WURTSMITH RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2021
5:00 P.M.

Transcript of the proceedings regarding the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base being held via video teleconference technology and in-person at 120 W. Dwight Street, Oscoda, Michigan.

APPEARANCES:

TIM SUELTENFUSS
PAULA BOND
GREG SCHULZ
TIM CUMMINGS

COMMUNITY RAB:

MARK HENRY, CO-CHAIR
BILL GAINES
JOE MAXWELL
DANIEL STOCK
DAVID WINN
CATHY WUSTERBARTH
ARNIE LERICHE

GOVERNMENT RAB:

CATHARINE VARLEY, CO-CHAIR
PUNEET VIJ (VIA TELECONFERENCE)
BETH PLACE
MICHAEL MUNSON OWAA
JESSIE STUNTEBECK (VIA TELECONFERENCE)
DENISE BRYAN (VIA TELECONFERENCE)
REX VAUGHN

REPORTED BY:
Quentina R. Snowden, (CSR-5519)
Certified Shorthand Reporter & Notary Public

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ADDRESSING THE BOARD:

BILL PALMER
CHRIS KULAN (PH)
SHARON VRIESENGA (VIA TELECONFERENCE)

(CALL TO ORDER AT 5:01 p.m.)

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Let's go ahead and begin the presentation. Great. Well, good. Good evening, everybody. My name is Tim Sueltenfuss, I'd like to welcome you to the Wurtsmith Restoration Advisory Board. I'm from Galen Driscol, and I'll serve as facilitator for tonight's meeting. Let's first turn to our co-chairs for any remarks.

DR. VARLEY: Thank everybody for being here today and for all of your participation.

MR. HENRY: I will echo that. Thank you for joining us.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thank you very much. That second slide -- so we have this hybrid format for our meetings. A lot of work from a lot of people, so I appreciate all of the effort to make this happen, to have an in-person meeting that's going on now and also the current virtual meeting.

We have a court reporter who is online and capturing a verbatim transcript of tonight's meeting, and this online meeting is also being recorded.

So, RAB members who are here in person, if you have any questions, then you can pose that question the old-fashioned way by raising your

hand.

Let me just see if we have any RAB members who are joining by computer. And do you see anyone who has joined in? If you do, please raise your hand electronically and then we'll call on you. Do we have any RAB members who are joining by telephone, if you can raise your hand by pressing star nine and lower it by pressing star nine; un-mute yourself by pressing star six, and mute yourself that way. This will be a bit of a process to show up on our display as a telephone number, so when I call -- I'll call the last four digits of the phone number. Then, you'll get a prompt automated voice recording saying to un-mute yourself or star six, press star six, and then that voice recording comes on yet again, just perhaps a confirmation to say you are un-muted. So, I'll call on you and then I'll wait ten seconds or so for that process. Let's see. So, thank you for your patience. Next slide, please.

Let's look at the RAB rules. We also have a copy of this presentation, a hard copy for those who are here, but let me just read off the RAB ground rules real quick. Respect one another and maintain an atmosphere of open dialogue and exchange

of ideas. Two, to use our time together efficiently, wisely and respectfully. Three, speak clearly and succinctly, one person at a time. Avoid interrupting others. Number four, listen and remain open to different points of view. Number five, maintain a propensity for progress; prepare, discuss, document and move forward. Number six, share information early, openly and honestly. And seven, accurately and objectively relay to others the discussions that occur at these board meetings.

So, RAB members, do those ground rules work still? Any discussion?

MR. HENRY: That's correct.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Great. All right. Also -- let's see. Let's move to the next slide, and we'll look at the agenda for this evening. Long night tonight. Update stakeholder and RAB members as we typically do, and then we'll review RAB business items. So, that will be RAB operating procedures and action items. After that, we'll move into the remedial investigation, interim remedial action, and soil removal action update. Quite a bit of time reserved towards the end of the meeting to address RAB members' questions. All of those portions to that point on the agenda, RAB members

themselves. After that, the members of the public can provide comments to the RAB in three minutes. Let's see.

During the technical presentation, we will take questions.

And let's now just go through and confirm that we have a quorum. And so I'll just go through the list, and if you can just indicate your presence.

Do we have Mr. Bill Gaines?

MR. GAINES: Present.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thank you, sir. Mark Henry?

MR. HENRY: Here.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Arnie Leriche?

MR. LERICHE: Present.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Joe Maxwell?

MR. MAXWELL: Here.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Let's see. How about Daniel Stock?

MR. STOCK: Here, present.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thank you, sir. David Winn?

MR. WINN: Present.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Cathy Wusterbarth?

MS. WUSTERBARTH: Here.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thank you. So, those are all of the community members. And then we get to the government RAB members. We have Dr. Catharine Varley.

DR. VARLEY: Here.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: And let's see. Do we have anyone representing Au Sable Township? Eric Strayer?

How about District Health Department 2? Or Michigan Department of Health and Human Services?

And let's see. I see we have Beth Place from the Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy.

MS. PLACE: Here.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Welcome. (Indecipherable.)

MR. UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Here.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thank you, sir. And Oscoda Wurtsmith Airport Authority?

MR. MUNSON: Here.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thank you, sir. Sorry to sequester you over in the corner there.

MR. MUNSON: That's fine. Story of my

life.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: And let's see, do we have Jessie Stuntebeck here, or other representatives of the Forest Service?

Okay. Well, good. We do have a quorum per the operating procedures. So, let's now move to the next slide, if we could. Okay. And so just a reminder here -- yes?

MS. UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I'm sorry, we're going to check our offline (inaudible).

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Yes. Yeah. That was the intent there, so let me just check one more time to see if some of those who are not here in person are with us online.

Do we have Ryan Mertz? And if you see Ryan Mertz listed, please let me know.

And how about Eric Strayer or anyone from Au Sable Township? And if so, if you're online, please just raise your hand electronically.

MR. UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Do you have any?

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Jessie Stuntebeck is? Okay. So, Jessie Stuntebeck with the USDA Forest Service is on with us. Let's see. Do we have Denise Bryan with District Health Department 2? Yes? Okay. Great. Thank you.

And do we have Puneet Vij with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services? Yes? Great. Okay.

So, just one more check then. Do we have anyone from Au Sable Township, Eric Stayer or others?

Okay. Well, great. I think we have everyone but Eric Strayer and Ryan Mertz on that.

MR. LERICHE: If we could recognize a couple other community RAB members in the audience and maybe online.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Sure. And, Mark, would you like to do that?

MR. HENRY: Great to see Greg.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: And we have Mr. Greg Schulz, welcome. And let's see. I don't see anyone else. Do we have Scott Lingo online perhaps? Or Rex Vaughn? Rex is with us? Okay. Great.

MR. LERICHE: And have we had communication tested by the people running the online with those four or five that are on there?

DR. VARLEY: Yes, sir. We did a test overall, so we should be able to hear everybody.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Yeah, and let's just -- we can just verify that right now. So, let me

ask Denise Bryan with District Health Department 2, could you just say a word or two just to make sure that we are hearing you well?

MS. BRYAN: Good evening. This is Denise Bryan with District 2.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. And for our AV techs, if that audio can be enhanced a bit. And, Denise, I'm sorry, if you could say that one more time.

MS. BRYAN: Good evening. This is Denise Bryan, health officer with District Health Department Number 2.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. All right. Thank you, Denise, I appreciate it. And while we're at it, let me just confirm that we have Puneet Vij as well.

So, maybe a bit of delay. Do we have Puneet Vij with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services?

MR. VIJ: Yes, I'm here. Sorry, I was not able to un-mute myself.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: No problem at all. Okay. So, it seems like we do have audio, we're able to hear folks online and they're able to hear us as well. Before moving forward, let me also just

confirm that we have Quentina Snowden on the line, Court Reporter?

THE COURT REPORTER: Yes, I'm here.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. Great. And, Quentina, any time that you need to us stop and clarify, please just jump in.

THE COURT REPORTER: Okay. Thank you.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. So, let's go ahead and move to the next slide then, if we could, the stakeholder updates portion. Okay. And the next slide as well.

So, we're now entering the stakeholder update portion of the agenda. This topic is for RAB members to provide brief updates. Let's begin with the Air Force update and Dr. Varley.

DR. VARLEY: All right. So, I'd like to introduce everybody to Steve Bolus, who is here with us tonight. Steve, raise your hand.

All right. So, Steve is going to be taking over a lot of the O and M, the operations and maintenance, for our daily activities just to keep everything up and running as far as equipment goes. And that -- MMRP projects that I don't have time to devote to. So, he's coming on board to help with workload, and help balance out our programs and keep

going like we have been, right? Trying to get work done and trying to move this project and this program forward. So, Steve is new to the team.

I also brought with me Janine Vaughn (ph). So, Janine is a toxicologist for the Air Force. Her specialty is eco risk, and she is helping out with our project, she's been helping out since the get-go, but I haven't had a chance to introduce her to the team, but she's here with me today.

I've also got Janet Anderson with us, and she is our GSI toxicologist for risk assessment and for the remedial investigation assessment. And Janet and Janine were here earlier today. We did a training on toxicology risk assessment and what that means to all of us. So, that's one of the pictures that you see up there.

And then yesterday, we actually did a site visit. So, for those of you who were able to join us, you guys got to go out and see some progress. So, we started the IRA. And I think you'll see some more pictures of the dig and haul for the concrete that was started, and we're getting ready to backhoe. Any questions?

MR. SUELTENFUSS: All right. Thank

you. Let's see. Let's move to the next slide then if we could, and we'll kind of go down the list. We'll start with community RAB members, and Mark, if you don't mind starting us off.

MR. HENRY: Sure. The RAB has been working on the operating procedures that we're going to be discussing this evening. We did offer a few suggestions about revising those to include all of the RAB members, not primary and backup members.

Anyway, we've gone back and forth on that. I've had a couple of technical discussions with Catharine. Beyond that, we haven't done much. We have had a few internal meetings and discussed a few things, and that's about it.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thank you for the update. Let's turn to Bill Gaines then. Any update?

MR. GAINES: No.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: All right. Thank you. Arnie, anything you'd like to share?

MR. LERICHE: Just one quick thing. At the last RAB meeting at the break and afterwards, I had a conversation with one of the Air Force contractors regarding the information repository, which is kept at the library, and that's where all

of the access help to the public will be there to allow the public to understand and to see more detail about the documents, actions, everything that's going on. And it was a very great conversation with Paula and Andrea. And with changes in contractors, sometimes procedures are not maintained. I want to thank them for stepping up and making a significant effort into upgrading that information repository, which had kind of gone down in adequacy for the last 18 months, almost two years. So, I want to thank them for that.

I hope that in the near future, we can close the loop between what they've put together and what the expectations of the community RAB and the community in general might be if there's some other things that would help the community understand, agree and double check after a meeting like this, go to the library, check out the documents that are being discussed here.

So, if there's any input to us, I would hope that they would contact any of the community RAB or Mark, and we would try to work with -- we would work with the Air Force to make those improvements. So, I want to thank you guys for that effort.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thank you, Arnie. And let's turn to Mr. Joe Maxwell. Any updates?

MR. MAXWELL: Well, I just got one thing, and that is yesterday, the EPA finally asked the science division to come up with a health advisory (inaudible) as of yesterday.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Great. All right. Thank you for that update. And let me just check one last time to see if Ryan Mertz is with us on the computer or on audio.

Okay. Mr. Stock, any updates?

MR. STOCK: Nothing.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. Thank you. And David Winn?

MR. WINN: Not at this time.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Cathy Wusterbarth?

MS. WUSTERBARTH: Yes. We -- a group of community members met with the Governor earlier in the month and -- just to talk about the cleanup and its challenges, of course. There's some images in the back in the foyer there that we presented to the Governor also just to kind of get her up to speed on what's going on here.

We also -- some members of the community launched a Great Lakes PFAS Action

Network, which will attempt to assist other communities in Michigan and the Great Lakes region in terms of PFAS contamination, and we're hoping that this outreach will touch some military sites in the region, so that's an effort that this community has (inaudible). That's what I have. Thank you.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: All right. Thank you. Okay. So, let's move to our remaining government RAB members for updates as well. Let's turn to Jessie Stuntebeck with USDA Forest Service. Jessie, any update that you have?

MS. STUNTEBECK: Hi, are you guys able to hear me?

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Yes.

MS. STUNTEBECK: Okay. Great. So, on behalf of the Forest Service, I just want to say we appreciate all the communication from the Air Force on what's been going on and what they've all been working on. We're still in the process of reviewing the draft that we got a couple months ago. I've participated in the earlier conversation this morning regarding toxicology and the risk assessment, appreciated that a lot. I look forward to participating in that as needed from the Forest Service. So, that's all I have from us.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Jessie, we appreciate that. And let's turn to Beth Place with Michigan EGLE.

MS. PLACE: Thank you. EGLE has been getting our facts checked on Air Force PFAS (inaudible) comments to Air Force back at the end of May, early June, and that Air Force responded to our comments. And we plan to conduct our fact check with responses by the end of November. That's our plan. We held a town hall meeting on November 3rd and provided several updates. November 14th (inaudible) posted on the website, web page at Michigan.gov/Wurtsmith shortly, if it's not there already. And we also will be updating that website in the near future with photos that we've been taking while we've been performing oversight for the PFAS ROI, so the majority of the time, we have a representative, either our -- one of our contractors or us on site. Our contractors will be slowly providing that information online so folks can have access to that. And I'll shoot out an e-mail to the Wurtsmith subscriber list when we do that.

The other things that we have been doing in addition to oversight, we've been collecting quality assurance samples while we're

performing oversight. And so as we're obtaining those results, we'll be sharing those with Air Force, and potentially we're still working on the processes there, so we'll be posting those for public as well.

And in addition to that, we had -- EGLE had submitted a request to Air Force, and this was something that was discussed at November 3rd town hall meeting for MPART, and we had submitted a request for an additional interim remedial action to the Air Force, and we have not yet received a response on that. And that request was made back in March 23rd of 2021. And so our division director will be following up with Dr. (Indecipherable) in the near future on that issue and likely submitting another request in writing as well. Thank you.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. Thank you, Beth. Okay. Mr. Mike Munson, let's go to Wurtsmith Airport Authority.

MR. MUNSON: I got five bullet points I'd like to go over. Our airport manager has informed the board that he wants to retire, so we've been working with HR looking for a replacement. The space for licensing activities is ongoing, it's very complicated, but we're making progress. The new

hangar construction is progressing. We are -- the board is looking to revise the airport layout plan due to some upcoming proposed project.

And last, but not least, the fence, the perimeter fence, is a security measure. We've had some trees causing some issues there, so we've hired a lumbering company to trim those back so it doesn't damage the fence. Thank you.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: You are a man who knows how to give a briefing. That could fit on a two-inch by three-inch card.

MR. MUNSON: Yes. Yes. Well, I mentioned that I (inaudible).

MR. SUELTENFUSS: (Inaudible).

MR. MUNSON: Yes.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: All right. Thank you.

MR. MUNSON: Uh-huh.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. Just checking in, do we have anyone from Au Sable Township that has joined since we started?

Okay. Let's turn to Puneet Vij with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Any update, Puneet?

MR. VIJ: Yes. So, for the

residential well resampling update in this current round two --

MR. SUELTENFUSS: And actually, if you could hold one second, let me ask our AV techs to try to boost the volume there if we can.

MR. VIJ: Sure.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Stand by just one second and we'll get back at you.

MR. VIJ: No problem.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: I'll wait for the thumbs up from them. All right. We've got the thumbs up. So, Puneet, back over to you.

MR. VIJ: Okay. So far, residential well resampling in the current round two; we collected samples from 280 wells, and out of these, we had is 147 non-detection and 133 detection. And out of these 133 detections, there are 19 detections that exceeded the (inaudible) competitive value.

And then related to deer and fish sign replacement, the revised sign replacement will be completed soon.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: All right. Okay. Thank you.

MR. VIJ: Okay. I was just asking, I hope I was loud enough.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Yeah. And Puneet, we had a little bit of difficulty. I wonder -- let's see. Let me ask if any of our support staff can shoot Puneet an e-mail, and -- or Puneet, if you could just shoot an e-mail to me, I think you have my address, if there's anything you'd like to us include in the -- the transcript of the -- of the meeting. Okay. Thank you, Puneet.

And let's turn to Mr. Cummings with Oscoda Township.

MR. CUMMINGS: Thank you. And I just wanted to mention a reminder to some folks who've been in this RAB the longest and are muted, that some years ago, we had engaged the Air Force (inaudible) service sewer or water and (inaudible) services get rid of that water (inaudible) by the gap. And it's been a topic of concern for some time now. We're only in negotiations at this point after there was an agreement to actually be paid to the Township for that storm sewer usage -- I'm sorry, storm drain usage. And so I wanted to just find out from Dr. Varley and anyone else at the Air Force, what is the status on this negotiation? But it's certainly a protracted state, and we'd like to know when this is going to come to a close.

DR. VARLEY: So, we are currently working with the Township, as you know. Tammy, myself and Dan have all met several times. We talked about how we can partner together to make everything work better. We do not expect to be using the storm water for forever, but we do want to help fix the solution. So, we are working with our leadership to figure out what we can do and how to move forward. The Township did provide us a letter, and that is something that is undergoing review right now so that we can figure out the best path forward. So, we are making progress. We're not stopping.

MR. CUMMINGS: Good. And thank you for that. I don't really like the constant change after that agreement occurred, but I appreciate knowing that something is in progress. And so we don't need to (inaudible) that here, that's not the purpose of this meeting, but I -- I appreciate your answer on the spot.

DR. VARLEY: Thank you.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: All right. Thank you, sir. And let's see. Over to Denise Bryan with Department of Health District 2.

MS. BRYAN: Local public health does

not have any updates this evening, but thank you.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. All right. Well, thank you very much. And I see you're one step ahead of me. Let's go ahead and move to that next slide, RAB business update. So, we're now in the RAB business portion of the agenda, and I think there's one more slide in this section, if I remember correctly. Yeah. So, we'll talk operating procedures and action items as well.

As Mr. Henry mentioned, the RAB members have been looking into possible changes to the operating procedures. The operating procedures, again, kind of serve as the constitution for the group, they tell us our procedures and our policies, and how we run meetings and so on. And I think we are ready to vote to adopt those new operating procedures.

So, we would need concurrence from both the co-chairs and a majority of the RAB members. We have -- let's see -- that would be over 51 percent of RAB members present, so that would be eight of us. Let me just first turn to the co-chair to see if there's anything else you'd like to say before we have that vote by show of hands. Anyone? Yes?

MR. HENRY: We've been going back and forth on this. The last revisions were made today. But looking over those revisions, I have no harping with it, I think we can move forward.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay.

DR. VARLEY: Yeah, I'm impressed by, you know, the amount of work that went into these, and Mark's due diligence, making sure that everything that we are doing now is actually incorporated into these procedures. So, this is how we have been operating in many respects.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: And, Dr. Varley, you e-mailed these out to all the RAB members earlier today and they're also in hard copy now. So, let me just see if we can go ahead and -- can we move forward with a vote by show of hands? Yes, please go ahead.

MS. WUSTERBARTH: Yeah. I'd just like to request that the co-chairs maybe just touch on some of the things that were changed from the prior.

MR. HENRY: I -- I haven't seen an e-mail today.

MS. WUSTERBARTH: Well, I don't mean necessarily the final version, but from the first version to this version, what -- you know, just to

give some idea of what was updated.

DR. VARLEY: So, the big things -- big rocks for me, at least, were the communications have been added in. So the e-mails, the updates, the moving forward as a team together, is all in there now.

Also -- let's see. We also updated all of the links so that what goes up on the AR is incorporated, and what goes onto the website is incorporated on that, and provides those links as to what they are today.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Mark, anything else come to your mind, major changes --

MR. HENRY: The original operating procedures that the RAB was utilizing had the whole notion of -- of primary and back up numbers. And that has been removed from this version. All of the RAB membership will, in essence, be primary members now. Yes.

The original operating procedures were crafted around the situation at Wurtsmith. These operating procedures were originally crafted for Pease Air Force Base, and they were modified to work here at Wurtsmith. And in comparing the two documents, this current document seems to cover all

of the bases that the original one did, and fixed that primary membership thing. There were a few things that were left out, but I don't see them as being consequential.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Great. Cathy, does that address the question?

MS. WUSTERBARTH: Yeah, thanks.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Any other questions from the RAB members on this?

MR. LERICHE: So, I just learned this today that there was confirmation from Catharine that the copying or using Pease RAB operating procedures that was approved in 2017 is now a template, and it was mentioned three years ago that the Air Force wanted to have a more standardized review of operating procedures, but it never moved past that.

So, I hope that if that is what's happening across the nine RABs in the BRAC and maybe even the active, that the communication will happen and you'll bring some of that information to us, how that's being implemented across all of the -- the Air Force at least, contamination sites where there are RABs so that we don't fall behind and that we're being recognized and treated in the same fashion.

So, I trust that that's going to happen. So, I'm going to vote yes.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Well, good. Arnie, you kind of beat me to it. Let me just ask -- first, we'll do it with the RAB members who are present in person here. I'll ask by show of actual physical real life hands, do you agree to adopt these RAB operating procedures.

So RAB members, do you agree to adopt these RAB meeting procedures? Let's see. Please keep those up. Yeah, actually there's not a restriction in the current RAB operating procedures. Yes.

Okay. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten. Okay. And so, I have 10 of the 11 of us who are here in person voting for that.

Let me just confirm then. Puneet, do you vote to adopt the RAB operating procedures?

MR. VIJ: Yes.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: And I'm sorry, can you state that one more time, Puneet?

MR. VIJ: Yes.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. Great. So, that's 11. Thank you.

And to Denise Bryan?

MS. BRYAN: Yes.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. That's 12. Then USDA Forest Service, Jessie Stuntebeck? And, Jessie, are you able to respond? Are you -- do you support adopting the new operating procedures, Jessie?

MS. STUNTEBECK: Yes, I do.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Great. Okay. So, we received 13 affirmative votes. We needed eight, which was over 51 percent of the RAB members. So, these new operating procedures are adopted. Co-chairs, would you like to go ahead and sign these now?

DR. VARLEY: Mark, you want to sign? A copy for you and a copy for me.

MR. HENRY: Sure.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thank you all very much. Bear with us for those on the phone while the actual signing occurs.

Congratulations. I feel like I should keep the commemorative pen. It was yours to start with, so -- okay.

Well, so now that we have new operating procedures established, we can proceed to

appoint, Rex Vaughn, Greg Schulz and Scott Lingo as community RAB members. Co-chairs, anything to say on that front?

MR. HENRY: Welcome aboard.

DR. VARLEY: I am working on the paperwork. So, thank you, guys.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Congratulations. Okay. Let's see. Let's move to action items real quick. Action times. So, the co-chairs met following the last RAB meeting and reviewed action items. There are currently 13 open action items, and I believe the standard process is for the co-chairs to meet again following this RAB meeting and review action items as well as the future agenda items and so on. Any -- any discussion the co-chairs would like to have about action items?

MR. HENRY: Nothing comes to mind.

DR. VARLEY: Working through them.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. So before we move off of the RAB business update, any other RAB business that we should discuss before we move on to our presentations?

Okay. Well, good. That was a lot. Thank you all for your patience with that, especially in this hybrid format. Let's move to

that next slide then, if we could. And we will move into the Air Force technical presentation, and Paula Bond with Aerostar will present. And Paula, you can --

MS. BOND: (Inaudible) new organization and trying to get everybody situated, so --

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Also, just a note to all of the support staff, if there's any adjustment you need us to be making, feel free to just jump up.

MS. BOND: I think I'll stand over here. Can you guys hear me? Is this thing on? Check? Okay.

Hopefully everybody that -- don't look at me, look at the slides, but -- I'd like to thank everybody for coming out tonight. It's kind of a cold and miserable night here in Oscoda, but thanks everybody for joining us online to celebrate some -- you know, we've got some great news and successes to talk about tonight as far as progress on site. So, I'll just kind of give everybody an update on where we are on the RI fieldwork, the IRAs that we're working on, and then the soil removal action that we just completed. So, if you guys could move to the next slide for me.

So, under the RI process -- so, I'll just give you a quick update here on the slide. And you can see that the RI scoping work is complete. The UFP-QAPP is still ongoing. We're still working with EGLE on finalizing that document. The risk assessment work plan is still ongoing, we're still working on that with EGLE as well. The field data collection is ongoing, and I'm going to talk a little bit more about that as we go along. And just to kind of let everybody know, I think most of you that came in, we have some posters set up in the back of the room. Some of the data that we've collected so far during the RI fieldwork is displayed on the posters, so we'll be happy to talk with anybody about that data or information that we've presented on the posters after the RAB as well.

And then the last thing on this slide is the RI report. Obviously, we haven't finished the fieldwork, so we're not to the RI report yet. And as we move through these different tasks, the colors on the bubbles will change to designate ongoing complete activities and -- as we move forward. Next slide, please.

So, we'll talk a little bit about the

IRA for FT002 at Clark's Marsh. The folks that were out yesterday that did the site walk with us were able to see some of the progress that we've made out there.

We have started prepping the site for the addition for the building expansion for the pre-treatment system that's going to be installed out there, so we've got that kicked off. Obviously, everyone knows it's wintertime, not the best time to start a construction project, but we're moving forward and trying to get that expeditiously moving forward as we can, and get as much done before the weather turns really cold on us. But, we're excited about that, so that, you can see.

I've got some photos of that coming up here too, but -- so the scoping is complete, the proposed plan is complete. We've been through this process. The ROD is complete. The remedial design is complete. The work plan is complete. So, all that's left now is to implement that action so all of our circles are -- all of our bubbles are blue on this slide. Next slide, please.

So Van Etten Lake, it's a little bit different story. That one is running a little bit further behind than the Clark's Marsh. Still on

schedule, but the IRA scoping is complete, the proposed plan is complete, and we've got a couple of other following tasks; interim record of decision, the remedial design, and the IRA work plan, those are all undergoing Air Force review currently. So, we hope to get those over to EGLE very soon, and this -- the schedule for Van Etten Lake is to start that work later in the spring once all of these documents are signed and -- and we get approval, those will move forward. Next slide, please.

So, just a little more detail on the fieldwork update for the RI. Like I said, we have posters in the back that kind of demonstrate some of the -- or illustrate some of the data that we've collected so far. Step one in our fieldwork process was to sample existing groundwater wells at the site that had not previously been sampled for PFAS. We started that back in July, we finished a few weeks ago in October, and we sampled 96 existing wells out there that hadn't been sampled for PFAS before.

So, we fed that data into the next step, number two -- or sorry, next step number -- sorry, I'm out of whack -- step number three, but step number two was the soil sampling. So, we have been soil sampling out there since August. We've

collected over a thousand samples from 231 locations. We're very close to being finished with the soil sampling and we have to finish that up in the next week or so. But, the data that we collected from the groundwater well sampling is feeding into step three, our vertical aquifer sampling locations. And to decide finalized locations for those, where we may want to go, we completed that back in September with SPP meetings with EGLE, and we have began the bass sampling in September, and so far, we've sampled 16 locations and we've collected in the neighborhood of 100 samples so far.

All of our RI fieldwork is still ongoing. The bass sampling, we're continuing. Right now, our plan is to work probably up through Christmas. If we get weather that's good enough, we'll keep going, but we'll just kind of have to wait and see on that, but right now, the plan is to continue bass sampling through December. We won't be finished with the fieldwork at that point if we stop for winter weather. We will still have work to be done next spring when the weather clears up for us. So next slide, please.

So, I'll focus a little bit on FT002

at Clark's Marsh. Like I said, we did the site walk yesterday, and I've got a couple of figures here that kind of show the -- where the site is today for those of you that weren't able to come out, but site work began on October the 14th, and then we started grading and just preparing the site for the concrete slab for the addition. We got the underground utilities installed out there, we got mechanical and electrical, and in one of the photographs here, you can see some of the plumbing that's sticking up. Those are the pipings from the extraction wells that we're going to put in. That's where they're going to come into under the slab. And we installed a few of the performance monitoring wells for the treatment system that we knew the locations where those were going to go, so we're trying get as much work as we can done this year. So, that's kind of where we are with FT002 at Clark's Marsh. Next slide.

So, the next thing in the fieldwork that we're looking at -- this is really exciting, I think -- is the soil removal action at FT002. So, we just completed this last week. We started out there on October the 13th. We have removed 24,000 -- I think I have this on the next slide, but --

over 24,000 tons of soil. We've got some pictures here on this slide, and you can kind of see where the fire training area was, and there was a concrete pad that was at the fire training area, and that was removed back in the spring.

So, when that pad was removed, it kind of provided an opportunity for some -- that exposed soil to increase leeching from -- from the surface down to the groundwater. So, that was the rationale for implementing this -- this soil removal action. Next slide, please.

So like I said, over 24,000 tons of soil we removed from FT002. The soil was transported to the U.S. Ecology Hazardous Waste Landfill down in Belleville, Michigan. But I do want to make the important distinction that even though we are transporting this soil to a hazardous waste landfill, this waste is not a hazardous waste, but we are storing it or disposing of it in a hazardous waste landfill. And we're doing that just as a conservative approach at this point, because that landfill is made for higher toxicity chemicals so that they don't leech into the groundwater, so that's kind of why we chose that method. Next slide, please. Just a little bit too far. I was

almost finished.

DR. VARLEY: While we're waiting for our reset -- so the big reason why we -- so the cap came off, the pad came off, which allowed us to actually do sampling. The sampling showed us high concentrations and the probability of leeching. The probability of leeching in the proximity to Clark's Marsh was the reason we're doing the time-critical removal action this year before we have snow and everything else going right through all of that. So, we pulled off -- in, what, 30 days, we removed a concentration equal to or greater than what we've removed from the FT002 treatment system that's been operational since 2015. So -- and that's rough calculations at this point.

MS. BOND: Yeah. So the excavation -- we finished excavating, like I said, last week. We are ready to backfill, and we'll start doing that either later this week or early next week. As most of you know, this is hunting season and there's not a lot of work getting done up here right now. So, we'll start backfilling the hole and we hope to have that done in just a couple weeks. So, that action will be done. Just here's some photos of the excavation, some of you got to see that yesterday.

But it is -- it's an impressive excavation, and we did a lot of work in a very short period of time, and that's thanks to a great team of people working on that. So, I think that's a great success for the Air Force, and we're happy to be a part of it. And I think that is all I have. Next slide, maybe this is the schedule.

So, this is just the updated fieldwork timeline that I present at all of the RAB meetings. This one is a little difficult to read on the slide there, because it's a little faded, but everything -- we've added the removal action on here. Clark's Marsh -- FT002 at Clark's Marsh IRA has been started, like I said, so that is on the schedule.

Van Etten Lake at Ken Ratliff Memorial Park, that IRA, as we have moved that, pushed that to start in the spring after those documents that I mentioned get signed. So, we'll start that off in the spring, but everything will be done by the end of next year, by the fall of next year, for the IRAs and the RI fieldwork. And that is all I have.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: All right. So, any questions from the RAB members?

MR. WINN: I've got a whole list. Can I start?

MS. BOND: You get five minutes.

MR. WINN: Thanks, Paula. First question, you said the FT002 is not scheduled, it's all new equipment has all been purchased and everything is --

MS. BOND: Yeah, we've got everything. The building is already there (inaudible) is there --

MR. WINN: Do you foresee any time issues or --

MS. BOND: No. Everything has been ordered. So, we're -- like I said, you know, doing this in the winter was not our original plan. We would much rather have started it, you know, back in the summer, but everything has been ordered, it's on its way, so we're going to be working through the winter to get that -- everything in there, get it finished.

MR. WINN: Air Force IRA schedule. The initial schedule that you guys had back in September showed a start date of 9/1 with a completion date of August 22nd. This new schedule now shows 11/17 with a finished date of 10/22. Before, it was nine months. Now, it's seven months.

MS. BOND: Is that -- you're looking

at Clark's Marsh?

MR. WINN: No. That's the Air Force beach.

MS. BOND: Oh, Van Etten Lake, yeah.

MR. WINN: Yeah.

MS. BOND: Yeah, so --

MR. WINN: Is that -- I mean, it looks like it slipped out, because obviously you guys had some --

DR. VARLEY: Everything took a little bit longer. So, I was going for best case scenario. This is me. I push everybody as hard as I can, and I apologize to Paula all the time, because I push until the fact that we just can't do it.

MR. WINN: Okay.

DR. VARLEY: So I pushed, and pushed, and pushed, and that's one project that we just couldn't get done by winter, so --

MR. WINN: Okay. That's fine.

DR. VARLEY: It will start next field season.

MR. WINN: My question is, you initially had it laid out for nine months.

MS. BOND: Right. So --

MR. WINN: The new schedule now shows

seven months.

MS. BOND: Right. So now --

MR. WINN: Is that because you purchased equipment?

MS. BOND: Yeah. Yeah. Things are ready to go, we're lining everything up. And because we're starting --

MR. WINN: Okay. I just --

MS. BOND: -- starting earlier in the spring -- so before we had it laid out on the schedule, a lot of that work was being done in the winter, which just slows things down, so now it will all be done in better weather so we can compress that schedule, and our materials --

MR. WINN: So now you -- you should feel comfortable with this current schedule you have.

MS. BOND: Yeah, I do.

DR. VARLEY: Yeah.

MR. WINN: Okay. Clark's Marsh ROD. You stated in here the ROD is complete.

MS. BOND: It is, yes.

MR. WINN: But there are still a lot of unresolved issues, you know, between EGLE and Air Force. When do those issues get resolved?

DR. VARLEY: Yeah, of course. First of all, Air Force is the lead agency.

MR. WINN: Yep.

DR. VARLEY: We went through and we resolved as much as we possibly could, and we got it signed so that we can move forward and start work.

MR. WINN: Okay.

DR. VARLEY: So, that's where we are with it. We will continue to answer EGLE's questions and do what we need to do to make sure that we're trying to build that relationship and gain some more consensus as we continue our projects together.

MR. WINN: Okay. But --

DR. VARLEY: But the ROD is finished, our ROD.

MR. WINN: So, those unresolved issues could remain unresolved?

DR. VARLEY: I'm expecting still a letter from EGLE providing their concurrence and whatever else -- because we did come to an agreement, right, Beth?

MS. PLACE: Yeah. So, we had a meeting on Friday to discuss one of the main issues still outstanding from the ROD, so you do have a

signed ROD there. EGLE hasn't provided our concurrence letter yet, and we do have that meeting on Friday to discuss the threatening state -- threatened and endangered species with the Clark's Marsh IRA. And so I'm hoping from that meeting that that issue can be resolved, and that's really one of the -- the main issues.

The other kind of outstanding comment was on performance monitoring. In the performance monitoring comments that we made, we also made one that FT002 system was installed. And so Air Force did, you know, make changes based on EGLE's comments, but there are still some that were not incorporated, and I figured those are just going to be documented then, they weren't incorporated. But the state threatened and endangered species I imagine will be resolved.

MR. WINN: Okay. So, both of you are kind of in agreement with what needs to be done?

DR. VARLEY: Yeah. We both want to move this project forward.

MR. WINN: Okay. All right. ARARs. Are ARARs going to be included as part of --

DR. VARLEY: They were in the IROD and they were sent out to everybody in that document.

MR. WINN: Okay. Okay.

DR. VARLEY: So, that's discussed and determined by our lawyers, it does not happen at our level. They can get consensus, and EGLE provided us a letter, or your AG provided us a letter, and that's what finalized so we can move forward and start work. On the 11th, we started mobilization with the signature.

MR. WINN: Okay.

MR. LERICHE: Excuse -- is that letter -- because you referenced that in an e-mail you sent us about a month and a half ago. Is that letter from the AG to the Air Force been shared publicly?

DR. VARLEY: I can share it. I was waiting for Beth's letter from -- EGLE's letter as well to be able to put them together, but --

MR. LERICHE: And in a minute or less, would it allow you to do, what did they say?

DR. VARLEY: It's allowed us to -- it was more or less agreement on the ARARs, that's what it was.

MR. LERICHE: Well, that's pretty generic --

DR. VARLEY: That's it.

MR. LERICHE: Agreement on the list of

the ARARs that they submitted to you, you have now accepted that same list?

DR. VARLEY: That are a part of the IROD, yes.

MR. LERICHE: Including the five new PFASes?

DR. VARLEY: No. That is not in the ARARs.

MR. LERICHE: But it does for the PFOA/PFAS, you agreed to that?

DR. VARLEY: It's all there in the IROD. You can read it. I sent out --

MR. LERICHE: And we haven't received that yet --

DR. VARLEY: Yeah, you have gotten the IROD.

MR. WINN: You've agreed?

DR. VARLEY: Yes.

MR. WINN: Okay. All right. I want to -- the FT002 soil removal, I want to -- I want to make a comment. I looked at what you got over there. To me, first off, I want to thank and your entire crew for motivating or initiating that removal. When I look at that chart over there and I see the high levels of PFAS, and everybody in this

room has always talked about get rid of the source, get rid of the source, that, to me, is -- in 30 days, you guys have done a heck of a job getting rid of what I would consider a source. And I want to know when is the next hole going be dug?

DR. VARLEY: I'd like to know that too, sir.

MR. WINN: Who do we have to talk to to get the next hole dug?

DR. VARLEY: So, what we need to do is we need to keep working on our program and planning, and we'll do that, and I'm glad that you support it, so --

MR. WINN: Whatever this group -- I mean, as far as I'm concerned, whatever we need to do as a community to help push this along to get rid of all these sources, amen, I'm ready for that. And if we got to get ahold of President Biden, we'll do that. Hey, I'm that serious. I mean, this is great stuff. This is stuff that should have been done years ago, but I'm really, really appreciative of the fact that you guys have took the initiative in order to do it and, like I said, I mean I can see by the -- the grass there out there, there are other holes that need to be dug, so -- kudos.

DR. VARLEY: Thank you.

MR. WINN: My last one is the latest well -- the latest residential well sampling that Puneet just talked about. There were approximately 120 -- 114 wells that showed detection, of which 19 were over at mcLs. And, Paula, I would hope that EGLE or MDHHS would share that data and those locations with you so that you guys can understand where those detections were, because I'm going to say this again, my guess is they're on the southeast part of the lake. So, it would be nice for -- Puneet, if you're listening, I would sure hope that you would share that data as well as a map or something to the Air Force that shows that information.

MS. BOND: Yeah, EGLE has been really good about providing that data.

MR. WINN: Okay. My last question: BCT meeting minutes. I have no July, no August, no September, and no October. I'm finding out that -- and we can sit in these RAB meetings, and I can find out more information from the RAB meeting than I can from the BCT minutes, because they're so outdated. Where does this --

MS. PLACE: So July, we have the

August meeting in September, and then we have the October meeting at the end of October --

MR. WINN: Okay.

MS. PLACE: -- and those are all still with me. It was difficult getting access to the recordings again --

MR. WINN: Okay. So, when would you have them to where they can be seen?

MS. PLACE: I can follow up with an e-mail to the RAB. Again, we don't have any issue of no releasing the draft minutes, that's not EGLE's issue, we're not holding the draft ones, that's --

MR. WINN: Okay. I'm just -- and that information is -- is what the community gets to see what's going on.

MS. PLACE: Well, I understand, and it's not as -- you know, it's not just as simple as oh, well leave it on (inaudible) --

MR. WINN: I understand that.

MS. PLACE: -- and we have to make sure those decisions are --

MR. WINN: The board is just making sure everything is correct, I understand. But again, when it comes to the meeting minutes, I find that this information is -- I mean, every time I --

I mean, I faithfully read those every month. When I find that information, I've already heard about it in a RAB meeting or some other type of meeting. And I would really like to -- just me, speaking myself, I would really like to see that information as quickly as possible.

MS. PLACE: Yeah, I have a few things to say that -- that, and so I -- you know, I can understand and I can get back to the RAB with a date on when those particular ones will have our reviews done. In the past, Catharine proposed potentially having, you know, transcripts done from the BCTs, EGLE is not opposed to that. I think it'll make it easier and there will be less of a tone and potential slant to some of those minutes if they're going to be relied on for decisions. So that's --

MR. WINN: It's very important -- and just -- I'd like to -- I think the group would like to know when can we see that's -- if you tell me a couple weeks, three weeks, that would be great. Just --

MS. PLACE: Yeah. And I guess the other thing I wanted to say to that -- sorry -- was that we -- sorry -- you guys are receiving a lot of information at the same time that we are now, so

it's not necessarily that some of the information has been shared with us already. In some cases, that is true, but a lot of the information you -- you guys -- like, it's an e-mail to me, a minute later, it's an e-mail to you. So, there's not really a lot --

MR. WINN: But that doesn't help the community. That's all I'm saying. The community -- those BCT minutes are available to the community to see what's going on in Oscoda and in surrounding areas. Yeah, I get the e-mail, this team gets e-mail, but the community doesn't know. And that's what we're here to do, we're here to support the community.

MS. PLACE: Okay.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. And just a note there, so Beth, I've kept an action e-mail RAB members to advise when the BCT meeting minutes will be released. Does that work for you, that action?

MS. PLACE: It's when I provide our comments back to Air Force. I don't -- EGLE does not release them to the public, that's Air Force. We do post them on our website once the Air Force has finalized.

Could you also capture an action item

if the BCT minutes can be transcribed? Because then that will really alleviate this whole issue, and they can be provided to the community in real-time.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Will do. And then also I did -- just to go back a bit, I had an action send RAB members the Michigan Attorney General's letter concerning applicable, relevant and appropriate requirements. Is that something you can provide as well?

MS. PLACE: Yeah.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thank you. Okay. Well -- so we're still in the phase of questions related to the briefing here. Let me just check in, because I know it's challenging to participate on this virtually. So, let me make sure and reach out to Denise Bryan, Puneet Vij, and Jessie Stuntebeck to see if you all have questions on presentations so far. Any questions -- any questions or hands raised electronically?

So, continuing on then with the RAB members here present in person, any questions on the presentation so far? Yes?

MS. WUSTERBARTH: I want to give a big picture of the timing. The soil removal project is awesome, you know, we are very, very excited about

that. From my understanding, this -- this was recommended more than a decade ago, and it's always been my concern that it's taken so long to get this done, and I'm wondering, Catharine, if you have any insight for us on why when you came, this suddenly got done, and your predecessor did not?

DR. VARLEY: I have experience with the projects forward, so I do need the community support, and it's a team effort. We all need to be in lockstep and working together.

So, the reason why we were able to do the time-critical is everything just fell right into step. It was good timing, it was a good community effort, you guys were asking the right questions at the right time, and we were able to start the sampling and get the ball rolling, and hopefully we can continue to get the ball rolling as we move forward through the CERCLA process, as well as move forward in IRAs, right? So, just got to keep going.

MS. VRIESENGA: Hey, Tim, this is Sharon Vriesenga.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Yes, go ahead, Sharon.

MS. VRIESENGA: I'm sorry, Catharine. I didn't mean to cut you off. When you're done,

I'll -- no, I think Catharine is still speaking. I'll let her finish.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay.

DR. VARLEY: Go ahead, Sharon.

MS. VRIESENGA: What I was going -- sorry about that, Catharine. What I wanted to say was the reason this soil removal was done is there are rules and regulations about when you can do a removal action, which is what was done for this soil removal at FT002. The only reason the Air Force was able to do that was because the concrete cap or cover was taken off as a part of the other work that was going on FT002. When that was done and the soil was sampled, we realized we had a scenario, as the time-critical removal action memo talks about, that there was an increased risk of contamination now getting into the groundwater because the cap had been removed. That was the driver for this removal action.

It's not as if we can just go around and start digging up a lot of contamination all over wherever on the base, there has to be a driver to take action this fast. This one had it. Maybe we'll have that somewhere else in the base, maybe we won't.

DR. VARLEY: But as we move forward through the CERCLA process, we will get to the FS, and that will be something that we need to consider, is do we do more soil removal, or do we implement another technology and we will get there. So, capture and -- that's what we're using for the IRAs, source for capture, and then clean up.

MS. WUSTERBARTH: Can I ask Sharon what's her role in --

DR. VARLEY: Go ahead. Sharon, you want to explain your role?

MS. VRIESENGA: Sorry, I had to un-mute. Yeah, I should have identified myself and I apologize. I'm an attorney and I advise the Air Force on restoration matters at Wurtsmith Air Force Base.

MS. WUSTERBARTH: I just -- I wanted to add, and maybe I wasn't clear, is I think the recommendation in the past has been to remove that cap specifically. So, you know, again I'm just not sure why that part wasn't done also.

DR. VARLEY: So, the cap was removed for fields. It was a 27 work plan. When I was coming on board, it was already in motion and going. So, once the cap was removed, we needed to know what

was under it. So, we were able to sample and get everything removed. And I'm extremely thankful that we had such a great contracting team, because we were able to pull it off in a couple weeks as far as getting the contract in place and everything else, and that also leads to, you know, Aerostar. Aerostar was able to turn around the RFP really fast, and U.S. Ecology was able to step in and get the work done. So, I mean it's a team effort.

MS. WUSTERBARTH: I have one more question, actually, regarding the soil removal project. I think I'm going to ask for clarification on the half of the site that it was being transported to, and the coordination between areas in the hazardous waste, you know, dump areas and if they were above certain levels in terms of the PFAS contamination. Was it separated at some point, or did it all get to go into the one location, or -- can you expand on that?

MS. VRIESENGA: Yes. Yeah, so when we did our initial assessment of the soil out there, we did kind of a vertical profile to see. And, you know, we knew that the higher concentration material was in the top, you know, five feet, so based on all the data we collected, we selected the top five

feet, which was everything over a thousand, and that was a higher concentration that went into a different sale of the landfill. Everything less than that, and lower depth, lower concentration, that went into a different area of the landfill. It's the same landfill, just a separate area.

And, Mark, where are you? If you can -- Mark is -- I'm going to put him on the spot. He's with U.S. Ecology. So, if you want, anything else you want to add to that?

MR. HENRY: We have a (inaudible) to provide more, wants to know a little bit more about the landfill (inaudible).

MS. WUSTERBARTH: Okay. Thank you.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Does that address the questions?

MS. WUSTERBARTH: That's it. Thanks.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Any comments -- did you have another question?

All right. I see we have a -- let me go to a question from Rex Vaughn real quick and then I'll turn to you, sir.

So Rex Vaughn, in the process along with others becoming RAB members, has a question -- have any simulations been performed that estimate

the impact that the soil removal will have in the shrinking of the plume flowing into Clark's Marsh?

MS. BOND: That is a really good question. And we haven't really done simulations of what the impact is going to be for removing that soil, we haven't done any modeling of that yet, but obviously, now that the soil is gone, we're going to start really closely looking at the extraction well data from FT002. Of course, it's going to take some time for any action that's taken that far up gradient to show an impact down where the extraction wells are, or the other monitoring wells are that are now closer to the treatment system itself. But, yes, when those wells are sampled, we're definitely going to be looking to see what impact this has had on -- we haven't done modeling, though, to look at that.

Yeah, Mark?

MR. HENRY: There are a bunch of monitoring wells immediately down-gradient of the excavation. Do you have any plans of monitoring those periodically to see the short-term impacts?

MS. BOND: We don't have a plan to do that. I know that under other sampling programs that are going on out there, there are some annual

sampling that takes place out there at FT002. Like I said, we don't have a specific plan just for the dig and haul, but as data is collected for all of these other activities, including the RI, all of that data will be looked at just to see what the impact is. But we're not focusing on that -- the impact of that immediately right away by developing a plan for monitoring and looking at that.

DR. VARLEY: Yeah. The key thing is that the time-critical action was a time-critical action, it was literally to remove the area directly under the pad and a small area right adjacent, because we were seeing signs of leeching. So, we removed it as quickly as possible.

Now, we're back to the RI. We got to look at how this will impact the RI, and moving this site into a feasibility study, because it is time to start looking at that.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Mr. Maxwell, do you have a question?

MR. MAXWELL: Something I don't understand, and that's in this statement that says PFAS-impacted soils are not a hazardous waste. Somehow or other, that doesn't make any sense.

MS. BOND: Yeah. So, there

is -- it's -- it gets very complicated very quickly, but in short, there's a difference between contaminated, where you have chemicals that are in a soil or groundwater above a certain concentration, or any concentration, you can call that contaminated. Hazardous waste has a very specific meaning, a regulatory meaning. And the definition of a hazardous waste is determined through various processes, testing and different things.

So, PFAS currently is not regulated as a hazardous material by the EPA, so when we talk about hazardous waste in a landfill, those are hazardous wastes that have been designated that. And I don't -- it has a very specific legal meaning, hazardous waste, and PFAS are not designated as that.

I'm fumbling all over myself with that, but we can -- and maybe, Beth, I don't know, from a state regulatory perspective, maybe you can explain it.

MS. PLACE: I mean, I think you did a fine job of explaining it. I think it really comes down to how the EPA defines them --

MS. BOND: Yeah.

MS. PLACE: -- and from our

perspective.

MS. BOND: Yeah, so you can -- so you can have contamination without being hazardous, I guess is the whole -- yeah.

DR. VARLEY: They're trying to alert you so you're not right in front of that camera. They have two cameras going. Yeah.

MS. BOND: Oh, sorry. Yes, view the back of my head.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: And let's move to Arnie Leriche for questions.

MR. LERICHE: Well, it's just a great comment and some information that we learned yesterday on our tour that the public may want to know, and it was about the 46 pounds and the six million, and comparison of the removal that you just did to the six years of FT002.

MS. BOND: Yeah, the masks -- we did just a quick calculation to -- based on the data that we have, the mass of PFAS that was removed from -- or I think we just did PFAS and PFOA, right? The mass of PFAS and PFOA that we removed from the soil in the excavation versus the mass of PFAS and PFOA that have been removed with the treatment system that's been pumping for six years. And the volumes

came out to be very similar, so just looking at total mass of material that has been addressed at the site.

MR. LERICHE: 46 pounds?

MS. BOND: Yeah, 46 pounds roughly at both above the treatment system and the excavation.

DR. VARLEY: So -- all right. That's not including any of the precursors that could turn into PFOA/PFAS --

MR. LERICHE: No. No.

DR. VARLEY: That's not including any of the other compounds, or the fuels, or anything else that was at that site. So, I mean --

MR. LERICHE: It was more significant than that.

DR. VARLEY: It was more significant, yeah.

MS. BOND: Right. Yeah. We just calculated PFAS and PFOA. And like we said, you know, at the site, when you think 46 pounds, well, maybe that doesn't sound very impressive, but when you're counting it, you know, one nanogram at a time, that is a lot, so -- you know, so --

MR. LERICHE: That would fill up a lot of Olympic-size swimming pools.

MS. BOND: Yes, it would.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Other questions from the RAB members?

MR. CUMMINGS: As somebody who's been sitting here watching this over the last five years or so, I was attending the BRAC meetings before the Township was asked to stop attending, and the -- one of the comments and observations that I had at the time watching these BRAC meetings take place back five years ago, was that the CERCLA process proceeded at a pace that it was much slower than mother nature. And at that point, I commented and laid down a point that I think is kind of funny, and I'm not too fond of it, because it turned out (inaudible.) And I said by the time you guys figure out where the perimeter lies, the problem, it will have already exceeded this. And at that point, just a few months later, all of a sudden we heard about Van Etten Lake, and we heard about private wells being contaminated.

So, to point -- you know, Dave Winn has got a great point, and I was very happy to hear about the removal of the soil, and it is wonderful that we've made this progress, and it's -- Cathy, it's concerning that we did talk about this ten

years ago. But the big concern here is for us to continue the accolades, this has to maintain a speed of progress. And when we hear about other folks who are not on the call here, who is not present, name I've forgotten, you know, where we talk about other places that may or may not actually require soil removal, because it hasn't been deemed necessary yet, it lays down the concern that I've had now that overshadows this solution. We better not be waiting for another five or ten years to figure it all out.

DR. VARLEY: Yeah, so the time-critical reaction was time-critical. It would have gone above our system. I'm just being straightforward honest as a scientist, it would go above our system, we had to react. We have two IRAs in place right now. We need to make sure we have full capture, that's why we're doing the RI right now. We're trying to get as much data as we possibly can before winter, and then we will continue as soon as we have good season again to continue. That data is going to drive decisions to make sure that we have capture, to make sure we have containment. As long as we have containment, we will continue through that CERCLA process to the FS, to the proposed plan, to the ROD, to where we can

make decisions and have that remedial design where we can do either excavation or something even better. Right now, SERDP has -- SERDP-ESTCP has several different technologies that should be viable for this cleanup effort, and might be even better for us than just digging and hauling, or pumping and treating. Pumping and treating is going to take a long time.

MR. CUMMINGS: Yes, it will.

DR. VARLEY: Now that we've removed a big source, I expect it to take a lot less, because we don't have the continuous movement continuously through that area. But, we will continue. I mean, you've got the best team that -- I mean, I've got the best team with me, so --

MR. CUMMINGS: Well, and quite frankly, as Cathy said, we've been through a few folks who have been in your position. You've done more in the short time you've been here than anybody we've seen prior. I'm at least encouraged by what you have been able to produce. So, I thank you personally and on behalf of Oscoda Township.

DR. VARLEY: Thank you, sir.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. Mr. Leriche?

MR. LERICHE: Beth raised a suggested

action item regarding the BCT transcription of it and so forth, correct?

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Yes, I captured that.

MR. LERICHE: Right.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: I don't know whether BCT meetings can be transcribed.

MR. LERICHE: Right. But in the event that transcriptions are not approved, can I modify that action item to include that Air Force and EGLE will come up with another process so that we get timely release of the BCTs?

DR. VARLEY: Yeah. So, transcription is going to require contract mod most likely, so I do need to figure that out, if we can do it and what that will take.

MR. LERICHE: Right.

DR. VARLEY: As far as developing a better process, Beth, I think we're open to it, right?

MS. PLACE: Yeah.

MR. LERICHE: Just add it into one AI so we don't have discuss this again, you'll come back to us a status, right? Thanks.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: So, determine

whether BCT meetings can be transcribed, consider the best process by which to release BCT meeting minutes in a timely fashion.

Okay. Other questions from the RAB members?

MR. HENRY: Can I add a comment related to the same issue? One of the more valuable things that I find with BCT minutes are presentations that are attached to that. If the presentations themselves are non-contentious, could those be distributed early?

DR. VARLEY: So, that's just something that we've been working with. And part of what I'm hoping Steve will be able to help with is that there haven't been a lot of presentations. It's been a lot of document review since I've been on board, and we really haven't been making any real decisions.

So, what we've been talking about is to come up with something that we're trying to work towards. Making an agenda for that, making a slide deck for that, then putting that out to EGLE for them to review for a couple of weeks, and then us getting together and talking it through during a BCT so that you guys have time to review and we have time to actually make decision to move the program

forward. So, I do think that that's something that we can do. We're still working through the logistics.

MR. HENRY: Okay.

MR. LERICHE: Can I ask Sharon to clarify? I could not hear half of -- my hearing is not great either, but when -- Sharon, are you still there?

MS. VRIESENGA: Yes, I'm still here.

MR. LERICHE: Okay. When you talked about the -- the critical action for the soil removal and the pad, you talked about why -- how that was done. And you mentioned FT002. I'm hoping that you're not referring to the discussion we had at the last meeting about the FT002 original GAC unit and ROD that was, I believe, done. You weren't tying those two together, were you? Did that make sense?

MS. VRIESENGA: I think you're asking a technical question about what drove the removal of the cap?

MR. LERICHE: The question I asked last time, last meeting, was, was the original GAC unit, FT002 -- should it be part of the fourth, fifth, five-year review, and there was a big

discussion about that, and it was kind of confusing. I reread it twice, the 11 pages in the transcript on that dialogue back and forth, and I just want to clarify that your discussion of the time-critical for this soil removal has nothing to do with -- just clarify that -- has nothing to do with the GAC unit FT002 --

DR. VARLEY: It has nothing to do with this.

MR. LERICHE: Good. Good. It's just I could not hear her clearly on some of that. Right. Thank you.

DR. VARLEY: It's not critical removal action, it was a time-critical removal action in and of itself. It had nothing to do with any of the other projects, versus the lead agency, we did our job. We knew that the system was going to get overwhelmed. We took action.

MR. LERICHE: Right. Right.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: I have a request just to remind everyone who's joined us online to please mute yourselves. So again, to mute yourselves is star six, correct, if you're dialing by phone, and then you can use the mute function if you're connected by computer.

Other questions on this presentation from the RAB members?

All right. We are -- as Tim and I both look at our watches, we are one second off of the designated break time. So, let me suggest we move into a break. Let's see. So, our break will be for ten minutes. So 6:20 now, and we'll come back at 6:30 and start up again. Thank you.

(Break occurred at 6:20 p.m.)

(Meeting reconvened at 6:31 p.m.)

MR. SUELTENFUSS: So, this will be just for any questions the RAB members may have, not necessarily specific to the presentation that was just given, but any other questions from the RAB members? Yes, Cathy Wusterbarth?

MS. WUSTERBARTH: And I don't know if we talked about this in the past, but I'm really interested in a bunch about this project, this site, seeing the numbers and, you know, where this is spent and how much is getting and all of that. Is there a place I can look for that?

DR. VARLEY: You'll be seeing the action memorandum soon, so we're just finishing comments on that. So, hopefully in the next week or so, we'll have that ready to go public. But right

now, we're looking at 6 million dollars, roughly, for this whole project for the time-critical removal action.

MS. WUSTERBARTH: No -- well, we moved past the time for --

DR. VARLEY: Oh.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Well, it can certainly be about that presentation, but it also can --

MS. WUSTERBARTH: No, this is just about harm to, you know, our site.

DR. VARLEY: For this year? I think --

MS. WUSTERBARTH: No. For, you know, historically and for the future, I mean I feel like --

DR. VARLEY: Oh. That's a very good question.

(Multiple speakers.)

MS. WUSTERBARTH: -- (inaudible), right? Like, we're (inaudible) numbers and we're being asked to ask for money, and so --

DR. VARLEY: That's what I need to move forward. So, the contracting officer representative, so when Jordan joined me on the

trip, he's the one that handles the money for us, right? Right now, we are waiting on a presidential budget to lock in what we have for this year, but as soon as we have everything, we will be moving forward. I don't know what we have for next year, but we will have money.

MS. WUSTERBARTH: How about historically, where could I find --

DR. VARLEY: Historically?

MS. WUSTERBARTH: (Inaudible).

MR. LERICHE: The fact sheets, you've already --

DR. VARLEY: Oh, the fact sheets would have it, because that's --

MR. LERICHE: Right.

DR. VARLEY: -- (inaudible) they have access.

MS. WUSTERBARTH: Okay.

DR. VARLEY: So, yeah, let me see if I can get you an updated fact sheet, okay?

(Multiple speakers.)

MS. WUSTERBARTH: (Inaudible).

DR. VARLEY: If it's not updated, I'll see if I can get it updated.

MR. LERICHE: Well -- yeah, that's

what I was just going to mention is that we used to get -- at the beginning of a RAB, we used to get a colorful two-page fact sheet, and a big part of it was how much money has been spent, and how much money will it take to complete, okay? And we haven't been getting those the last three RABs. But then, unbeknownst to any of us, all of a sudden what showed up on the MPEG (ph) site was a different type of fact sheet that is a FAQ of facts, do you understand? And it's brand new, I don't know if you ever even knew about it.

DR. VARLEY: I haven't seen it.

MR. LERICHE: I didn't know about it either, but one of the contractors must have come up with it.

DR. VARLEY: It wasn't any of mine, so it was probably EPA.

MR. LERICHE: Yeah, I can show it to you. But I think to answer the question, I think it would be very, very helpful to communicate those numbers of the historical, what's going to happen in the next year, two years, at least to cover the schedule we've been talking about, which is the RI to finish, and that budget so that we know with confidence that your management is getting you the

money to meet those schedules that you're committing to. And if you can get your management to support that being shared with us each RAB, or it wouldn't change, then say nope, that last one is still accurate, would be okay.

DR. VARLEY: I'll see what I can do. And I know that Perell (ph) put some numbers in his talks last year, and we'll see what we can do, because I'm sure that there is a fact sheet out there that we can share.

MS. WUSTERBARTH: Thank you.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Yes. Let's go to Mr. Cummings first and then Mr. Maxwell.

MR. CUMMINGS: Thank you. This is a quick question directed to Dr. Varley. Are you prepared to summarize what you see are the next steps for this site --

DR. VARLEY: Yeah.

MR. CUMMINGS: -- down the road?

DR. VARLEY: So, what we're doing right now is we've collected a lot of RI data. So, we're analyzing that RI data to make sure that we have full capture. So, if we don't have capture, then we need to step in and we need to do something to expand and make sure that we are not

contaminating -- I mean, Au Sable or the river at the Clark's Marsh, the Van Etten Lake, you know, so we're going for capture as well as pursuing the CERCLA process. So, remedial investigation and the feasibility study, and I'd like to start those feasibility studies as soon as we have enough data to support it.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Daniel Stock?

MR. STOCK: Yeah, my question to you is with the Health Department as to well sampling. When might we expect the results of this latest round with domestic well sampling? Will that be available online with the maps showing locations the way the earlier --

MR. SUELTENFUSS: So, maybe a question for Puneet Vij with the Department of Health and Human Services.

Puneet, were you able to hear that question?

Let me just check in again with Puneet Vij?

Okay. Do we still have Puneet listed on the meeting? Yes? Okay.

Puneet, we are not able to hear you right now, so just for the meeting support folks,

can you please make sure Puneet is un-muted, and then Puneet, you might need to confirm that you are as well. So, Puneet, are you with us?

Okay. Well, technology gremlins of --

MS. PLACE: I can provide some and then we can follow up with Puneet. Well, Puneet provides the numbers, so I know it was hard to hear him, but -- so he provides the numbers and the total wells tested, and then which ones are above the values, which may or may not be helpful.

We are in the process of putting together -- we've talked about putting together some maps they might -- likely be in EGLE -- an EGLE output based on that residential well sampling, but we're still in the process of verifying some of the residential well coordinate locations, and so that's been a problem kind of moving forward.

We will probably just give a general type map, because it is, you know -- there are privacy issues with, you know, actually putting out a table with those results, but yeah, we -- that's on our radar. I can't really give you a timeframe right now on when that will be done, but we have been working kind of the pieces to put that together, more or less. And we can get back to you

on a timeframe. I just don't want to provide something that's completely made up at this point.

(Multiple speakers.)

MR. STOCK: Hopefully (inaudible).

MS. PLACE: Yes. Yes. Yep.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thank you for the question, sir. Any other --

MR. VIJ: Hi, this is Puneet, can you hear me?

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Yes, we can hear you. Go ahead.

MR. VIJ: Okay. Somehow the un-mute button was not there, so I was not unable to un-mute myself.

So, the two rounds of sampling we have, the data, and then we provided the data to EGLE and I agreed with what, you know, Beth mentioned. And if you like, I have those figures, I can show it, and maybe in the next meeting, this is how the first round -- no, the second round is looking.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: So, it sounds like Puneet is available to share figures at the next meeting. I think that was your suggestion, Puneet; is that right?

MR. VIJ: Yes. I can use those figures in my presentation.

DR. VARLEY: For the next community town hall.

MR. VIJ: I'm talking about the next town hall.

MR. STOCK: You say 19 wells have been tested. Are they all kind of clustered in one place, or are they spread out into locations? You have no idea.

MR. VIJ: They are spread out in different locations. But, yes, definitely I agree with you. I get your point. So, I can put together a figure and I can show it in the next town hall.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: So, that would be the next town hall, the EGLE town hall.

MS. PLACE: Our town hall, right. And then that will be available online afterwards too if you --

MR. VIJ: Yeah.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: And, Puneet, thank you for hanging in there with the technology. We appreciate your patience.

MR. VIJ: No problem. Thank you.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: And while we're

talking to folks on the line, let me just check in with Denise Bryan, Jessie Stuntebeck. Do you all have any questions that you'd like to pose?

MS. BRYAN: Thank you very much. I do not have any questions.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. Thanks. All right. Well, let's see if there are other questions, other discussions with RAB members. Go ahead, Arnie.

MR. LERICHE: Regarding the RI work plan, some of us over the last few years have been raising a concern that Off Base has been used too extensively by the Air Force, and we're really happy that you've extended that somewhat. But, the area of Clark's Marsh and the State forest, I forget the name of the marsh there, and the plumes that leave the base all the way from the wastewater treatment plant to FT002, to OT16, moving to the east, those plumes, all of the way to the Au Sable River, where is that being discussed in writing as part of some investigation all the way to Au Sable River?

And second part of that is, the concept in CERCLA of a secondary or a supplemental source of PFAS created by the original, but now it's in a place where it is disconnected from the

original, and that it is a source of -- unto itself that will last a lot longer than the plume going into FT002.

DR. VARLEY: So, we're doing the remedial investigation right now. We're collecting a lot of data. We're tracing out where the plumes are and we're using that to make data-driven decisions. That's what we're doing, Arnie.

MR. LERICHE: So, you feel you do not have enough information about the plumes, including the data that the State sent to you over a year ago, to make -- question the -- or at least identify that there is a possibility that there is -- the marsh is going to be contaminating and polluting the Au Sable River longer than you could ever clean up by FT002?

DR. VARLEY: We are -- so, what you're asking, if I am being correct --

MR. LERICHE: Okay.

DR. VARLEY: -- is you're asking if what's already done on Forest Service land is continuing to go forward, and if there is -- we're trying to do stuff. We're working with SERDP-ESTCP to try and put something on three pipes, to make sure that we're getting passive treatment that works and maybe we can use that somewhere else as well.

MR. LERICHE: Okay.

DR. VARLEY: We're working with -- I mean, we're looking at all of our resources and --

MR. LERICHE: That's great, but there's nothing on a map that shows that you're doing that, that shows that there's an operational unit or a COQ -- whatever you re-numbered the contamination sites last time, last year. And creating an identification, here is an area where the data from the State shows that that is a secondary source, and therefore, give it a designation, and then you can start taking that apart --

DR. VARLEY: We're still delineating the plumes, but that doesn't mean that we're -- you know, we're not -- we're looking at all the data we have as we have it.

We've got the data from the State, we've got a lot of data that we've collected recently, and I'm pushing these guys every day to collect more, and get more geoprobes up here to punch more holes in the ground, get more soil and more water and everything else.

We are going -- I mean, as we get the data, that's how we scope the projects. As we scope

the projects, that's how I communicate to you guys this is what I'm thinking, what do you guys think --

MR. LERICHE: So, am I accurate in saying that if you've got the data, you're analyzing the data, it sounds like you have not analyzed the State data that they've been taking --

DR. VARLEY: We have.

MR. LERICHE: -- the last six years.

DR. VARLEY: We have.

MR. LERICHE: So, do you have any data to indicate that the GSI 12-part per trillion or greater is going to Au Sable River? Are you confident that that is happening or not happening?

DR. VARLEY: So, the off-site data right now is insufficient to define contamination.

MR. LERICHE: Insufficient?

DR. VARLEY: Insufficient. We don't have enough data at this point in time to define it. Sorry, I'm getting phone a friend, they're giving me the answers, I'm relaying them to you. I have an amazing team. All I can tell you is we have (inaudible) on this. So, yes, we do not currently have the information to answer that question.

MR. LERICHE: So, is it a data gap identified in the RI?

DR. VARLEY: It's a data gap that's being filled in the RI -- by the RI.

MS. BOND: The answer is yes.

MR. LERICHE: But you have to start by identifying and listing a gap.

MS. BOND: It is discussed in the RI work plan, yes.

MR. LERICHE: As a gap?

MS. BOND: Yes.

MR. LERICHE: Have you seen that?

MS. PLACE: I don't remember off the top of my head if that's labeled a data gap, but I know that there is -- they are planning monitoring wells south of, I believe, it's --

MR. LERICHE: The VAS is the vast monitoring wells that were just published in a map that was shared with us last month, have them just below the boundary into Clark's Marsh. It's only about halfway --

DR. VARLEY: Those are --

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Let me just jump in real quick and turn to Dr. Varley for a response.

DR. VARLEY: Yes. Those are initial points. Those are not our step-outs. That's where we start, and then if we find contamination, we step

out. We're following the same approach that we did for soil, the same approach. It's a tried approach. You know EPA guidance.

MR. LERICHE: Okay. Can I ask for an action item that the data gap highlight where that is in the RI work plan right now so that we're all talking about the same animal of where we are in the process? Can that be done? Regarding Clark's Marsh, the other marshes, the wastewater treatment plant plumes, and the Au Sable River just in that --

DR. VARLEY: I don't quite understand what you're asking for.

MR. LERICHE: I have not seen it, you say you think it's there, you've seen some discussion, and Paula is saying it's in there. And so we've got three interpretations of what it is and where it is.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: So, Beth, I think you were about to make a comment.

MS. PLACE: Yeah, I don't necessarily know if it was clearly identified as a data gap, what exactly you're talking about, but my recollection the last iteration of the remedial investigation work plan did have monitoring wells south of Clark's Marsh. I can't remember if I'm

remembering the most recent plan or not. But -- so that data would help fill exactly what you're asking for. So, it's filling that data gap, but I can't say that that -- that data gap is clearly defined.

MR. LERICHE: But it's more than just what's in Clark's Marsh, it's what's then further going into the Au Sable River that is a data gap in the way you're talking about.

DR. VARLEY: We go where the data takes us, and that's -- I mean, that's the monitoring wells that you're talking about down by the Au Sable River, so yeah --

MS. PLACE: Yeah, they're between Clark's Marsh and the Au Sable, based on my recollection.

DR. VARLEY: We go where the data takes us, and right now, we have planned wells for down by the Au Sable.

MR. LERICHE: You do?

DR. VARLEY: We do.

MR. LERICHE: And that's shown on a map in the work plan?

DR. VARLEY: It is.

MS. PLACE: In the work plan, yes. Not -- not in the initial VAS locations that you

guys have seen, but in the work plan that we're --

DR. VARLEY: We haven't gotten to the step of putting in monitoring wells yet.

MR. LERICHE: Can the three of you highlight page numbers where that is so that the rest of us can --

DR. VARLEY: The work plan is not out yet, Arnie, that's the problem. We're in draft. So, Beth is going to try and get me comments by the end of the month, first week of December at the latest, right? We're going to, as an Air Force team, take those into consideration. We're going to go through all of them, do what we can within policy and guidance. We'll go back to EGLE or we'll meet together and we'll decide a path forward together. That's what we can do. We can't share a draft document, that's not how things are done.

MR. LERICHE: I don't need the draft document. I want just a statement that that topic, all the way to Au Sable River, is in the RI plan, it's not an addendum to the RI.

DR. VARLEY: It's not an addendum. It is there.

MR. LERICHE: Okay.

DR. VARLEY: It is there presently.

We have wells along there, and we're working with Forest Service to get the access to be able to do that work, so --

MR. LERICHE: Because there is only two years left in the RI.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: So, let me just check to see if there are other questions the RAB members have. Yes, go ahead.

MR. HENRY: It's related to this same thing. When is the RI work plan going to be released to the public?

MR. LERICHE: Right.

DR. VARLEY: As soon as possible. The goal is before March when we start the next field season. So we -- what was it -- 198 comments is what we got. And 200 roughly --

MS. PLACE: Yeah, I don't think there were that many, but okay.

DR. VARLEY: There were a lot of comments, so --

MS. PLACE: There were.

DR. VARLEY: -- we decided to address it by media so that we could move into field season. Otherwise, we would have lost this entire field season. We would have made no progress whatsoever.

So, groundwater, we could agree on, right? We move forward on groundwater. Soil, we had about 90 percent agreement, we moved forward on soil. Bass, we're probably closer to 70 percent agreement, we move forward on bass.

Now, we're getting to the point that we need to actually look at what we have. We're not going to finish the bass sampling this season, even though, Paula, you didn't hear me say that, we're going to be pushing to try to get it done, right? Sorry.

But, yeah. No, these guys have to deal with me going more always, and I push them hard, and I appreciate the fact that they stick it out and they continue. Paula is extremely appreciated as well as the rest of the Aerostar team, and all of the subcontractors that stepped in to pick up the slack. So, they're doing a great job and great work.

So, we are continuing to move forward step by step by step. We will have some time to get that work plan finalized between Beth's team and our team, Air Force team. And then hopefully, we'll be sharing that and everybody can tell us, you know, if we missed something. Let us know if we missed

something, because we're -- it's still a fluid process. We're not done. So -- and we've got a whole other field season ahead of us.

MR. LERICHE: By the next RAB, do you think?

DR. VARLEY: Not by the next RAB, I said by March.

MR. LERICHE: I didn't hear that. You turned to him and you -- by March for the work plan?

DR. VARLEY: For the work plan, that's the goal, is March. Because March/April, we should be back in the field again, if the field season cooperates, which we've had really --

MR. LERICHE: That gives you less than a year to do the sampling to fill those gaps and -- okay.

DR. VARLEY: We're continuing forward. I mean, we've already taken a thousand-plus samples -- well, over a thousand samples in just soil alone. Hundred-something in bass. 90-something in -- 96 in groundwater, so --

MR. SUELTENFUSS: So, Mark, does that address the question?

MR. HENRY: Yes, of course. Thank you.

MS. PLACE: I have a quick comment on that.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Go ahead.

MS. PLACE: So, the only other issue that would come up with that would be -- I know my understanding is Forest Service is also reviewing the plan, and so I'm not sure how that will play into these plans.

DR. VARLEY: Yeah. So, as Jessie has questions and comments, she reaches out as well and we talk. And same with Beth. So, all of us are talking, and they've actually helped a lot with the development of the risk assessment work plan as well as the RI work plan. So, I'm grateful for that collaboration.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: And Jessie Stuntebeck, anything you'd like to add on that?

Other questions from the RAB members? Yes, sir?

MR. CUMMINGS: It's requested, and I was wondering what is the status of the conflict negotiations (inaudible) between the Air Force and the Forestry Service regarding (inaudible)?

DR. VARLEY: It's much bigger than that. We're talking about what is actually

happening at a DoD and USDA level for solution. And RSCS is at the Forest Service as well as with the Air Force are involved in trying to move our projects forward.

So, we have good support on our team to try and come up with something that we can work with and move everything forward. And we had some ideas today. We met this morning, and I think we're going to make some progress. So I'm optimistic. We have a great relationship with the local crew.

MR. CUMMINGS: All right. Any timeframe?

DR. VARLEY: Before next field season. That is the goal for everything right now. We are -- this field season is about over. I don't want to say that too loud, my contractors might hear me. But, yeah. So, before next field season. I'm sorry.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: And just for the meeting support staff, Jessie Stuntebeck is not able to mute or un-mute herself, so if you could see if you could assist her with that.

Other questions from the RAB members?

MR. LERICHE: Can I throw out one regarding the ARARs and the five new groundwater

criteria?

For both Beth and Catharine, is there a critical path that that has to -- that has to be settled so that does not slow down your RI?

DR. VARLEY: For the four sets (ph), is that what you're talking about?

MR. LERICHE: No, no --

MR. GAINES: I think he's talking about the ARARs as they relate to going forward and when you're finally going to comply with --

MR. LERICHE: Because what we learned last meeting was that the new five PFASes has not been -- according to the Air Force, has not been promulgated so that you will accept them as an ARAR. Is that still true, or is that --

DR. VARLEY: So, we are not to that point yet, Arnie. That's -- so -- sorry I'm confusing multiple things going on at once.

So right now, we are only at the RI stage. We have an interim remedial action. The key word is "interim". It is only for that pump and treat system that is in place, that localized effort. It is interim. That's what those ARARs are for. Now, those give us a good starting point for when we actually finish the FS and the PT ROD, those

will be ran into that ROD for the full site.

If I get my way, hopefully we can push to do FT002 sooner, because we have a lot of data now. We know what we're doing out there. So, if we could actually start moving that site a little bit further and faster, we might have a ROD in place at some point in time in the next couple years. We'll see. This may take a lot of work on mine and Beth's part as well as everybody else's, but it's doable.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Arnie and Bill, does that address the question?

MR. GAINES: It did for me.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: All right. Any other questions from the RAB members right now?

Okay. We're a few minutes ahead of schedule, but just want to check in once again with those who are on the phone, the RAB members Denise Bryan, Puneet Vij, Jessie Stuntebeck, anything you'd like to add?

MS. BRYAN: This is Denise. I do not have any additional updates or comments.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thanks, Denise.

MS. STUNTEBECK: This is Jessie. I don't have anything either.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thank you, and I

appreciate your patience with the technology, Jessie.

MR. VIJ: I don't have anything either. This is Puneet.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thanks, Puneet.

Okay. Well, let's advance the slide, if we could, and we'll move into the public comment portion of the meeting.

So, the RAB members had the opportunity to engage in some discussion about the presentation and general matters, so now we're opening the floor to members of the public who would like to address the RAB. Let's see. We'll start with those who are -- I'll actually start with a question that was posed online from Jennifer Hill, and then I'll turn to those who are in person.

And when we do in person public comments, I'll ask that you come up to this microphone right here, let me point it up, and make your comments there. Get real close to that microphone so we can hear you.

Before turning to Jennifer Hill, do we have a --

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Got it. Okay.

Great. Thank you.

Okay. So then, let me start off with public comments from those who are here in person. So, is there anyone here who would like to make a three-minute comment to the RAB?

Yes, sir. Please come on up. If you would like to, please share your name and just go ahead and make a comment.

MR. PALMER: Yeah. My name is Bill Palmer, I'm an Oscoda Township trustee, and several years ago, the Air Force approached me to put a test well on my property. And they said at the time they wanted to put about three or four more. I live on Van Etten Lake along the west shore. And I know they put one at Ratliff Park and my property, so I'm assuming they put two more somewhere near me.

I got a call from a resident here in Oscoda who lives down at the south end of the lake by the dam, and he got a letter from the Air Force wanting to know if they could have permission to put a test well there.

So, I'm just curious what the plan is for the Air Force to put more of these test wells along the west shore of Van Etten Lake or other areas so they can let this person resident know what

the purpose of that is.

DR. VARLEY: Thanks, Bill. That's great. Yes, I meant to mention that earlier. So, we have a lot of rights of entry out there right now so that we can actually delineate the plumes. And that allows us to move forward. And right now, we're moving forward in vertical aquifer sampling, which is a well that -- well, we punch a hole in the ground, we take samples on our way down, we collect water at the water table all the way down to the confining clay layer. And then, we go ahead and we pull out all the tooling and we seal that well up so it's no longer there, and see -- do whatever we need to do. We also have some permanent wells that will come in the future that we will be asking for access for, and that access is extremely important to understanding where we have contamination and where we need to take action.

So, I think those that actually have already signed access agreements with us and helped the Air Force, and I ask that, you know, you please at least consider it, because it will make remediation so much better if we all do it together.

As far as -- I know that you have the well that's been sitting there, and we do need to

look into whether or not we need that well, and if we don't need it anymore, we do need to abandon it. So, that is something that I know we've talked about. Okay.

MS. PALMER: And I guess my question was only one resident had contacted me. I'm just wondering how many others you were anticipating putting along in along the lake, and if they were all on the west side or going to be some on the east side as well.

DR. VARLEY: So, they're on the west side, because we're stepping out from where we currently are, right, and we're trying to understand the plume -- that -- plumes, there's several of them. And I'm trying to remember how many letters we've actually sent out. We've sent out quite a few. We've had four come back that are -- we have four rights of entry in place right now, and then we've had three people tell us that there's no way that they're going to allow us access to their land, and then we've had some ask well, if you -- if we give you access, can you abandon these other ones that were from previous work. So, we're working on that and working our way through.

Paula, do you have a rough estimate of

how many we have out there or the total number?

MS. BOND: Yeah, I don't have the exact number off the top of my head, but it's around -- we sent out about 20 so far. And then depending on if we get a positive response or a negative response, then other letters will go out in adjacent areas.

So, like Catharine said, we're doing bass locations. We've got monitoring wells that we're going to install. So, we're trying to get all of our access agreements, again, working through the winter when we kind of have some downtime from the fieldwork to get all of the access agreements in place. So, the end number will vary, how many actually went out depending on how many people give us permission or deny permission.

Some of the different things that we're trying to do -- initially, we wanted to try to keep everything in the right-of-ways as we could, because we do have an agreement with the county to do some work in the right-of-way, but there could be instances where we may need access to someone's property. While we're installing something, we just want to make sure it's okay if -- you know, if there's a truck or something parked in your driveway

or something for a little while, while we're doing that.

So, that number will be fluid and we'll be happy to provide that number, because we'll have more information definitely by the next RAB meeting on who has given us permission and who hasn't, and the total number that have gone out. Okay.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thank you. Are there other public comments from those who are here with us in person?

MS. KULAN: Hello, I'm Chris Kulan (ph), I live in Oscoda -- actually, Au Sable Township, and I want to make you aware of the foam on Lake Huron that we're seeing. This picture I took about three miles south of the river. This just shows -- I call it a foam map, because it's not, like, level, it's fluffed up floating on the lake, and it's all throughout this area, but this is the largest concentration. It's bright white foam. I think it's pretty safe to say it's not natural. But we would like to have it tested.

So, this was on October 6th. And then we had another event that was at the mouth of the river that was quite large, and that was on

October 28th. We have asked the State to do testing of the foam, and they say they will not do that, because what are we going to do if we find out that it is something? It's basically why do we want to know if we can't do anything about it?

Well, I don't buy that argument. I don't buy that argument with monitoring -- with health monitoring in our blood, and we're hearing this same thing again about the foam. So, one way or another, we're going to get this tested. This is about a mile from the municipal water intake on shore.

Yesterday, there was foam on Tawas Bay. The State says, oh, that's probably from another source. Well, I'm doubtful. No other place around here has this stuff. So, do you -- we need to test these events. And we're going to keep on bringing it up until we get it tested. And we're working on doing that independently, however, we would appreciate it if the State --

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Let me pause the conversation -- see, if I could, Bill, if we could pause real quick. Ms. Kulan, go ahead.

MS. KULAN: We would appreciate if the State would cooperate and do at least some testing

of these events. This happens on our public beach in the downtown area, this happens at 3 Mile, which is north of town. And both of those are actually north of the river.

So, we don't know what's going on, but these things are happening, and people are seeing this, children are playing in this, birds are migrating through this, and pets are playing in this. It's just -- we have to do something about this.

This has been happening since -- I think the first time I saw was in 2000 -- what was it, '17? '16 or '17? And this year has been a particularly bad year. I see it nearly every day. Not to this degree, but I see some foam that you can definitely tell the characteristics are there, the way it clumps, the way it gathers, how it's spread out, the wind conditions, all of that. We have records. The state asked that we report it, and we've reported, we reported. We're going to keep reporting it, I guess, but they're not doing anything about it. We want to know what's going on.

And it's got to be coming from the base, and it's coming from the river out into the lake, and we know that. And we -- I guess you have

to get all of your data to say yes, that's true, but it's true. And I just want everybody to know and be aware of this situation that we're seeing here in Oscoda. This is what it looks like.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thank you.

DR. VARLEY: I appreciate you bringing it up. So, there are more sources than just AFFF, and hopefully everybody knows that. We do have septic systems out there --

MS. KULAN: But that's my argument to test.

DR. VARLEY: And that's the reason to -- if we do test, to make sure we're testing for other tracers like caffeine and pesticides --

MS. KULAN: Whatever.

DR. VARLEY: -- and other things that could be a source.

MS. KULAN: As long as you test it for PFAS, we're happy.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thank you very much for your comment.

MS. KULAN: Thank you.

DR. VARLEY: Thank you.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. And are there other public comments from those who are with us

here in person?

Okay. Let me just check with meeting staff to see if we have anyone who is wishing to make a comment who has joined us online. If you would like make a comment and you've joined us online, please raise your hand. And again, if you've dialed in via phone, you can hit star nine.

So, let's see. Do we have anybody listed? Not currently. Okay. All right. We'll give that a few minutes for that time lag that is required sometimes to come off mute, raise hands, star nine and so on.

Let me just check in again. Do we have others here in person who would like to make a comment?

MR. LERICHE: I had a quick one to Chris's to augment what Chris has said. I've got a question for Catharine and the Air Force.

Do you have any plans, or have you already done but not published, any PFAS -- the whole spectrum signature of your samples that you've taken of groundwater or surface water, characterization of the PFAS breakdowns and different types? You know, 80 percent is PFAS, ten percent is PFOA, that kind of split? Because other

bases have been doing that in the last two years, and there's SERDP studies to show how that can be done. So, is this team doing something like that?

DR. VARLEY: That is something that we have been working on. That is correct, yes. So --

MR. LERICHE: "Working on" means?

DR. VARLEY: I've got Dr. Hunter Anderson looking at that. I've been calling, I've been looking at all of the data as it's collected, both sides of the lake, what EGLE has provided, what we have. We've been looking at the data and looking at what the signatures are for the Air Force compounds based off of solutions that we know existed.

MR. LERICHE: Looking at data from your samples, is what you're saying?

DR. VARLEY: As well as the EGLE samples, correct.

MR. LERICHE: And do you have a potential release or discussion of some of that with us?

DR. VARLEY: No. So, as soon as Hunter -- Dr. Anderson -- finishes his analysis, he will share it with the group. We will bring it to town.

MR. LERICHE: And part B is, is he or someone helping to pull together what other sites are doing in that topic so that we can learn from them, because identifying the sources, we want to know more than just well, the septic systems out there. We want as much science that can be put to this issue, because we're standing out like a sore thumb on this foam issue.

DR. VARLEY: We are working with SERDP, we are working with the ESTCP, we are working to make sure we're collecting the data that we need to advance the projects and the programs, and hopefully -- I mean, the small studies that we do are based on larger studies that have already been done. So, we are -- we're going to get there. We're not there yet, but we're going to get there.

MR. LERICHE: Can he share at least the studies that he's identified so that we can talk to our colleagues at other RAB sites or other DOT sites? Can you do that much?

DR. VARLEY: When we get there. We're not there yet.

MR. LERICHE: Just what studies he's compiled that he's looking at, you can't share that?

DR. VARLEY: I can ask.

MR. LERICHE: Okay. Thank you.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thank you. Any other public comments at the moment?

Okay. Well, so if we could, let's go ahead and advance the slide, I think, to -- next one. Let's go to the next one, if we could.

So, let me just -- before moving into concluding remarks, just check in to see how you all would like to use the remaining time that we have set aside. It's 7:10 right now. We've made it through the agenda with the exception of just concluding remarks. How would you like to proceed? Wrap up, or is there any further discussion? I heard a yes --

MR. HENRY: I'm not opposed to more discussion. If people have questions, then we have people here to answer those questions and discuss. I would certainly open it up for as long as the questions remain.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. Well, what questions do -- come to mind?

DR. VARLEY: Are there any questions?

If there aren't any questions, then we could go back to posters or, you know, just continue the conversation, and -- in the online part.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Yeah. So, just confirming no -- no hands raised from anyone online, correct? No. Okay. All right.

So, I think the suggestion was perhaps after we address any questions there are, we could kind of continue that poster discussion just in small groups and so on. Any questions before we do that? Yes.

MR. LERICHE: The posters, they're great, and they were last time too. Can the Air Force give us a high quality photo of each of them so that we can put it in the IR and we can all have our own copy of it?

DR. VARLEY: They will be posted on the RAB website just like the last time. They're all up there from the last time.

MR. LERICHE: But not as a PDF. PDF is not going to do it for us, it's too much detail. It's got to be a JPEG.

DR. VARLEY: Those were printed -- those were printed from PDF.

MR. LERICHE: But they're blown up, but --

DR. VARLEY: No.

MR. LERICHE: Okay.

DR. VARLEY: They're the same. We put up the exact same thing we printed them from. So, we're going to do the same thing again unless, for some reason, that doesn't work. I mean, you could take a picture, but --

MR. LERICHE: If we can read the fine print or --

DR. VARLEY: Yeah, I --

(Multiple speakers.)

MS. BOND: Yeah, I think -- Arnie, at least print those posters. They are designed to be those large posters, so when we make a PDF and you try to print it, it doesn't, because it --

MR. LERICHE: Yes, exactly.

MS. BOND: So, yeah, I know exactly what you're saying. So, just from there -- they don't have a printer that can print them to the size that they were meant to be.

DR. VARLEY: But they could, if we take the same files that we put up here --

MS. BOND: We can -- yeah, we can --

DR. VARLEY: -- put those directly on there --

MS. BOND: We can reduce those. But there is -- you know, and one of the reasons we make

them big is because there is a lot of data on them.

MR. LERICHE: Right.

MS. BOND: So, it's a challenge to get them to a size that is printable that those people have 11 by 17 (inaudible) --

MR. LERICHE: I'd be willing to bet if you took the PDF, because I used to print those, and converted it to a JPEG, save it as a JPEG, and check the quality of it. It's going to be a high-definition JPEG now.

MS. BOND: Right. But when you print it off on an 8 and a half by 11, there's so much information on there, you're still not going to be able to read it. But I'll give you a JPEG.

MR. LERICHE: That's fine.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: We are fortunate to have -- at the back, we've got, like, six big minds related to audio/visual stuff. So, I suggest that the two of you connect on that topic with some of the folks who have been supporting this meeting as well.

Any other questions before we break and move to poster session discussions? I did capture a number of action items.

One, send the Michigan Attorney

General's letter about -- or relevant appropriate departments so the RAB members with Beth Place to advise RAB members when Michigan EGLE will provide comments to the Air Force concerning the BCT meeting minutes with Beth as well.

Number three, determine whether BCT meetings can be transcribed, consider the best process by which to release BCT meeting minutes and relay the information in a timely fashion and provide updated Wurtsmith fact sheets to RAB members, include information about budget if possible.

Okay. Well, there will be followup discussion. Let me just pause the discussions that we do have ongoing in the audience real quick to make sure we do not pick those up on the mics. There will be discussions between the co-chairs as we typically do after meetings. Just turn to you all for any closing comments.

MR. HENRY: Well, before I give a closing comment, Beth sent an e-mail around that had the AG's letter in it, is that it? So, that action item is already taken care of.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Really? Man.

DR. VARLEY: Good Lord, you're fast.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: In record time.

MS. PLACE: That was fast.

DR. VARLEY: That's impressive.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Well, thank you. I appreciate it. Very good. Well, Mark, would you like to start us off?

MR. HENRY: I'd like to thank everybody for coming. I think we've have learned a fair amount about what's going on. I know in my mind, I have more questions based on what we've seen tonight. And I will be following that up between now and the next RAB meeting, and also at the next RAB. So, look forward to any discussions.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Dr. Varley?

DR. VARLEY: I'd just like to thank absolutely everybody for being here, for being present, for helping with communication, for working on the project together. As I provide data, I appreciate the feedback that some of you have provided back, and I want to keep the lines of communication open. So as you have questions, please reach out. Let's keep it going.

MR. SUELTENFUSS: Well, thank you very much, and thank you to those who have attended in whatever form that you attended. And we are

adjourned for the evening. Have a good night. Thank you.

(At 7:17 p.m., the RAB meeting concluded.)

Minutes certified by:

/s/ Quentina Rochelle Snowden, CSR-5519
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Dated: December 8, 2021

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