west side. Some of the old processing buildings in the foreground is the wood debris, the sawdust and the shavings, as they call them. This is the area where they started the process, where they took the poles and cut them to size and stripped the bark off, things of that nature. This again is in that same area and you can see areas here where we have some contamination from the pentachlorophenol, and you can see the wood scrap piles back here. This is the building as you enter the gate in the front with Penta Wood Products logo on the doorway. Again, over in the wood chip area, again sources of contamination. These little sticks you see sticking up over, this is -- this whole site was gridded on a 200-square grid. Each one of these points represents so they can identify where the contamination is with a surveyed map.

This is a big huge pile of sawdust back here and some of the sawdust is going to figure in our proposed remedy because we are planning to blend this fairly inert sawdust with contaminated soil which gives the biological activity, gives the bugs a food source so

that it can contam -- so they can digest the pentachlorophenol. I think this is that gully area I was talking about back here.

Now we're switching to the north side of the lagoon where they had built up a huge area of wood scraps and over the years have become saturated with fuel oil and pentachlorophenol, and the last couple of years, because this whole area is a big sand pile and with the rains it would tend to slough off, the bottom actually just washed out the base of the -- of the bank there and all that stuff would come down this gully, and actually contaminating probably a larger area than -- than the actual process area involved.

Some of the -- just mention that in the Superfund process there is a -- there are two activities; removal and a remedial. Removal part of the process is to make sure that the site is initially contained and that the chemicals that would drive a risk that might -- someone -- some trespasser might, you know, get in contact with and would cause him bodily harm. Their job is to remove all the material to the point where the remedial people can come in and decide what best activity for cleaning, for fine cleanup of the site would be.

This is a huge concrete pad, it's about three

and a half acres big, and it contains highly contaminated arsenic soil with cement. And it's cast into this huge three and a half acre pad about a foot thick. This will be removed as part of the remedial activity, but I'll get into that also.

Again, just so you can see the stains on the soil. We're getting into the processing area. This I think was what they call a decant tank. Actually, it took five percent of fuel oil solution, pentachlorophenol fuel oil solution, a huge vessel. I'll show you in a second or so. And put the wood poles in there and then they pressured that, the cylinder up with these logs that had been submerged in the solution and forced the solution into the logs, and then they pump the stuff out and brought water out of the trees, and so they brought it back into this tank and separated water off the bottom and the pentachlorophenol solution would decant off the top back into the process. And the stuff that came off the bottom is where the source of most of the contamination is on the site because they took that stuff and they ran it off over into the wood chip pile and run it down the lagoon and it just sank into the ground. And also had some pretty serious fires there and they lost ten, 15,000 gallons of the solution

during the fires. The other thing they use, I should mention, I guess, is what they call ACZA, which is an arsenic, copper, zinc, water-borne solution, that came -- that they used rather late in the processing of the plant there. But it did cause the arsenic contamination. This is one of the treatment vessels. The other end is open, is the opening, and they actually run the logs into that vessel. You can see this is the other side of the other vessel.

The vessel I was showing you is over here. This is another, about a 50-foot long vessel. Both of these vessels -- all the equipment, basically, at the plant has been sold off now. But this is again the operating -- you can see the safety equipment. They were -- the removal activity I was mentioning here, they are taking a tank out of ground. You can see the concerns for safety here. Again, they were -- some of these tanks had a lot of sludge in them. They were pumping them into these drums and again sending them off-site to an incinerator.

This is me walking up the hill. This is the vessel I just showed you inside the building. They had to get all the equipment out because the buildings actually were basically sand floors and anything that's spilled went into the sand and that was an area

of high contamination. And that's what the removal people, took a lot of the material out of there.

Again the same activity, materials. Here's a tank they had tore out of the ground, it's all beat up. And then we're getting into, after the removal people left, then we have to further identify the site characteristics. We do that with a series of wells and a series of soil testing surface soil two, three, five, ten feet until we run out of contamination. Take all that data and put it into what we call a remedial investigation which again characterizes the nature of the contamination and the nature of the chemicals that cause a risk, and we've established there basically the pentachlorophenol and arsenic.

Just an indication of the care that goes into preserving samples. These happen to be -- these samples have to be maintained at four degrees centigrade until they're run through the analytical process and it has to occur within a certain time period, but you can see all the data that goes along with each sample to make sure that we can justify, or that we can verify that the -- if there is any question they can go back and make sure that we know where the sample came from. During this remedial investigation we actually did some site treatability

studies, which is another way of saying trying to find out what we can use to clean up the contamination in a cost effective way.

This happens to be soil vent -- soil bioventing well, actually goes down into the ground 40, 50 feet. And I'll get into the bioventing process a little bit, but it's a method of supplying microbes with oxygen so that they can do their biological activity and consume the pentachlorophenol.

These are the things you test -- the sampling apparatus and such. Here's Gina. Happy Gina taking samples. The -- a lot of this material, as I indicated, washed into the wetland north of the site, and here are two people from CH2M Hill out in the wetlands taking samples to see how far north the contamination had floated, basically, that washed over the surface. This looks bad. It's actually just water. This is actually a very clean area.

Again some of the test -- this is a rotosonic drill rig, fairly advanced state of the art rig that we used to drill monitoring wells, test wells, down into the groundwater to establish characteristics there. Another piece of very sophisticated equipment I would use is a cone penetrometer, and it is a device that actually is just shoved into the ground like

you'd shove a ruler into the ground or something of that nature. It's just forced into the ground. And as it goes down it has sensing tips on it and it can tell what -- what the nature of the soil is that it's going through and how moist it is, and how much fuel oil contamination is there. And we tried to follow the pentachlorophenol contamination by looking for fuel oil because when we found fuel oil, which is easier to find because there was more of it, we also found pentachlorophenol. Here's the guys doing their thing. Here's the analytical equipment, strip charts, recorders that I was talking about. Actually here's the actual rod string going into the ground. Also did test pitting. We actually made pits across the width of the lagoon area to see what was contained there and you can see -- you can see there's life on the site yet. That I think is a raccoon print but you can also see that the stuff oozing out of the sides of this trench, I don't know if you can see it or not, but kind of a sheen, the sheen that's on there, which is the fuel oil.

And this again is back down at the base of the lagoon area that's washing out into the lowlands. You can see all the, you know, where the stuff is sloughed off the wall up here and just run down. And here's a

better shot of the same thing. And this is just an indication of a degree of contaminated material at the north end of the lagoon. This is all con -- actually there's sand seams in here you can see, but basically all the stuff is built up on the sand. And again, basically the same type of -- here's kind of an indication of the type of erosion we have on the site and why it's so important to get in there and start controlling this runoff problem. And actually have this site -- this slide here shows where all the stuff has actually been washed down, surface wash down to the wetlands back in here where those two guys were taking the sample. The emergency -- removal people came out and under an emergency action, actually put in several dikes across this washland area and we were there today and it looked like it improved that situation immensely.

Again, this is treatability study. When extended that pentachlorophenol will actually break down if exposed to sunlight and doing some tests to see how fast that occurs. Reasonably fast. It takes a big area, a lot of other problems associated with trying to spread a huge amount of contaminated water on the surface to let the sun destroy the pentachlorophenol. So it was in the initial studies

but it didn't make it through to the final options.

Here again is the backhoe digging the trench. This is looking down the length of the trench. You can see the contaminant coming out of the site and this is surface stuff so you can see that the moisture is contained fairly close to the surface, and actually oozes out, and this is a pretty gruesome stuff that is contained here. It's more like the stuff in the bottle than anything.

And that basically is the series of slides I have and so the next thing I go into is the findings at the site and what we're proposing to do for the cleanup. Are there any questions anybody has so far that anybody wants to ask? Again, I've indicated that pentachlorophenol and arsenic are the two chemicals that drive the risk at the site. Copper and zinc are also there but they don't drive a risk and they're four semi volatile compounds, PCP's one of them, but naphthalene is one. The reason I mention it is because the Wisconsin laws cover the contaminant concentration they will accept.

I guess all this says, you know, the process, we had contaminants and we've taken care of the groundwater is the big area, one of the big areas. It contains free-floating pentachlorophenol solution. It

does have chloride, again it doesn't drive a risk, but it is state of Wisconsin concerned and then there is a total petroleum hydrocarbons constituents of PCP. Actually if it turns out if you have to have your druthers, it's kind of nice we have this because this serves as a food for the bio -- for the microbes that basically, as I understand it, ingest pentachlorophenol. They kind of breathe it. So it's -- they eat the stuff as food and they breathe this stuff as their energy source, and in the process destroy it. Just mention the removal action activity, 28 storage tanks, some of these were below ground. 43,000 gallons of sludge that I showed you them drumming up. They had to demolish the treatment building because the floors are contaminated. They had to get at it and get it out of there. Took 1600 cubic yards of arsenic-contaminated soil and it was -- the combination made it impossible for them to solidify on-site. Solidify means you basically mechanically bind the arsenic in the lattice of the cement so it stays there and doesn't leach into the groundwater. Arsenic actually doesn't leach. It, by itself, very -- it's a very stable compound. It doesn't leach into the groundwater anyway.

But anyway -- and then this is the big cement

pad we made is made out of 4,000 cubic yards of this arsenic-contaminated soil. Again, this is just where the sources of the contaminants are we have to worry about and I'll get into that a little later when we get into the actual remedy.

Again, it's fairly localized. There's a big soil column in the lagoon area that's highly contaminated. There's the floating liquid that I've talked about. And then there are these little spots here and there on the site. A lot of it caused by just surface runoff. That we've got to address. So the RI, as I said, the contaminants are mostly on-site except the area contaminated by surface runoff. That's what this says. And this northern lagoon wall is collapsing. I don't think there's anything on there that -- yeah. This is kind of an interesting phenomena. We kind of expected this is going on. It's what we call a natural attenuation. And again, it's evidence of biological activity in the groundwater itself. Same thing goes on in the groundwater that goes on in the soil. It's like a compost pile. You can think of it as a compost pile but it's occurring in the groundwater. Microbes eat the pentachlorophenol and the -- breathe the pentachlorophenol and eat the fuel oil. And also

found that the contaminated groundwater is not flowing into the wetland off the site, which is like, made the job a lot easier to handle.

Again, PCP and arsenic are the site risk. They both can cause cancer. They both cause other damage to human organs. But the major risk is of drinking the contaminated groundwater or touching the soil. When we get around to evaluating the alternatives, I really didn't mention the feasibility study, but after we get the RI we look at all the potential ways to handle cleaning up this material, all the way from highly sophisticated super expensive technology, down to what we feel is cost effective, although -- and reasonable. And when we make -- when we do that, the study, we look at these nine points, the other five I'll get to, but first of all, it's got to be -- the remedy has got to be overall protection of human health and environment. If it doesn't meet that criteria it isn't a remedy. It has to be compliant with basically other Wisconsin laws. It's got to be permanent. It has to reduce the contaminant mobility, toxicity, and volume through treatment. While you are doing it it can expose the workers to major risks. It's got to be doable. In other words, it's got to be something that's a proven technology, for the most

part, and the cost factor comes in, and then the two bottom criteria the state has to accept it. We work with the state in making sure that everybody's on board leading up to the remedy proposal, and then tonight we're asking for your comments.

I think I'm just going to talk about the alternative -- the alternative, like I say, we looked at, I don't know, Gina, what, 15, 20 different combinations of things. Some were chemical like putting hydrogen peroxide into the ground and destroying, just oxidizing the pentachlorophenol fuel oil that way. It's a very expensive way to go, but if what we're doing doesn't work, and we'll find that out as we get into long-range monitoring, the law's going to be written so we can open up some of these other options we initially considered and didn't pursue because they were too expensive or it didn't look as if it made a lot of sense to do them at this time. So anyway, alternative three was the alternative that's mentioned in the proposed plan. What we're going to do is probably have to mention, there's a whole series of things that have to be done for all the alternates we looked at and that's shown on page four, and I'll just read them off. Fence the area, we're going to put the soil cover on. We're going to put

institutional controls on that particular area that's fenced. We're going to demolish all the buildings on-site, not just because they look bad but because it's going to make it -- it's necessary for us to regrade the -- and recontour the land and put soil down and get the grass or trees or something to grow on it so we control this erosion problem. That's the next step. Solid erosion control measures. The highly contaminated arsenic soil we're going to solidify and place under the soil cover. When we get all done the concrete pad will be removed. Probably use it during the remedial activity. But it's going to be into a buttress for this lagoon wall. Long-range environmental monitoring. And if we have to -- if -- for some reason we haven't noticed a movement of contaminants off-site. If they do get into off-site resident wells we'll have to provide some way of controlling that contamination. So anyway, alternative three says basically all the surface soil that contains pentachlorophenol and low level arsenic is going to be consolidated in the gully area because that's where the major sources of contamination are. We're going to install a groundwater collection and treatment in that area which is going to pump out this, what we call this

LNAPL, this fuel oil PCP blend of material. It's about 550,000 gallons of it. While we're doing that we're going to drop the water table so that this, where is it under, where, oh, bioventing, okay. So that the bioventing can also occur in this what we call smear zone. The sands above the free-phase liquid contain a lot of material. You can imagine taking gasoline and dumping it into a bucket of sand, you get some coming out of the bottom but you also have the sand just saturated with gasoline and we also have to get rid of that, so the intent is to run this bioventing operation.

We've done, as I've indicated before, done some studies on-site, we've done some studies off-site. It looks like the microbial activity at the site is very high. We're hoping that this will work but the only way we'll ever find out is to do it. And it's fairly inexpensive to do it. So we're going to get rid of the free-floating liquid, get rid of the PCP in the soils, the monitored natural attenuation, the monitored part is the -- to make sure it's working properly. The natural attenuation, basically says that nature takes care of itself if you give it a chance and you give it the right conditions. And that's -- that's for this zone around the -- the

highly contaminated groundwater. And basically this is the remedy. And when I get through the slides here, I'll go over this little map on the wall and indicate a little bit better a little figure on the wall, indicate a little better where those areas are.

So soil cover, bioventing, groundwater collection and treatment, monitored natural attenuation, that's the things I mentioned earlier.

So the next step is we're here tonight to solicit your comments about what you think about what we plan on doing or propose to do. When we get all those comments in we'll review them. We'll go ahead and make a final cleanup plan. We'll have to put out what I indicated is the final document in the Superfund ROD which is the Record of Decision. After that it's actually getting into the remedial design or remedial action. That's these two here. So that's I think all I had to say.

MS. PASTOR: Tom, did you want to say a few words on how you work with Ken?

MR. KENDZIERSKI: Okay. I'm -- my name is Tom Kendzierski. I work with Wisconsin DNR out of Spooner. I'm a hydrogeologist and I guess I'm kind of the armchair quarterback here. Ken is the lead role and EPS is funding this investigation. They hired

CH2M Hill and so my -- my role is to provide technical comments and to provide the state's perspective on what's going on out there and how the investigation and cleanup is proceeding. I guess if you talk about roles, maybe armchair quarterback, or whatever, might not be the way to look at it. Probably a better way is to say it's kind of a partnership between the state and U.S. EPA on getting this site cleaned up, and I guess I've been involved all along, like Ken said, in providing comments as things progress, and been a local contact. Spooner's only a half hour away, and that's provided me with some advantages to help out too. I have looked at the plan and I think it's a good one. I agree in principal with the things that that are presented. I think it will meet the state -- state requirements for it. There's a number of -- a couple things about it that I think are good. It meets our policy for in-place or on-site treatment, for the most part. It minimizes the area of the site that remained under treatment for a long period of time, and minimizes some of the long-term care requirements.

There are a few technical and regulatory details, I guess I could call it a crossing the I and dotting the -- crossing the Ts and dotting the I

exercise, and Ken and I have been talking about a few things, and that's all going on, like Ken said, towards our state acceptance of the plan or their criteria, and the final -- final decision.

I think when Ken also mentioned it there were some evaluation points in the progress of things. The plan is expected to take, what, ten years?

MR. GLATZ: Yeah. Yeah. I mean with something as untried as this, although it's -- it's not a mystery, it's occurred at other sites under the same conditions. We have every belief that it's going to work effectively here or we wouldn't be at this stage of recommending it, obviously. But to know -- for example, we don't know for sure if 550,000 gallons of stuff down in the ground, or 250,000 gallons or what, because all we're doing is taking the data we have and extrapolating it, and it's pretty hard to say how long it's going to take, but we will obviously be looking at it periodically and if things aren't moving then other actions will be considered.

MR. KENDZIERSKI: I guess an analogy would be making your trip back to Chicago. You know you are going to get there and you can pretty much predict how long it's going to take, but may have some adventures along the way.

MR. GLATZ: Not too many, I hope.

MR. KENDZIERSKI: So that's -- that's really about all I have to say.

MS. PASTOR: Okay. We'll let Mary --

MR. GLATZ: I was just going to say something, we have this erosion problem. Although it occurred before we even had the RI going and actually was a problem before we even were aware of it. Tom was very persistent in getting some activities that, you know, done at the site to control this runoff problem and through his efforts basically were able to come up with this emergency action at the site that that has controlled a lot of the sloughing of the contaminant to the wetlands, so he's -- he's more than a sounding board. He's in there pitching.

MR. KENDZIERSKI: Are there any questions?

MS. PASTOR: We'll let Mary talk about the health effects.

MS. YOUNG: Mine won't take too long, so fortunately the meeting is not going to go too long tonight. My name's Mary Young. I work with the State Health Department and we've been associated with this site on and off since the early 1990s. Kim Brault worked in this site for quite a while prior to the emergency, the removal actions that occurred. He was

an environmental engineer, worked on the site for a while. When the remedial -- when the investigation was completed this spring, Tom contacted me and said we're going to be doing a cleanup action here and we'd like for you to look at the remedial investigation. And what this does is Tom, I see Tom and I kind of in the same situation in a way right now. It's like if you're building a house. I guess I see us as kind of building inspectors, only I don't have much power to enforce anything, but what I can do is I can look at the building plan and I can say is it protective of public health. And so I looked at the investigation, looked at the numbers. I called some residents who lived right around the site to ask them if they had health concerns that we needed to investigate and see whether or not they were related to the site. I went -- Tom took me for a site visit so that I could have a look at the site and see if I saw anything that was obvious that maybe hadn't been brought up in the investigation. And from those things I came up with a few conclusions that really just support the cleanup and I just wrote them. These are fancy slides here. Essentially to reinforce what Kim had determined earlier, a number of years ago, to reinforce what Kim had concluded years ago, people who worked on this

site may have been exposed to very high levels of arsenic and pentachlorophenol. And who knows if they'll have health effects down the road from them.

Probably the most critical health effects they would have had would have been while they were working there, because PCP is a very strong irritant and they would have had, you know, irritation to their eyes, nose, throat, but they could have experienced some damage to their liver and kidneys, and there is a possibility of a cancer risk from PCP. Animal studies have showed -- have shown cancer but we haven't really seen it in an occupational exposure. Arsenic causes, is known to cause cancer of the skin. And another condition that's called chloracne -- no, that's the PCP that causes the chloracne. The arsenic causes changes to the skin that can end up resulting in a skin cancer. So it's possible that people could eventually have some illnesses from that exposure.

We've been recommending for a long time that if people are concerned they should talk to their doctor, explain what they maybe have been exposed to when they were working there and then we've offered consultation with Doctor Henry Anderson from the Division of Health. And by the way, all of these recommendations and conclusions are in this green fact sheet.

We also recognize that surface soil is an issue, that if -- if nothing is done to this site and people would moved onto that property, they certainly would have a long-term risk of contacting PCP and arsenic in soil.

If -- if nothing is done to the site there is a possibility that that contaminated groundwater could make it to the private drinking water supplies that are right around the property. And we're confident that that's not going to be an issue but, of course, it could be if it's not cleaned up. We're recommending that environmental agencies, whether it be EPA or if it eventually is turned over to DNR, that those drinking water wells continue to be monitored until, or the monitoring wells continue to be checked to make sure that there's not a threat to the people who live right around there.

And finally are the physical hazards. You saw the picture of that gully and how it's washed out. While I was talking to one of the residents this person told me, she lives across the street, and she said that she had seen kids over there frequently on ATVs running around. It's a great place to run around. I mean they certainly aren't going to hurt anything, I mean, you know, it's a pretty desolated

property at this point. But the fact is that they could hurt themselves by inhaling the contaminated soils or going to the edge of that gully. I guess my concern is that they could fall, that whole thing could give way and they could go down with it. And so I think that's a danger.

And I know this wasn't intended to be a pat Tom on the back night but I have to tell you that when I was calling residents, the person who mentioned that, you know, I was concerned about that. Called another resident and he was concerned about the quality of his drinking water. His well had not been checked in a while and he was noticing a sheen on some untreated water in his adjacent business. Well, I called Tom with both of those things and within a day I think he had logs put across places where people could get in with ATVs so that health concern was taken care of, and he had somebody from his office committed to taking water samples at the resident's home that was concerned, and fortunately his water came out clean. So I think that as a local contact Tom is very, would be a very good person to call if you have some concerns of an immediate nature.

Carol Larson is here tonight somewhere. Carol, if you can hear me, she has the baby. Carol is the

Burnett County Health Director, and she's here to find out what she can about this site, fairly new to the job. And I'm going to commit you a little bit, Carol, if there were local concerns I'm sure she'd be happy to take them and whether she could answer them or not she could at least direct them to the appropriate person if there were some health concerns. And -- and if any of you have concerns I would certainly like to know about them, because we can still make recommendations to EPA, if there are some things that maybe have not been addressed or that we haven't thought of.

In preparing this, just a quick little plug. In preparing this fact sheet that summarizes health concerns, I actually created this more tedious document that's called a Site Review and an Update. This is a draft document and if any of you are motivated to read ten pages and give me your comments I would be very happy to have your comments. I have several copies of these but I didn't think that as a general rule people wanted them. I have a comment form here and I'd be happy to give you a copy if you think it's something you'd be interested in looking at. It will be in the repository.

MS. PASTOR: Even though it says draft?

MS. YOUNG: Sure.

MS. PASTOR: We don't typically put things that say draft in our library with our documents so I wanted to make sure I was doing the right thing.

MS. YOUNG: Okay. Do you have any questions?

MS. PASTOR: Yeah, anybody have any questions? We are trying to move it along and keep it a little informal since there weren't that many of you, but if you have any questions, anything that you'd like to ask of Ken, Jim?

MR. BISHOP: Yeah, I'm just curious, how long will it take before this area is cleaned up where you could move in another industry?

MR. GLATZ: Actually the only area that will have restrictions on it is this area right here, because the rest of this stuff is all going to be consolidated over in this area. This is where the treatment's going to go on of the groundwater and the soil column and the surface soils that have been reconsolidated and covered over here. So basically this, you know, this adjoining area is going to be usable ground again. In long range this will be, although it may have very limited utility. Maybe only get for parking lot, I'm not sure, but --

MR. BISHOP: Are they looking at planting trees there or doing anything?

MR. GLATZ: Really haven't got into what the final outcome on revegetating the soil. Talking about getting FTW, public owned sewer management, sludge, mixing it with soil, maybe hydroseeding it, maybe getting the agriculture or forestry department to come in and plant trees or whatever. We noticed that back in this area that the trees are coming back by themselves so we think that what was it, loblolly pine or what, the pines that grow up in that area, I don't know what they are, white pine, whatever.

MR. BISHOP: Probably be a spruce.

MR. GLATZ: Spruce.

MS. PASTOR: You think right after our cleanup is done someone could move in and open up a business?

MR. GLATZ: I can't say that because I don't know what the legal outcome is going to be or the pentachlorophenol, or the Penta Wood Products. They haven't paid their -- their taxes for several years

MS. YOUNG: Property taxes.

MR. GLATZ: Nobody wants the property, obviously, so I really can't say. I mean I don't know. I really don't know what's -- that's a legal

issue that I really have not --

MS. PASTOR: Sir?

MR. DUEHOLM: As far as some industry or anything going back in there, I just saw a quick summary that some of the cleanup is looking at 30 years, long-term.

MR. GLATZ: specifically for this zone here. This other area will be done in a couple years. I mean the next step will be to get the ROD signed. From the ROD signing we go in and get another contractor on board. Assuming -- and the assumption is that this whole -- this is what they call a fund lead. In other words, the federal government's paying for it, the state is paying ten percent of the up front, we're paying for the operation of maintenance for the first ten years. The state then picks it up. Tom's concern, obviously, is that he would like it cleaned up in ten years so they don't have to, you know, do long range O and M on it. I don't fault him for that at all, but again, we're going to be looking at what's going on in here. Probably more than once every five years, probably more like once every year, and so we're going to, you know, use our judgment and say this is going great, you know, it's looking good. It's doing what we expected it to do. Projected maybe

it's 15 years, I don't know. I don't know. I mean you don't know until you get the data on how it's going to extrapolate out, but the intent is if it isn't going on we're going to do something more.

MR. DUEHOLM: Who has the say then as far as when something can be done with the property, when and how?

MR. GLATZ: Yeah. Again, that's -- that's not my strength. That's our office of regional counsel and I think even the state is involved in that. I mean from a purely risk point of view, as soon as all this stuff's consolidated in this area the land is open for redevelopment. Whether legally you can do that that's another story, because that gets back into who owns the property, when are they going to pay their taxes, all that kind of stuff. I mean Penta Wood Products would typically have been potentially responsible party and they would have paid for all the stuff we're going to end up paying for. But they're bankrupt, I guess they're not bankrupt, basically out of business. And so the only -- there's one individual that was with Penta Wood Products who is, has a settlement going with the federal government now, and he's instrumental in letting us do some of the stuff we're talking about doing here as far as

putting deed restrictions on the property. You can't use the groundwater in this general area. Can't use, you know, you can't violate the fence, that type of stuff. So I mean, I don't know. I can give you a person to talk to if you'd like to talk to someone about it further, but it's our intent to get that land to the point where it could be used effectively as soon as it can be.

MR. KENDZIERSKI: The state, too, is all of our environmental repair programs we've changed the immediate name to remediation and redevelopment program and reorganization. That is our goal to get these sites back into the preferable use as soon as possible. Like Ken mentioned there are legal issues that I can't speak to but, you know, that is our goal.

MR. DUEHOLM: Sorry to keep upon that but I'm saying if somebody is looking at the property, are they going to be looking to the state or the EPA to give it a clean bill of health, i.e., something in writing that there's no longer any problem, or --

MR. GLATZ: We won't even put deed restrictions on the areas that aren't contaminated that won't even be part of the deed restriction process. Only the area that's going to be in a remediation will have deed restrictions on it and only

until there's no more contamination. The unfortunate part of that is that there's traces of arsenic that are going to be buried in here and that's going to be an issue about what kind of a basement can you put in if you are going to be digging through, you know, arsenic-contaminated soil. I mean that's -- that's a long ways from now and why anybody would want to put a house in this particular area, I don't know. I mean, you know, there's a lot of area up here in Wisconsin to stick a house, not on a Superfund site.

MR. KENDZIERSKI: I guess that's another thing I see is a continuum that as the site gets cleaned up whoever would be looking at a piece of property no matter where it is looks at all the benefits themselves and all the drawbacks that the property might hold. And then you make a decision whether or not you want to buy that property or acquire it for any reason. So, you know, as the site gets cleaned up and these things get consolidated into certain areas, maybe there's a portion of the site that could be subdivided off and whoever, if there is someone that has an interest in that property they would have to make a business-type decision on whether or not they want to acquire, you know, the property as it is.

MS. YOUNG: Tom, doesn't DNR give the letters, though, the letters that state that the site is essentially cleaned up and so that prospective buyers can have a free, or I don't mean a free, but a clean bill of health, essentially, or slate, as far as liability is concerned?

MR. GLATZ: That's a joint effort between the EPA and the state.

MR. KENDZIERSKI: We have some assurance letters.

MS. YOUNG: At least at the Brownfields program you do.

MR. KENDZIERSKI: Right. We have some assurance letters and there's been some changes in the liability laws in the state for contaminated properties, and those are designed to provide things for people that pick up these properties and get them back into productive use and not be scared off with some of the liability issues associated with the site. And that's pretty much on a case by case basis too, so -- but there are some legal mechanisms and assurances that are available and also loan programs, too, to redevelop properties. That's a whole 'nother subject actually on how you redevelop contaminated properties, and if you're interested I think that we

can talk about it some more. It's a pretty big subject.

MR. GLATZ: Is that the Brownfields issue up here?

MR. KENDZIERSKI: Yeah.

MS. PASTOR: Anyone else have a question? Well, if not, I would like to at least ask if you have any public comments, you know, your opinion, your thoughts on what we're recommending. It's not cast in stone until that Record of Decision document that Ken was referring to is actually signed, so this is just a recommendation stage that we're at. And the comment period runs through August 8th. So if you don't want to say anything right now, that would be okay. You want to think about it a little longer, you want to mail your comment in, there's a little sheet in the middle of the gray fact sheet that you can use a self-mailer you can mail it, you can hand it to us. You can Email your comment, you can fax them to us. We take them pretty much all forms except I think over, except over a telephone call, but otherwise, a written comment would be put into the official record just as much as a comment that you would make tonight, so as opposed to questions, if you have a comment, an opinion, a statement you'd like to make, this would be

the time to do that and the court reporter would be happy to take that down, and just make sure she gets your name properly spelled and let us know what you think, or not? Well, okay. You don't have to do it now. We won't -- I guess we won't go any further on the public comment portion then. I guess we'll just kind of close that for now. But do think about it and if you have any opinions or if you know some of your neighbors might have some opinions or some thoughts, please encourage them to send in their comment to us because, you know, that's why we're making these recommendations, because we want to make sure that it's something that the -- that the folks who live in the local area would be agreeable to as much as the state and as much as we like it we still want to see if we can get the buy-in from the people who live right near the site. So if you don't have any other questions, comments or anything, then we can just kind of end the -- this meeting, and we'll stay around, we came a long way, so if you have any questions and you want to look at the maps or the pictures and just want to talk individually to Tom or Ken, pat Tom on the back some more, feel free to go ahead and do that. Otherwise, we thank you for coming and please stay and ask us some more -- some more about the site.

MR. KENDZIERSKI: I just want to add if anybody has any questions for me and you want to call me, I'm at the DNR headquarters in Spooner and just ask for Tom K, they know who I am.

MS. PASTOR: Your number's on the facts sheet, too.

MR. KENDZIERSKI: Okay. My -- the -- my direct number is 635-4057.

* * *

STATE OF MINNESOTA)

COUNTY OF WASHINGTON)

Be it known that I took the foregoing hearing, on the 15th day of July, 1998, at Siren, Wisconsin;

that I was then and there a Notary Public in and for the County of Washington, State of Minnesota, and that by virtue thereof I was authorized to administer an oath;

that the hearing was recorded in stenotypy by myself and reduced to print by means of Computer-Assisted transcription under my direction, and that the hearing is a true record of proceedings to the best of my ability;

Dated this 28th day of July, 1998.

Cheryl Benson, RPR
Notary Public
Washington County, Minnesota
My commission expires 3/19/99