

1 WURTSMITH RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)  
2 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022  
3 5:00 P.M.

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

9 APPEARANCES:

10 TIM SUELTFENFUSS, Galen Driscoll  
11 GREG SCHULZ, Oscoda Township  
12 TIM CUMMINGS, Au Sable Township  
13 BEN WEISS, USDA-FS  
14 SARAH RIFFE, Aerostar

15 COMMUNITY RAB:

16 MARK HENRY, CO-CHAIR  
17 BILL GAINES (VIA TELECONFERENCE)  
18 DANIEL STOCK  
19 DAVID WINN (VIA TELECONFERENCE)  
20 CATHY WUSTERBARTH  
21 ARNIE LERICHE

22 GOVERNMENT RAB:

23 CATHARINE VARLEY, CO-CHAIR  
24 PUNEET VIJ (VIA TELECONFERENCE)  
25 BETH PLACE  
JESSIE STUNTEBECK (VIA TELECONFERENCE)  
DENISE BRYAN (VIA TELECONFERENCE)  
REX VAUGHN (VIA TELECONFERENCE)

REPORTED BY:

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

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ADDRESSING THE BOARD:

- JAMES BUSSEY
- ANTHONY SPANIOLA
- DR. STEVEN TERMAATH
- STEVE WILLIS
- HEATHER SMITH
- ERIC KELLER, OFFICE OF SENATOR GARY PETERS
- JAKE BENNETT, DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTOR FOR  
CONGRESSMAN DAN KILDEE
- JAY MULLET, WOOD

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

2 MR. SUELTFUSS: So, welcome  
3 everyone. My name is Tim Sueltenfuss with Galen  
4 Driscoll. I'm facilitating the Wurtsmith Restoration  
5 Advisory Board meeting this evening. Thank you for  
6 taking time to join us, whether in person, virtually  
7 or over the phone.

8 Let me first turn to our co-chairs for  
9 any welcoming remarks. So, we have Dr. Catharine  
10 Varley and Mr. Mark Henry. Mark, would you like to  
11 make any opening remarks? Then, I'll turn to Dr.  
12 Varley.

13 CO-CHAIR HENRY: Thank you all for  
14 attending, both those here in person and virtually.

15 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: I'd like to  
16 thank you all for attending, and for being part of  
17 this team, and for all of the progress that we are  
18 making.

19 MR. SUELTFUSS: Okay. All right.  
20 Well, thank you. We have Mr. Eric Keller with the  
21 office of Senator Peters to make a statement. Mr.  
22 Keller?

23 MR. KELLER: I guess I'll bend down.  
24 Well, thank you for allowing me a moment to speak.  
25 The Senator, obviously, is not able to be here.

1 He's in DC right now working on a couple of things,  
2 including postal reform and cyber security. You  
3 know, so I just wanted to provide a quick update  
4 since the last RAB meeting.

5 I'm the Senator's regional director,  
6 actually Mid-Michigan now, but I still work on  
7 PFAS-related issues and efforts on his behalf here  
8 in the state. And since last -- the last update,  
9 NDAA, which is the National Defense Authorization,  
10 that was passed in December. Congress is currently  
11 working on FY22 appropriations. I think there will  
12 be movement in the coming weeks, whether -- whether  
13 or not a typical omnivorous process moves forward,  
14 or it's a continuing resolution is yet to be seen,  
15 but they're working diligently as they can to make  
16 sure appropriations that have been set forth and  
17 been fought for and secured through authorization  
18 actually happen. So, I'll continue to update the  
19 board members on that piece.

20 And I bring that up specifically,  
21 because there's several provisions, including the  
22 creation of a PFAS task force, over half a  
23 billion -- or approximately half a billion dollars  
24 in Air Force PFAS remediation added to the budget,  
25 and a variety of other components. So, Senator is

1 pushing on that piece.

2 One of the -- the other items that I'd  
3 like to mention to the board about, is what the  
4 current status is in terms of Federal legislation.  
5 And I don't have -- I think you guys gave me  
6 20 minutes; is that right? I'm just joking. No.

7 So, the short of it is, you know,  
8 between the House -- and I see Representative  
9 Kildee's, you know, representative -- staffer is  
10 here, Jake, you know, they are working very  
11 diligently in the House. We have advocates and  
12 leaders in the Senate, including Senator Peters, who  
13 are pushing forward on a variety of different  
14 proposals. I think you'll see a lot of movement,  
15 from a legislative perspective, over the next couple  
16 of months when this session is still ongoing.

17 Most of our time recently has been  
18 focused on the American Rescue Plan and the  
19 bipartisan infrastructure law. There were a lot of  
20 programs in there that I think could be helpful, not  
21 only from a community perspective, but also Federal  
22 dollars specifically for PFAS, lead pipe  
23 replacement, those were included in the bipartisan  
24 infrastructure law. So, not all of those Federal  
25 programs have been rolled out yet. Many agencies

1 had about 180 days to develop what those programs  
2 were, if it was a new program. So, those will be  
3 ongoing and will be rolled out, you know, this year,  
4 and then depending on the program, over the series  
5 of the next -- you know, next couple years. So,  
6 those are a few updates on that piece.

7 I was hoping I had an update on a  
8 piece of legislation that the Senator introduced,  
9 but it should be forthcoming maybe even today  
10 related to FAA, and Air Force, and their transition  
11 away from using PFAS -- you know, firefighting foams  
12 for dispersion issues that they have. So, I'll  
13 provide that information as soon as I get it as  
14 well, and as always, if there's things the Senator  
15 can do to be supportive of your collective efforts,  
16 feel free to reach out to our office.

17 And on behalf of the Senator, I'd just  
18 like to thank each and every one of you for your  
19 efforts in the RAB, and making sure that you're  
20 pushing the community forward on PFAS remediation,  
21 because it is not an easy issue, and it's not as  
22 fast as anybody really wants, and the Senator feels  
23 that way as well. So, I'd just like to thank all of  
24 you for your efforts, and I'll leave it there.

25 MR. SUELTFUSS: All right. Thank

1 you very much for your comments, sir.

2 And let me just check to see if we  
3 have any similar update from Congressman Kildee's  
4 office at this time.

5 MR. BENNETT: Well, thank you. As  
6 Eric said, I'm Jake Bennett, deputy district  
7 director for Congressman Kildee. I know he gave  
8 most of the updates on the legislative and  
9 appropriation sides. That was -- pretty much covers  
10 both of that.

11 I can tell you, I know I've had  
12 individual conversations with some of the members as  
13 well, but we are still working with the USDA on  
14 their grant for the water hookups. One of the  
15 things that we are working with them on is trying to  
16 designate different events that happened on base to  
17 kind of reset the clock for new grants for -- to  
18 reset the cap on the -- because I know we passed the  
19 legislation to double the amount of AQUAG (PH) USDA  
20 money, and we're trying to be able to reset the  
21 clock on new projects, additional projects, to help  
22 fund that. So, that's what we're working with the  
23 USDA on.

24 Still right now, trying to see if we  
25 can get more funding for that program to hook up

1 some of the water as well. And the other is  
2 obviously continuing to push for much more community  
3 interaction when decision-making is happening for a  
4 lot of the IR process. So, you'll continue to hear  
5 from us as well. And I know with the redistricting,  
6 Congressman, looks like the 5th District will be  
7 representing here until the end of this year, so  
8 obviously we're going to be pushing as hard as we  
9 can with the little bit of time we have left for us  
10 covering this district.

11 So, thank you, and we'll be here,  
12 obviously, for questions afterwards, so thanks.

13 MR. SUELTENFUSS: All right. Thank  
14 you very much, sir. Okay. Let's move to slide two  
15 for the slide deck that we all have in front of us  
16 here. So, this meeting is a hybrid meeting, it's  
17 occurring both in person and online. So, we also  
18 have a court reporter online to capture a verbatim  
19 transcript of tonight's meeting, and the online  
20 meeting is being recorded as well.

21 So, for the RAB members who are here  
22 in person, if you have a question, raise hands the  
23 old-fashioned way, and let us know if you have a  
24 question. For those that are joining by computer,  
25 via the WebEx, I think David Winn and Rex Vaughn are



1 doing that, you can raise your hand electronically,  
2 and then I'll call on you to pose a question.  
3 Please do mute your microphone when you are not  
4 speaking just to minimize background noise.

5 We also may have a few folks who have  
6 joined by telephone. So, RAB members who have  
7 joined by telephone, you can raise your hand by  
8 pressing star 9 and lowering it by pressing star 9  
9 again. You can mute and un-mute yourself with star  
10 6, and you'll show up in our display as a number  
11 only, so Sarah and I will coordinate to call on you,  
12 then we'll have to un-mute you, and then you'll have  
13 to hit star 6 to un-mute yourself. Again, automated  
14 notice that you have successfully been un-muted, and  
15 then you can finally say your piece. So, please be  
16 patient with us as we walk through that process.

17 Let's move to the third slide here,  
18 the agenda. So, a full agenda tonight, just like  
19 with most of our meetings. We'll start off with  
20 some brief updates from our RAB members. We'll then  
21 move into the RAB business items, such as action  
22 items from previous meetings. After that, we'll  
23 move into the base realignment and closure,  
24 environmental construction optimization services  
25 contract update, that's also referred to as the

1 BECOS update, and we've kept a lot of time reserved  
2 towards the end of the meeting to address RAB  
3 members' questions. So, all of these portions of  
4 the agenda are for discussion among the RAB members.

5 After that, we'll have the opportunity  
6 for three-minute public comments from members of the  
7 public to make verbal comments, whether you're here  
8 in person, have connected via the WebEx, or by  
9 telephone.

10 During the technical presentation,  
11 please hold your questions until the end and we'll  
12 address those. And we plan to wrap all that up  
13 around 8:00 Eastern tonight. So, that's our plan.

14 Slide four is our list of RAB ground  
15 rules. I'll read these off, and then I'll just  
16 check in with the RAB members and see if these still  
17 work.

18 Number one: Respect one another and  
19 maintain an atmosphere of open dialogue and exchange  
20 of ideas.

21 Two: Use our time together  
22 efficiently, wisely and respectfully.

23 Three: Speak clearly and succinctly  
24 one person at a time. Avoid interrupting others.

25 Four: Listen and remain open to

1 different points of view.

2           Five: Maintain a propensity for  
3 progress, prepare, discuss, document and move  
4 forward.

5           Number six: Share information early,  
6 openly and honestly.

7           Number seven: Accurately and object  
8 objectively relay to others the discussions that  
9 occur at board meetings.

10           Let's see. You know, a few of these  
11 emphasize -- again, because we do have a court  
12 reporter taking a verbatim transcript, it's very  
13 hard to do that if we have multiple conversations  
14 going on, or multiple people speaking at the same  
15 time. So, just to really reemphasize that ground  
16 rule number three, speaking succinctly, clearly, one  
17 person at a time, if at all possible, please.

18           And then also, just the guiding ground  
19 rule of having a respectful dialogue and  
20 professional exchange, I think, is an inherent  
21 element of the Restoration Advisory Board.

22           Let's see. So, let's move to slide  
23 five. That just describes some of our public  
24 comment procedures as well, which we'll go into a  
25 bit more detail.

1                   Let's see. I'd like to now just move  
2 into confirming that we have our RAB members and  
3 confirming that we have the quorum as well. Let me  
4 check to see if Bill Gaines is with us?

5                   MEMBER GAINES: I am with you, Tim.

6                   MR. SUELTFUSS: On the phone.

7 Great. Thank you, Bill, we appreciate that. So,  
8 you're joining virtually. And we have Mark Henry  
9 here in person. We have Arnie Leriche in person.  
10 Do we have Scott Lingo? Okay. I believe Joe  
11 Maxwell is not with us. Okay. How about Ryan  
12 Mertz? Ryan is not with us tonight. We have Greg  
13 Schulz in person. We have Daniel Stock in person.  
14 We have Rex Vaughn virtually, Rex, are you able to  
15 hear me all right? And let's do a sound check with  
16 you.

17                   MEMBER VAUGHN: Yeah, we're in good  
18 shape, thank you. And yes, I am present.

19                   MR. SUELTFUSS: All right. Thank  
20 you, Rex. Also, David Winn is connected virtually.  
21 David, are you able to hear us all right? And  
22 Sarah, if we could just confirm David Winn is  
23 un-muted.

24                   MEMBER WINN: Okay. Can you hear me  
25 now, Tim?

1 MR. SUELTFUSS: Yes, we can, David,  
2 thank you.

3 MEMBER WINN: Yep. Yep. I'm here.

4 MR. SUELTFUSS: Okay. Great. And  
5 so we also have Cathy Wusterbarth here in person.  
6 Welcome, Cathy.

7 Okay. So, we have more than  
8 51 percent of our community RAB members here. Let's  
9 see. On the government RAB member side, we have Dr.  
10 Catharine Varley with the Air Force present in  
11 person. We have Mr. Eric Strayer with Au Sable  
12 Township in person.

13 Let's see. Do we have anyone from  
14 District Health Department 2?

15 MEMBER BRYAN: Denise Bryan is  
16 present.

17 MR. SUELTFUSS: Okay. So, Denise  
18 has joint virtually. Thank you, Denise.

19 And do we have Puneet Vij with the  
20 Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

21 MEMBER VIJ: Yes, I am.

22 MR. SUELTFUSS: Okay. Great.  
23 Thanks, Puneet, connected virtually. We have Beth  
24 Place with Michigan Department of Environment Great  
25 Lakes and Energy in person, welcome. Yeah. Mr. Tim

1 Cummings, Oscoda Township, in person. And do we  
2 have Michael Munson with Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport  
3 Authority? Okay. So, looks like Mike is not with  
4 us right now.

5 And then we have Mr. Ben Weiss with  
6 USDA Forest Service in for Jessie Stuntebeck; is  
7 that right?

8 MR. WEISS: Yes, correct. Thank you.

9 MR. SUELTFUSS: And Jessie  
10 Stuntebeck, are you on with us as well, connected  
11 virtually?

12 MS. STUNTEBECK: Yep. I'm online.

13 MR. SUELTFUSS: Okay. Perfect.  
14 Okay. Well, good. We also have our Chair present,  
15 so we do have a quorum per the operating procedures  
16 that we amended last meeting, so thanks for your  
17 patience with that.

18 Okay. Well, let's move to the next  
19 slide, if we could, slide six, stakeholder updates.  
20 And so this is an opportunity for a brief update  
21 from our RAB members about activities of their  
22 stakeholder organizations.

23 Let's move to slide seven, and that is  
24 the Air Force update, so Dr. Varley, we'll turn to  
25 you for that.

1 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: So, as most of  
2 you on the RAB board know, we've made some great  
3 progress with the IRA at FT002. We've continued all  
4 the way through the winter season, and we were  
5 actually putting up a wall earlier this week on the  
6 building. So, we've got tanks in place, we're  
7 building the building around it. Everything is  
8 going according to schedule. We have had a great  
9 winter for building even though it's cold. So,  
10 progress is happening in FT002.

11 The Van Etten Lake at Ken Ratcliff  
12 Memorial Park is also progressing. We got back  
13 check comments from EGLE the other day, thank you,  
14 Beth, and we are looking at those. I believe we  
15 should be getting AROS (PH) from you guys soon, and  
16 we'll be moving that forward. We've also got a work  
17 plan that we are responding to your comments on.  
18 Thank you for providing comments.

19 We are also getting ready for RI  
20 fieldwork, as we are working to finalize the  
21 UFP-QAPP, we did run into some -- we are still  
22 addressing comments. That's the easiest way to put  
23 it. So, we are addressing comments and we're making  
24 progress to be able to start. Hopefully, we will  
25 get a QAPP finalized by the end of this week, if not

1 early next week, assuming we are able to get  
2 everything answered that we need answered.

3 And fieldwork for the remedial  
4 investigation is staged to begin again in April.  
5 So, we stopped when it became difficult to work in  
6 the cold environments, and couldn't get drillers out  
7 here drilling, so come April, we'll be out there  
8 drilling again.

9 One thing that we have had concerns  
10 with is we sent out several access agreements and we  
11 haven't gotten many back. So, trying to understand  
12 the full extent of the plumes and where we actually  
13 need to step out to, we need access agreements. So,  
14 we have asked the Township for help, we've asked the  
15 airport for help, we are asking the community for  
16 help. So, if you live on Van Etten Lake and we  
17 haven't reached out to you, or you've received a  
18 mailer from us, there's a very high likelihood that  
19 my staff will be stopping by at some point to come  
20 and talk to you and hopefully answer any questions,  
21 or will be reaching out to you by phone if you live  
22 elsewhere. But, we really need that if we're going  
23 to delineate these plumes.

24 And the goal is to have a full RI --  
25 we know that there will be data gaps and we will



1 fill those as reported to FS, but to have a full RI  
2 by the end of this year.

3 Another thing I'd like to talk about  
4 tonight is the Air Force team. This is one of the  
5 best teams I have had the pleasure to work with. I  
6 have two on-site personnel that have 19 years and  
7 11 years of experience on this base. I have  
8 personnel that is just 30 minutes north, and he  
9 knows what has happened in history, he can find  
10 documents in a flash. I have a former regulator who  
11 knows NCP backward, forward, and can tell me what  
12 the rules are, and make sure we don't overstep the  
13 rules by which we operate. I have not had a better  
14 team. And I have Team Willis, who has been  
15 overseeing the operation and maintenance contract  
16 used by partners in this.

17 So, we have -- and they will be  
18 providing their work overview tonight. So -- and  
19 Steve has been stepping in and taking on more and  
20 more projects. He's got an MRP project coming  
21 along, he's got a BI project coming along, and I  
22 have been asked -- I was asked yesterday if I would  
23 accept a technical advisor position for the Air  
24 Force Civil Engineer Center, and I could not turn it  
25 down. So, I am going to try to help on a higher

1 level in the very near future.

2 So, Steve will be taking over the  
3 program eventually, and with that, my position will  
4 be replaced. So, you will have a counterpart as  
5 well. We have built a team, the team is going to  
6 continue to function, we are going to maintain our  
7 momentum, nothing is going to stop. All right.

8 MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thank you, Dr.  
9 Varley.

10 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Thank you.

11 MR. SUELTENFUSS: Appreciate that.  
12 Okay. Well, let's continue on. Let's go to slide  
13 eight, if we could, and as we continue with  
14 stakeholder updates, we'll start off with the  
15 community member updates.

16 And typically, Mark, we start with  
17 you, but if you don't mind, maybe we can start with  
18 Cathy, and then we'll turn to you and the other  
19 community RAB members. So, Cathy Wusterbarth, any  
20 update you'd like to provide.

21 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: Yes. And  
22 actually, I have a question about the Air Force's  
23 update. Is there going to be an opportunity for us  
24 to ask questions about things that happened,  
25 commented on?

1 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: You want to do  
2 it now or you want to do it during -- in a little  
3 bit?

4 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: Either way. I  
5 have some questions about some things that you said  
6 and I don't know if anyone --

7 MR. SUELTFUSS: Let's just go ahead  
8 and address those RAB members' questions.

9 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Okay.

10 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: It seems more  
11 natural to talk about it now.

12 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Yeah.

13 MR. SUELTFUSS: Go ahead, Cathy.

14 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: Okay. The  
15 remedial investigation, you said that the access  
16 agreements were a concern, and I've been contacted  
17 by a community member who received an access  
18 agreement.

19 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Okay.

20 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: They have  
21 concerns about the placement of additional wells on  
22 their property when they already had three wells on  
23 their property. So, there was a concern about  
24 placing more. I think the property was, like,  
25 150 feet from the lakefront. So, I know that

1 they've shared those concerns with me about  
2 additional wells. And I'm not familiar with the  
3 access agreement itself and, you know, what exactly  
4 it said. They were wondering -- I heard some  
5 comments about maybe having a temporary, you know,  
6 well, so that we can test to see if that's really  
7 the placement that's needed, or even removing those  
8 other wells that maybe aren't functioning anymore.  
9 I don't know, is that part of --

10 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Yeah,  
11 absolutely. So, that is something that if they go  
12 ahead and they give us a call, I have Ryan listed as  
13 my point of contact, because he's local and he can  
14 go out and talk to them, and help out with the  
15 placement, and to make sure that if we need  
16 something, we really need it, right, to make sure  
17 that -- and we do have the ability to decommission  
18 wells and we know that we will not leave them.

19 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: Okay. So, that's  
20 an option.

21 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: We're doing  
22 vertical aquifer sampling before we do any permanent  
23 wells just to make sure we're in the right  
24 locations, and we will have an understanding of  
25 where the thing is going.

1                   MEMBER WUSTERBARTH:   Okay.   And I  
2                   really just want to emphasize the reason you're  
3                   asking for more wells is so that you can find out  
4                   where the plumes are going?

5                   CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY:   Absolutely.

6                   MEMBER WUSTERBARTH:   Because they may  
7                   be going past where you are aware of them now.   And  
8                   for -- I know that community members are very  
9                   concerned about that plume going into Van Etten  
10                  Lake.   That was one of our, now, priorities, was  
11                  making sure that that was captured down the line.  
12                  So, for community members that may have received  
13                  those agreements, I can't emphasize enough, please  
14                  contact asking them about your concerns, and  
15                  resolving those will help get that done.

16                  CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY:   Thank you.

17                  MR. SUELTFUSS:   And Cathy, before  
18                  moving into your stakeholder update, did you have  
19                  other questions?

20                  MEMBER WUSTERBARTH:   So, do I  
21                  understand you to say that you've taken another  
22                  position and you're not going to be on the site  
23                  anymore?

24                  CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY:   Eventually.

25                  MEMBER WUSTERBARTH:   And what

1           timeframe are you thinking for that?

2                   CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY:   So, will there  
3           be a transition and -- so they asked me to start in  
4           two weeks, however --

5                   MEMBER WUSTERBARTH:   Two weeks?

6                   CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY:   -- I'm not  
7           taking my hands off the wheel -- you know me better  
8           than this, right?  So, I told them other bases like  
9           last month that I had previously.  You still got me  
10          in the background.  And I'll also be working with  
11          them and answering questions, and I will not -- you  
12          guys can't fail.  There's no way.  You guys are  
13          going to be fine.  You've got everything to contact  
14          and everything that we need to keep going this year,  
15          and we will continue.  We've got good progress out  
16          there in the field, and we've got the right  
17          contractors, we have the A team.  We are not -- it's  
18          not going to slow down.  But, we do need to know  
19          where this comes in.  So, that is the progress we  
20          need to be able to keep everything continuing.

21                   MEMBER WUSTERBARTH:   All right.  
22          Another -- I'm sorry, I'm --

23                   CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY:   Go ahead.

24                   MEMBER WUSTERBARTH:   -- monopolizing  
25          here.  But, the -- you had -- in order to finalize

1 the RI, you -- it sounded like you said there was an  
2 acronym, and I didn't catch it. What --

3 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: We are going  
4 through a final technical review to make sure that  
5 we've answered all of our regulators' contract --  
6 questions appropriately. So, there were 168  
7 multiple-part questions, we have gone through each  
8 of them several times as a team and as individuals.  
9 I need to check them over one more time and make  
10 sure that we don't have any other technical  
11 questions anywhere else.

12 We have, like everybody else, been  
13 slowed down by COVID as far as our reviewers, and, I  
14 mean, I pick up what I can and so do others, and  
15 keep going. So, we are always double checking  
16 everything that we're doing, because we want to make  
17 sure we get the best products possible. Hopefully  
18 this week, that's my goal.

19 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: Okay.

20 MEMBER LERICHE: Can I ask a question  
21 on the same topic?

22 MR. SUELTFUSS: Go ahead, Arnie.

23 MEMBER LERICHE: How long ago did the  
24 Air Force identify that they needed these wells, and  
25 when did the access agreement request go up?

1 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: So, we've been  
2 using the data as we've been collecting it to  
3 determine where we need to step out, so this summer,  
4 really. However, we had ideas and those have  
5 pivoted since, right, from the very beginning of  
6 where we could need wells.

7 So, we still need to have an SPP  
8 meeting with EGLE and determine -- so a team meeting  
9 with our regulators to determine where those wells  
10 will actually be. But, we have a starting point.  
11 And what we have, really, is we need to go in there  
12 and we need to see if the plumes are actually  
13 entering Van Etten Lake or elsewhere, something that  
14 we can address now versus waiting.

15 MEMBER LERICHE: Right. No, I know  
16 why you need some, but I'm trying to understand and  
17 find out how we can help the community members who  
18 received these to understand the importance of it,  
19 but also their concerns, as Cathy mentioned.

20 So, how long have they had these  
21 letters or requests from the Air Force, and when do  
22 you actually need them?

23 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: First round was  
24 set -- Sarah, when was the first round sent?

25 MS. RIFFE: Last fall.



1 MEMBER LERICHE: Last fall.

2 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: And then we sent  
3 a second round for anybody that didn't respond just  
4 a few weeks ago.

5 MR. SUELTFUSS: And let me pause  
6 real quick just to check audio. I saw a note that  
7 one person connected virtually is having some  
8 difficulty hearing.

9 Quentina, are you able to hear the  
10 audio right now?

11 THE COURT REPORTER: It is very faint,  
12 so if everyone could speak up a little bit, that  
13 would be great.

14 MR. SUELTFUSS: Okay. Yeah, thank  
15 you. So, especially for the RAB members and  
16 especially those who have mics in front, if we can  
17 kind of direct the conversations toward that  
18 microphone rather than looking back and forth, that  
19 will cause it to sometimes go in and out. Sorry.

20 MEMBER LERICHE: Okay. I would only  
21 suggest in the future -- because you're on crunch  
22 time now.

23 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Yeah.

24 MEMBER LERICHE: Because you sent them  
25 out last fall. This is the first that, I think, the

1 community RAB has heard about this. I have not seen  
2 a copy, example copy, of one to see what's involved  
3 to our community members making a decision. This is  
4 the second phase of these vertical sampling, I think  
5 the first one was about two years ago. There were  
6 about seven of those put out. And they agreed to  
7 have them done. So, I think a little bit more  
8 communication on --

9 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Okay. So, I  
10 have a phone-a-friend, and it was mentioned during  
11 the November meeting. This is not the first time  
12 that access agreements were mentioned. And requests  
13 were sent out in December, we talked about during  
14 the last RAB.

15 MEMBER LERICHE: Okay. But we don't  
16 have a copy. We don't know what's being asked of  
17 our citizens.

18 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: It's people's  
19 property lines and asking if we can put a vertical  
20 aquifer sample in --

21 MEMBER LERICHE: This is a sensitive  
22 issue on access agreements in this area --

23 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Okay.

24 MEMBER LERICHE: -- with multiple  
25 government entities. So, it's something that, for

1 the future, a process that we're all on the same  
2 page and we can help you with more detail in the  
3 future. So, if you think of something that we can  
4 do, we're going to try to make it happen, because we  
5 can't slow this down anymore.

6 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: I agree.

7 MEMBER LERICHE: And how many do you  
8 need?

9 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: All depends on  
10 how many we get and what we find out as we go. So,  
11 really, what we need is about 15.

12 MEMBER LERICHE: 50? 5-0?

13 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: 1-5. 15. In  
14 the right locations.

15 MEMBER LERICHE: And can you share a  
16 map with us of the areas? Not the property lines,  
17 we don't need personal information, but just where  
18 are you looking, in general, with a map of --

19 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Yes. Those were  
20 all --

21 MEMBER LERICHE: That would be great  
22 to share with us. Okay.

23 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: I was hoping to  
24 get it out as soon as possible. And I will send you  
25 to the page, Arnie.

1                   MEMBER LERICHE: Just in the future --  
2                   thank you.

3                   MR. SUELTFUSS: Okay. So, let me  
4                   just see if there are any follow up questions on the  
5                   Air Force stakeholder update. Any additional  
6                   questions?

7                   Okay. And Sarah, do you see any  
8                   questions from RAB members online right now?

9                   All right. Okay. Well -- so let's  
10                  continue with the stakeholder updates. And Cathy, I  
11                  believe you have an update to provide as well. So,  
12                  this is slide eight for those of us who are looking  
13                  at the slide.

14                  MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: Yes. And thanks  
15                  so much for including the slide for me. I really  
16                  just wanted to emphasize some of the concerns that  
17                  the community has. Again, I'm Cathy Wusterbarth and  
18                  I am part of the NOW, Need Our Water, community  
19                  action group.

20                  Part of our concern, the first, is the  
21                  priorities for the remedial investigation. The  
22                  process, from what I understand, is finalized and  
23                  then it's presented to the RAB, and we would like to  
24                  be part of that process before it's finalized.  
25                  If -- I believe the process doesn't allow for that

1 at this time, and we certainly would like to be part  
2 of that.

3 And then next, the IRAs. We do have  
4 one that's, you know, in process right now, that's  
5 the, you know, interim remedial actions, for those  
6 who are just coming in. Those are the actions that  
7 the CERCLA process can take if there's imminent and  
8 substantial threat to humans in the environment.

9 So, if there's something that's  
10 identified in the area, you know, for the area, that  
11 needs action right now, which is what we've done, a  
12 couple of IRAs right now, then the Air Force can  
13 take action to clean those up before we go into the  
14 remedial investigation. So, I do want to keep that  
15 open, that there's, you know, potentially more IRAs  
16 that could be, you know, needed in this area,  
17 because of the extent of contamination on this site.  
18 Just to keep that -- you know, our minds open for  
19 that, because, you know, it's -- it's -- it  
20 just -- that there are some sites that might be  
21 potentially applicable to an IRA.

22 And then the next bullet point was  
23 that there -- because we did have some IRAs in  
24 process, the public made some comments, hundreds of  
25 comments, I think, and we have yet to see what the

1 responses from the Air Force were on those comments.  
2 We'd like to see those in the records, in the Air  
3 Force record --

4 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: They are.  
5 They're on the MFR in the Record of Decision and  
6 Responsiveness Summary.

7 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: Okay. Including  
8 all of them --

9 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Correct.

10 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: -- not just RAB  
11 members or --

12 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Correct.  
13 Everything -- so if there's some, because we had  
14 hundreds of them, or some together unanswered,  
15 right?

16 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: Right, because  
17 they were similar.

18 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Because then we  
19 get a lot of similar questions as well. But, the  
20 responsiveness summary has absolutely everything in  
21 it.

22 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: Okay. All right.  
23 That's important, because we want to be able to  
24 utilize that so that we can -- if there are future  
25 IRAs, we want to be able to understand, you know,

1 the process or what the Air Force is thinking in  
2 terms of --

3 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Absolutely. And  
4 everything that's used to make a decision goes into  
5 the record.

6 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: Okay. Well,  
7 thank you very much.

8 And lastly, we are awaiting a response  
9 from the Air Force for the letter that the Governor  
10 had written, and I don't believe we have a response  
11 to that yet. They -- she did speak up for us in  
12 terms of requesting that amendment for the  
13 cooperative agreement and we would really like to  
14 have a response for that.

15 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Did that go to  
16 the office?

17 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: Last March, yes.

18 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Okay.

19 MR. SUELTFUSS: Okay. Thank you,  
20 Cathy.

21 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: Yeah, thanks.

22 MR. SUELTFUSS: Before moving off of  
23 this slide, and this topic, any followup questions  
24 from the Air Force about Cathy's update needed?

25 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Not at this

1 time.

2 MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. Well, let's  
3 move to slide nine, if we could, and so we continue  
4 in the stakeholder updates portion and the community  
5 RAB members' updates. Let's start with our  
6 community co-chair, Henry. Mark, any updates you'd  
7 like to provide?

8 CO-CHAIR HENRY: I do not have any  
9 updates.

10 MR. SUELTENFUSS: All right. Thank  
11 you. Let's go down the list. How about Bill  
12 Gaines, who is connected virtually? Bill, any  
13 updates that you'd like to provide?

14 MEMBER GAINES: No comments at this  
15 time, thank you.

16 MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. Thanks, Bill.  
17 And to Arnie Leriche?

18 MEMBER LERICHE: Just one, and that  
19 is, a lot has been shared with the RAB, and a lot of  
20 improvements have been made since you've been here  
21 the last two years. I would only suggest that there  
22 be a little bit more understanding of the community  
23 members and the community RAB members, community in  
24 general, as we were just talking about, in the  
25 access agreement. And how difficult it can be for



1           them to understand the CERCLA process, the acronyms,  
2           everything. You guys live it, we don't. And for  
3           three years, we've been asking for one particular  
4           thing, and that is a complete list of the sites by  
5           name, and located on a map, a list and on a map.  
6           You gave us a map --

7                         CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: We provided  
8           that.

9                         MR. SUELTFUSS: But -- Arnie, go  
10          ahead and finish, and then we'll turn over the  
11          question --

12                        CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: That's all  
13          right.

14                        MEMBER LERICHE: It needs to be  
15          completed and we need the list that matches the  
16          list. So, I've got an example: In every RAB  
17          meeting, it should be updated so that when we're  
18          here, we can see exactly what you're talking about.  
19          So, that's one example.

20                        And I've got an example from another  
21          site. Doesn't have to be followed exactly, but I  
22          think you can get an idea of every RAB meeting is an  
23          update of this map so that when you're talking about  
24          it, the contractors or whatever, we can see it, the  
25          public has it, because they can download it from the

1 site. So, that's on that one issue of this map and  
2 the list.

3 The other one is, more recently, over  
4 the last year and a half, we've been asking --  
5 multiple, Mark, myself, others -- been asking for  
6 the conceptual site models that are in the QAPP, and  
7 that is an iterative process. It's always changing,  
8 that's what we've been told. However, in response  
9 to our request on that -- those action items, the  
10 response has been well, that's going to be finalized  
11 when the RI work plan is completed. We've been  
12 waiting for nearly two years for whatever the  
13 current site model that the agencies are using to  
14 manage the process. And other sites provide that.  
15 Like in the site inspection phase two and a half  
16 years ago, they provided one, and the ESI, the  
17 extended site, in the relative risk, they updated  
18 it, it's a progression. And we have not been shared  
19 that. So, that's another suggestion.

20 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Did you see the  
21 posters outside this wall?

22 MEMBER LERICHE: I did not see --

23 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: You didn't see  
24 all the posters we have?

25 MEMBER LERICHE: Yes, I did.

1 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Those show all  
2 the data as we've been collecting it every time.

3 MEMBER LERICHE: It's too --

4 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: What I'd like to  
5 do eventually --

6 MR. SUELTFUSS: Let me let Dr.  
7 Varley respond. Go ahead.

8 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: -- is put the  
9 before next to the after. We are honing in on what  
10 the date is actually showing so we can actually make  
11 progress and do actual work versus just investigate  
12 for forever. So, I would like to make sure that  
13 that happens, if they show a before versus an after,  
14 as -- because we are not where we started two years  
15 ago.

16 We have thousands of data points that  
17 we did not have two years ago. We understand the  
18 site so much better than we understood it two years  
19 ago. And that CSM is going to drive what we do.  
20 It's going to drive the next IRA, it's going to  
21 drive our next projects, and it will keep on moving  
22 us forward.

23 And you're right it is not a static  
24 process, it is iterative. It continues to go. At  
25 every RAB, you should see more and more, and all of

1 those previous posters are being put up on the Air  
2 Force website, so you can see them at any time. You  
3 can zoom in on them. And hopefully, that helps  
4 explain the sites and how we're moving forward.

5 MR. SUELTENFUSS: Do you have a  
6 response?

7 CO-CHAIR HENRY: Arnie, I think that  
8 the Air Force did provide us a map of all the IRA  
9 sites, but you're correct, I don't think I have seen  
10 a list of the IRA sites.

11 MEMBER LERICHE: And they are listed  
12 in other reports, the annual reports, operational  
13 reports, but it's so scattered that the public and  
14 the community members -- I'll speak for myself --  
15 cannot connect the detail that's out on those  
16 posters -- and you're doing great progress, and a  
17 lot of work being done, but to connect that to where  
18 we are on the CERCLA process, right now we're  
19 talking about the RI work plan/starting the sampling  
20 for the RI.

21 But we don't see where in this  
22 process -- like, the risk assessment for wildlife,  
23 okay? That's what we're talking about. That's what  
24 -- you're talking about a little bit more and more,  
25 but, where is it in the -- the risk assessment

1 matrix, where does it fit in the CERCLA process.

2 This diagram is used as best practice  
3 that EPA published for Federal agencies to follow.  
4 We'd appreciate it if you could share what you've  
5 got in your ongoing QAPP that you use every month to  
6 some extent on a quarterly basis, share us -- with  
7 us an example of it.

8 MR. SUELTFUSS: Thanks, Arnie.  
9 Sounds like --

10 MEMBER LERICHE: I have copies that I  
11 can leave with you.

12 MR. SUELTFUSS: Sounds like there  
13 may be some ongoing conversation about that site  
14 list as well. Staying in our stakeholder updates,  
15 Greg Schulz, anything that you'd like to --

16 MR. SCHULZ: Nope. Not at this time.

17 MR. SUELTFUSS: Okay. Mr. Daniel  
18 Stock?

19 MEMBER STOCK: No comment.

20 MR. SUELTFUSS: Thanks, Dan. And  
21 over to Rex Vaughn.

22 MEMBER VAUGHN: I'm good, guys. Keep  
23 it moving on.

24 MR. SUELTFUSS: Keep it moving on.  
25 All right. David Winn? David, did you have any

1           comments you'd like to share? Any updates?

2                       MEMBER WINN: Yes, can you hear me  
3 fine?

4                       MR. SUELTFUSS: Yes, sir.

5                       MEMBER WINN: I just -- I don't know  
6 if it's a comment, but I want to pose this right now  
7 based off the RAB. During the last RAB meeting on  
8 November 21st -- in November, I gave a well  
9 done -- a job well done atta-boy to Air Force and  
10 Aerostar for the critical removal for FT002, all  
11 right? That statement was printed in the Oscoda  
12 Press shortly after that meeting.

13                      The reason I bring this up is that  
14 during a December 9th Senate hearing on PFAS, Deputy  
15 Assistant Secretary Kidd used my statement from the  
16 Oscoda Press to make the Senate committee think that  
17 all the activities, past and present at Wurtsmith,  
18 are going just fine and everything -- there's no  
19 issue, all right?

20                      First, I gave that atta-boy to the  
21 team because of the critical -- the critical removal  
22 action being removed from the PFAS site that we've  
23 talked about time and time again, a long time.

24                      Second, I'm truly disappointed and  
25 dismayed, but not surprised, that DoD management

1 would make -- would make a mischaracterization of my  
2 statement for their own beneficial gain to make the  
3 Senate committee believe that everything at  
4 Wurtsmith is going just fine. I thought that the  
5 goal moving forward was to be -- to work between the  
6 Air Force and community and trust and transparency.

7 Thanks to Mr. Kidd, his misguided  
8 statement, my trust going forward is in check. So,  
9 Catharine, I sure hope that you or your team bring  
10 it back to your management to let them know that I'm  
11 not very pleased with Mr. Kidd and his misguided  
12 statements to the Senate committee and Senator  
13 Peters's office. Thank you.

14 MR. SUELTFUSS: David, thank you for  
15 sharing that concern with us. We will continue on  
16 with stakeholder updates, and let's move to the  
17 government RAB members, if we could.

18 So Jessie Stuntebeck with USDA Forest  
19 Service, is there anything that you'd like to  
20 provide?

21 MS. STUNTEBECK: There's nothing I'd  
22 like to provide. I'll ask Ben, though, since he's  
23 right there, if he wants to provide anything.

24 MR. SUELTFUSS: All right. Ben?

25 MR. WEISS: Yes, thank you. So, the

1 Forest Service is -- we are very pleased with the  
2 progress from FT002, and the extraction wells that  
3 are going to be along Clark's Marsh. So, we see a  
4 very immediate benefit to the Clark's Marsh area, as  
5 well remove a lot of contamination from further  
6 entering the marsh. And so we're -- I feel like  
7 we're -- the Forest Service, we've been engaged and  
8 we're deeply concerned about what's going on in the  
9 community, and we're now at a point where this is  
10 affecting U.S. Forest Service lands, and so we're  
11 happy to see progress made, and we're very happy to  
12 see this RI remedial investigation with a mapping of  
13 where contaminants are in the ground, so just wanted  
14 to say thank you.

15 MR. SUELTFUSS: Thank you very much  
16 for that update, Ben. And let's go to Beth Place  
17 with the Michigan Department of Environment Great  
18 Lakes and Energy.

19 MEMBER PLACE: Thank you. We just  
20 wanted to thank Catharine for overseeing the work  
21 for this part of the RI, and the progress made at  
22 the site. Just to say thank you to Dan Medina in  
23 the past, so we do appreciate your work on this  
24 project and hope that it continues at a fast pace in  
25 the future.



1           As Catharine mentioned earlier, we  
2           have provided the back check to the comments on the  
3           Van Etten Lake Record of Decision, so the State  
4           standards are still with our AG's office and EGLE,  
5           and I know Air Force legal and our attorney  
6           general's office, going back and forth on those.  
7           Those are with us right now. We hope to provide  
8           the -- our comments back on the table within the  
9           next two weeks, that's our timeline for that.

10           We also -- EGLE is currently reviewing  
11           the Air Force response to EGLE comments on the risk  
12           assessment. We'll be providing our back check on  
13           that prior to the end of the month. We've already  
14           provided our back check on the majority of the eco  
15           risk comments, so we still have the human health  
16           comments to back check. We'll also be providing our  
17           comments on the biota sampling plan by the end of  
18           the month.

19           We also wanted to mention that we have  
20           a -- we met with the Need Our Water group, and we  
21           also met with the community co-chair of the RAB  
22           within the last month, and so we do appreciate those  
23           conversations. We will be setting up a meeting with  
24           the Forest Service in the near future to discuss a  
25           few items as well on the Wurtsmith project.

1           As far as access agreements, I know  
2           that was something that you mentioned. I know  
3           currently, our AG's office and DNR are actively  
4           discussing the access agreements on State land, so  
5           we're hoping that there will be progress made on  
6           that in the future as well.

7           And we do have MPART Town Hall meeting  
8           for former Wurtsmith Air Force base and the work  
9           that the State does in the Oscoda area, and that  
10          will be on March 2nd, the first week in March.

11          And those are my updates. Thank you.

12          MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thank you, Beth, we  
13          appreciate that. And let's continue on to slide  
14          ten, if we could.

15          Michael Munson with Oscoda-Wurtsmith  
16          Airport Authority is not with us, I believe, and  
17          just to verify that, Sarah, you don't have Michael  
18          Munson connected virtually, do you?

19          MS. RIFFE: I do not.

20          MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. All right.  
21          Well, let's go to Mr. Eric Strayer with Au Sable  
22          Township.

23          MR. STRAYER: Nothing at this time.  
24          Thank you.

25          MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thank you. And to

1 Puneet Vij with Michigan Department of Health and  
2 Human Services. Puneet, anything?

3 MEMBER VIJ: Okay. As Beth already  
4 mentioned, we have a Wurtsmith Town Hall meeting  
5 planned for March 2nd. And in that meeting, I'm  
6 going to discuss resampling rounds 1 and 2 numbers,  
7 like non-detects, detects, anything above comparison  
8 value or below comparison value. Along with the  
9 figures, you'll see all of these detections and  
10 non-detects according to the area of concern. So,  
11 that's pretty much all I have in terms of updates.

12 MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. Thank you,  
13 Puneet. And if you'd like to e-mail me that update,  
14 then I can get that out to the RAB members as well,  
15 and make sure that's recorded in the transcript  
16 here.

17 MEMBER VIJ: Yep. Sure. I can e-mail  
18 you.

19 MR. SUELTENFUSS: All right. Great.  
20 Thank you. And let's go to Tim Cummings with Oscoda  
21 Township.

22 MR. CUMMINGS: Yes, thank you. This  
23 comment on behalf of Oscoda Township is directed at  
24 Dr. Varley. In learning this evening of your  
25 eventual transition, I'm recalling some years ago,

1 as we've had several program managers on this  
2 project, been meeting with people for years, five or  
3 six years that I've been on this -- involved with  
4 the Air Force, that it's a common understanding  
5 within the Air Force that the program managers that  
6 were assigned prior to you were given that position  
7 on their way to retirement. And it was not a  
8 project that anyone particularly looked forward to,  
9 not a popular assignment. And now with your  
10 transition, I'm -- like the prior speaker here on  
11 the community RAB, am a little bit disappointed in  
12 that, you know, in the last meeting, I gave credit  
13 to the Air Force and all the progress that's been  
14 made, and now I'm wondering just how much progress  
15 we're going to continue to make.

16 You know, these kind of are -- kind of  
17 a quick silver change of hats every couple of years  
18 does not spell well to building confidence in this  
19 community that has been, quite honestly, beaten up,  
20 beaten down on the subject of contamination. That's  
21 my comment.

22 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Thanks, Tim.

23 Can I go ahead and respond to all of that?

24 MR. SUELTFUSS: Of course you can.

25 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: All right. So,

1 the difference here is that I am being promoted to a  
2 technical advisor position that oversees a lot more  
3 than just this environmental group. And hopefully,  
4 I can help make bigger change that will affect us  
5 all. I'm also not going hands off. I never have.  
6 I still will be consulting when asked and when  
7 needed on all of the former bases that I've been  
8 involved with, and I'll continue to do that, you  
9 know, as long as I'm told I'm not wanted here, I  
10 will be around here and there. So, I do have family  
11 in Michigan.

12 MR. CUMMINGS: I look forward to  
13 holding you to this.

14 MR. SUELTFUSS: Thank you for your  
15 comment. Okay. Let's turn to Denise Bryan with the  
16 Department of Health, District 2. Any updates for  
17 us, Denise?

18 MEMBER BRYAN: Thank you very much. I  
19 just want to make one note, as we are in  
20 mid-February, that when we see the thaw, we will,  
21 again, probably experience foam issues on Van Etten,  
22 and also the Au Sable has been identified, and I  
23 know we have signs on Van Etten Lake, but I also  
24 think that every spring/summer, this becomes a  
25 concern for us and the visitors in the area, and I

1 just am hoping that there's further review of the  
2 foam and what that means. We certainly understand  
3 the importance of rinsing foam off our children and  
4 self and animals, but I'm wondering if anybody is  
5 moving forward with evaluating the foam situation.

6 MR. SUELTFUSS: Thank you, Denise.  
7 We appreciate that update. And let's see. Let me  
8 just check in with the RAB members. Any further  
9 discussion on those updates before we move to RAB  
10 business on slide 11?

11 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: I have a  
12 question.

13 MR. SUELTFUSS: Yes.

14 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: I believe there  
15 was a meeting with Dr. Varley and the Township about  
16 access, or about stormwater sewers, not --

17 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Well, our  
18 pipelines and --

19 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: Pipelines, that's  
20 right.

21 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Yes.

22 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: Can someone give  
23 an update on that?

24 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Yeah. So, we've  
25 been working towards an ESCA, an Environmental

1 Service Agreement, to be able to line the storm --  
2 well, the water command side infrastructure, and to  
3 move forward together so that when we look at -- so  
4 -- and the partnership is also with the airport.  
5 When we look at Wurtsmith as a whole and the  
6 surrounding area, we're not just looking at what was  
7 the base, but what is the Township now, and we're  
8 coming up with the overall solution. So, we are  
9 supporting each other in every aspect of what we do  
10 moving forward.

11 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: Thanks.

12 MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. Well -- so  
13 let's go ahead and move into the RAB business  
14 portion of the agenda. On slide 12, it just  
15 indicates one element of that, specifically action  
16 items.

17 So, as per usual practice, the  
18 co-chairs met following the last RAB meeting and  
19 reviewed action items. There are currently ten open  
20 action items and two ongoing action items, and I  
21 believe the plan is to do that same process again,  
22 have a meeting with the co-chairs and myself, review  
23 action items and plan upcoming meetings. Does that  
24 make sense?

25 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Yes.

1 MR. SUELTFUSS: Let's see. We'll,  
2 at that time, review any additional action items  
3 that might be captured tonight. Last meeting, we  
4 updated the RAB operating procedures, and the  
5 co-chairs signed those. So, we do have operating  
6 procedures effective as of 17 November of 2021. And  
7 at the same time, Rex Vaughn, Greg Schulz, and Scott  
8 Lingo were inducted as community RAB members as  
9 well.

10 Co-chairs, anything else you'd like to  
11 add in relation to RAB business?

12 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: So, Steve will  
13 be transitioning into the role, so I'd like to  
14 include him as we go over this meeting and in  
15 session.

16 MR. SUELTFUSS: All right. Mark,  
17 anything that you'd like to add there?

18 CO-CHAIR HENRY: Nope.

19 MR. SUELTFUSS: Any further  
20 discussion on RAB business?

21 MEMBER PLACE: This is Beth. I don't  
22 think EGLE received the action items after the last  
23 meeting.

24 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: I sent them out  
25 to the RAB, I believe -- I can look back.



1 MEMBER PLACE: Okay. Thank you.

2 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: I try to send  
3 everything out as a RAB update, so --

4 MEMBER PLACE: Okay. If I missed it,  
5 I apologize, but I'm not sure that we have them.

6 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Okay. I'll  
7 check.

8 MR. SUELTFUSS: Thank you, Beth.  
9 Arnie, you had a comment?

10 MEMBER LERICHE: I think you've tried  
11 to, or have, the AIs for -- the action items for  
12 tonight's meeting to capture which ones were added  
13 and new ones, and sent those out to the whole RAB  
14 prior to, and maybe a week of time in between before  
15 you three meet to go over them; is that correct?

16 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: They're caught  
17 in our meeting minutes. So, we go over them in our  
18 meeting minutes, we try to meet the week after, and  
19 that's where they're captured.

20 MEMBER LERICHE: That's where they're  
21 captured?

22 CO-CHAIR HENRY: The new action items.

23 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: They go up on  
24 the website. Those meeting minutes are added to the  
25 website and sent out to the team as well.

1 CO-CHAIR HENRY: And we go over the  
2 existing action items to see if there are any  
3 changes or updates.

4 MEMBER LERICHE: Okay. But what's  
5 kind of missing that we used to have is that within  
6 two weeks after a RAB meeting, the community RAB  
7 would meet and go over what we heard, what action  
8 items we think, and then the co-chair and I would  
9 have that input from our 11 now, and then you go  
10 with that information.

11 And so it's just something that I  
12 think we've lost along the way, and I think we're  
13 only talking about a week and a half additional  
14 time, maybe, before you have your sit down to  
15 actually crunch through status change and things  
16 like that.

17 MR. SUELTFUSS: So, it sounds like  
18 your suggestion, Arnie, will be for the RAB members,  
19 the community RAB members as well, to have the  
20 opportunity to propose what they heard as an action  
21 item prior to that meeting between the co-chairs as  
22 they review the action items; is that right?

23 MEMBER LERICHE: Right. And  
24 especially if we added one, we should be able to  
25 know exactly, yeah, it was understood, it was

1 captured, or it wasn't. Because we've had  
2 duplicates created and they're just little versions  
3 of an earlier one, and that just confuses  
4 everything.

5 MR. SUELTENFUSS: Co-chairs, any  
6 immediate thought on that suggestion, or is that  
7 something that --

8 CO-CHAIR HENRY: We'll talk about it.

9 MEMBER VAUGHN: Make it an action  
10 item.

11 MR. SUELTENFUSS: All right. Okay.  
12 Well, so, we are now at the segment of tonight's  
13 meeting where we'll dive into the Air Force  
14 technical presentation.

15 We have -- let's see, again that  
16 BECOS, the Base Realignment Enclosure Environmental  
17 Construction Optimization services contract. Jay  
18 Mullett with Wood is here to provide an update.  
19 Jay.

20 MR. MULLETT: Good evening, everybody.  
21 Jay Mullett with Wood. I am the project manager for  
22 Wood on behalf of the Air Force. We are in a  
23 contract under the BECOS contract as a sub to the  
24 LATA-CTI joint venture, and I'm going to give you  
25 guys an update.

1           We took over the contract basically  
2 the beginning of July of '21, so this will be an  
3 update for the first, six, seven months of the  
4 contract. So, the contract -- the BECOS contract,  
5 the predominant objectives of this contract are  
6 remedial action operations, which is to continue the  
7 operation and maintenance of the treatment systems  
8 on base along with the long-term monitoring program  
9 for a lot of the IRP sites.

10           In addition to that, the contract also  
11 involves long-term management, which is I basically  
12 land use controls, inspections -- you know,  
13 inspections and documenting that the land use  
14 controls are in place.

15           For the year '21, we completed our  
16 annual sampling event where we sampled 148  
17 monitoring wells, 23 purge wells. All of this work  
18 took place between predominantly July and September  
19 of '21.

20           We did our land use control  
21 inspections. Those included interviews with  
22 property owners. And we completed that work in  
23 October/November of last year.

24           And in addition, we did an annual  
25 groundwater gauging event that we used to update our

1 model and update the capture plumes of -- the  
2 capture of the systems, that gauging event took  
3 place last week in November, first week of December  
4 of '21 where we gauged 450 locations across the  
5 base.

6 So, that's 450 monitoring wells.

7 Gauge the entire network along with staff gauges in  
8 Van Etten Lake at the dam along with Clark's Marsh.  
9 So, this -- obviously, the 2021 data will be  
10 presented in annual reports that are forthcoming  
11 that we are in progress of developing and will be  
12 submitting to the Air Force soon.

13 Just a brief update on the systems.

14 The operation and maintenance includes the operating  
15 of four treatment systems. The FT002 system, this  
16 is the existing system. Over the last six months of  
17 '21, our first six months of operation, July through  
18 December, we treated 54 million -- excuse me, 54  
19 million gallons of water that was treated in the  
20 FT002 system. The system was sampled in accordance  
21 with the SRDs, which are the Substantive Discharge  
22 Requirements, and we sampled monthly and weekly in  
23 accordance with those regulations.

24 And we also did optimization efforts  
25 to improve flow rates. Included purge well

1 cleaning, purge well replacement pump cleaning. We  
2 cleaned the conveyance lines with a high-pressure,  
3 high-compression air to increase flow rates, but  
4 overall, the FT002 system ran very well.

5 Yes, sir?

6 CO-CHAIR HENRY: Did you have to  
7 replace any wells?

8 MR. MULLETT: We did not have to  
9 replace any wells, correct. In addition, we did  
10 carbon changeouts. About every hundred days,  
11 changeouts at FT002 occurred in August and November  
12 of '21. So, basically, the sampling dictates when  
13 we need to do those changeouts, and FT002, we're  
14 pretty much on a regimen at about every hundred days  
15 right now when we're changing out those carbon  
16 vessels.

17 So, the next system I'll talk about is  
18 the central treatment system. This system, we  
19 treated 57 million gallons of water. Sampled the  
20 system weekly and monthly in accordance with the  
21 SRDs. We completed carbon changeouts at the central  
22 plant in December where we changed out two of the  
23 carbon vessels, and that was dictated by, obviously,  
24 the data. The previous changeouts were in February.  
25 So, we were able to see those plants run for -- the

1 carbon run for about nine months before changeout.

2 Optimization efforts that we did do  
3 included some mechanical and chemical well treatment  
4 to improve some efficiencies on a couple of the  
5 wells that were not at target. We were able to see  
6 a 21 percent increase in flow rates by doing those  
7 chemical and mechanical well treatments.

8 We also did replaced flow meters. We  
9 cleaned pumps, we pulled pumps. We replaced a  
10 couple of pumps. We also did some cleaning of the  
11 conveyance lines, once again, with high-pressure  
12 air, but also with high-pressure water jetting to  
13 improve flow and improve efficiency of the system.

14 Overall, the system ran very well the  
15 last six months of '21, and we'll see continued  
16 efficiencies this year.

17 MEMBER LERICHE: Can I ask a question?

18 MR. SUELTENFUSS: Sure.

19 MEMBER LERICHE: Those two systems  
20 treated the exact same amount, 54 million gallons.  
21 FT002 is a much smaller unit than central. I know  
22 central is not operating at max, but that's the  
23 design, but it's still larger than FT002. That  
24 number is correct?

25 MR. MULLETT: Yeah, 54 million and 57

1 million, that is correct, sir. Central has a much  
2 bigger capacity, we're only running it at about half  
3 capacity right now, and we're just pulling in water  
4 from the former Benzene and Arrow Street perk wells,  
5 but it's running at about the same capacity as  
6 FT002, currently.

7 Now, there is much more capacity to  
8 run it at -- it's actually rated for 500 GPM,  
9 but -- and that's part of what the IRA is, is adding  
10 those additional wells to treat more water at  
11 central. So --

12 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: And additional  
13 capacity.

14 MR. MULLETT: Correct.

15 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: So, the IRA will  
16 not only take up what's currently there, but it will  
17 add additional capacity to pick up more.

18 MR. MULLETT: Yes. It's adding the  
19 capacity for an additional 500 GPM. So, a total of  
20 a thousand GPM.

21 MEMBER LERICHE: A year and a half  
22 ago, we were told that central was operating at  
23 about 100 of available capacity was not being used.  
24 That seems to be a lot less being pumped through it  
25 than we were told soon after it started in 2018.



1 MR. MULLETT: Well, keep in mind, this  
2 is only the last six months. So, I don't want to  
3 -- this is just July through December.

4 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: So, this is only  
5 for the life of the BECOS contract.

6 MR. MULLETT: Right. Right. Yeah,  
7 this is sort of a six-month snapshot here. Sir, did  
8 you have a question?

9 CO-CHAIR HENRY: Just out of  
10 curiosity, when you clean the conveyance lines, did  
11 you have a lot of biofouling within those lines?

12 MR. MULLETT: Yes. Yeah. There is  
13 biofouling, there's obviously a lot of metals out  
14 here as well. All of those things play into that  
15 restriction that, you know, obviously impacts that  
16 flow. So, that is something that we will  
17 continually do, is clean out those lines to improve  
18 that efficiency.

19 MEMBER LERICHE: A possible thought to  
20 help the public understand these numbers and how  
21 they stay the same or they change, is possibly on an  
22 annual basis, that there's a chart, or maybe every  
23 six months, there's just an ongoing chart for these  
24 systems to show what's happening with them? I think  
25 the public would understand that versus they get a

1 presentation like this.

2 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: And our goal was  
3 to get up to speed as far as all of the documents  
4 that were out there, so we're getting -- those are  
5 all in long term monitoring and RAO reports. So,  
6 you have all the access to those up through 2019.  
7 We're working on finalizing the 2020 reports right  
8 now. And then you'll have all that information in  
9 your hands.

10 MEMBER LERICHE: I'm not getting --  
11 (Multiple speakers.)

12 MR. SUELTENFUSS: Let me turn to Arnie  
13 first to finish his question, and then I'll turn to  
14 those who are on the line. Go ahead, Arnie.

15 MEMBER LERICHE: The public needs to  
16 have a single chart for each -- or actually, all  
17 three systems on a chart for every -- every year to  
18 be able to see what's going on. These systems are  
19 going to operate 30 years. I'm not going to be  
20 around. But -- so it would behoove us, as a group,  
21 to kind of have this analysis put out on an annual,  
22 or every other RAB, in a way that they will  
23 understand when they see it, progress.

24 MEMBER PLACE: So, Air Force collects  
25 that information monthly in their monthly technical

1 status reports, so I think that they do have the  
2 information to be able to do that.

3 MEMBER LERICHE: Thank you.

4 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, could  
5 you tell me who was just speaking?

6 MEMBER PLACE: Beth Place. Sorry.

7 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

8 MR. SUELTFUSS: Okay. And,  
9 Quentina, did you have a previous question?

10 THE COURT REPORTER: No. She answered  
11 it. Thank you.

12 MR. SUELTFUSS: Okay. Thank you.  
13 Well, Jay, let's turn back to you.

14 MR. MULLETT: Okay. We'll turn to  
15 slide 17 for those that are viewing slides. Update  
16 of the Mission Street pump-and-treat system. The  
17 Mission Street system, we treated 43 million gallons  
18 of water, sampled the system weekly, monthly, in  
19 accordance with the SRDs.

20 We did see some -- we did do some  
21 optimization there as well, some purge well  
22 cleaning, including pump replacement, pump cleaning.  
23 We also -- and folks that are seeing the slides, we  
24 did do a retrofit with the bag filter assembly at  
25 the Mission system in December. We were changing

1 out bag filters about every 45 days on average.  
2 With the retrofit of adding the additional skid with  
3 the -- excuse me, did I say 45 days? My bad. 45  
4 hours, with the new assembly were added six bag  
5 filters. We increased that frequency or that  
6 duration to 155 hours on average, and that's only  
7 been in place about the last six weeks.

8 So, it's had some very positive --  
9 major positives to the system. Obviously, reducing  
10 bad pressure on the resin, which will increase the  
11 longevity of that resin material. And also, it's  
12 decreased the amount of downtime that the system is  
13 up and running. When we were changing out the bags  
14 every 40, 45 hours, we were basically shutting the  
15 system down every other day for about a half hour to  
16 an hour to do that. Now, we're only shutting the  
17 system down about an hour a week.

18 So, it may be small, in context, it's  
19 really only a couple of extra hours of up time.  
20 But, you stretch that out over the course of a year  
21 and it will have some significant improvement on the  
22 up time of the system.

23 MR. SUELTENFUSS: We have a question,  
24 Jay. Go ahead, Mark.

25 CO-CHAIR HENRY: I have two questions.

1 First of all, the bag filter that was added to the  
2 Mission drive system, is that the one that had been  
3 at the fire training or --

4 MR. MULLETT: That is the system, so  
5 we were able to reclaim that and reuse it. So, it  
6 was definitely a good way to be able to apply that.  
7 Correct.

8 CO-CHAIR HENRY: Second question is,  
9 bag filters are labor-intensive. Have you looked at  
10 other technologies to replace bag filters?

11 MR. MULLETT: We have looked at other  
12 technologies, and I think eventually we'd like to  
13 move into a -- you know, a type of filter or sand  
14 filter that we will have to -- we can eliminate bag  
15 filters in the future.

16 But, for the time being, this was a  
17 way that we could extend that life and certainly  
18 better the system's efficiency, but we are going to  
19 be looking at that over the course of BECOS.  
20 Certainly, over the next year or two, we've got some  
21 ideas about some filtration systems that will  
22 eliminate the use of bag filters altogether.

23 CO-CHAIR HENRY: Thank you.

24 MR. MULLETT: Yep. All right. The  
25 last system I'll touch on is the landfill 3031, the

1 engineered wetland treatment system. Over the last  
2 six months of '21, we treated over 70 million  
3 gallons of water. We -- you know, optimization.  
4 Once again, we did a lot of purge well cleaning and  
5 maintenance.

6 We did some mechanical well screen  
7 cleaning on purge well 5. We saw about an  
8 11 percent increase in flows off of that well after  
9 the cleaning, so we are seeing some improvement.

10 We did go ahead and we cleared a lot  
11 of trees and vegetation -- woody vegetation that was  
12 growing around the ponds in order to make sure that  
13 we had stability in our banks. We removed some of  
14 those that were -- that were at risk of reducing the  
15 stability of the banks on the ponds, but overall,  
16 the sampling at the system was completed in  
17 accordance with regulations, and the system ran  
18 according to plan.

19 So, I don't have any other updates in  
20 regards to the BECOS contract, but as I mentioned  
21 before, we are continuing to -- our operations and  
22 maintenance, all of our data that we collected last  
23 year, will be presented to us in the future of  
24 forthcoming annual reports.

25 MR. SUELTFUSS: All right. Well,

1 thank you. And Cathy Wusterbarth, we'll have a  
2 question with you, and then I'll turn to those who  
3 are on the phone, the RAB members who are connected  
4 virtually. So, Cathy?

5 MS. WUSTERBARTH: Just a small detail.  
6 You had mentioned some tree-clearing. Any time I  
7 hear about removal of items on the base, I worry  
8 about that. So, what actually became of the trees  
9 or, you know, shrubs or -- that you brought?

10 MR. MULLETT: They were left on site,  
11 but we just moved them away from the banks so that  
12 they weren't growing in and, you know, reducing the  
13 integrity of those banks. So, they're still on the  
14 landfill site.

15 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. SUELTFUSS: So, let me just turn  
17 to our RAB members who are connected virtually. Do  
18 we have any questions from those of you who  
19 connected through computer or phone? No? Okay.  
20 All right. Mark Henry?

21 CO-CHAIR HENRY: One final question:  
22 Do you do influence sampling in the treatment  
23 wetland or in the system for PFAS?

24 MR. MULLETT: In the wetland system?

25 CO-CHAIR HENRY: Well, the landfill

1 3031 treatment system begins with a waterfall, ends  
2 in perking into the ground. Do you test the water  
3 going into that system for PFAS?

4 THE WITNESS: I don't believe we are  
5 sampling for PFAS in landfill 3031. No, we are not.  
6 Just VOCs and metals is what we --

7 CO-CHAIR HENRY: Thank you.

8 MR. MULLETT: Uh-huh.

9 MR. SUELTFUSS: Other questions from  
10 the RAB members on this update? Okay. Well, Jay,  
11 thank you very much for that update.

12 MR. MULLETT: Thank you, folks.

13 MR. SUELTFUSS: Well, let me just  
14 check in with our co-chairs. We had scheduled a  
15 6:20 to 6:30 break, which is pretty much right on  
16 time. Are we good to take a ten-minute break now?

17 CO-CHAIR HENRY: Works for me.

18 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: That works for  
19 me.

20 MR. SUELTFUSS: All right. We'll  
21 move into a ten-minute break, we'll come back at  
22 6:30 and continue on from there. Just a note to  
23 those of us who are right here, the mics will still  
24 be active, and please use the handrails as you walk  
25 down those steps.



1 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Thank you.

2 MR. SUELTFUSS: Thanks.

3 (Off the record at 6:21 p.m.)

4 (Back on the record at 6:30 p.m.)

5 MR. SUELTFUSS: Welcome back. It is  
6 6:30, so we'll continue our restoration RAB meeting.  
7 We're on slide 19, RAB member questions. And let's  
8 see. So, this is an opportunity for the RAB members  
9 to engage in just additional discussion and ask  
10 questions, have some additional dialogue.

11 Again, if you're here in person and  
12 have questions, please just raise your hand. I will  
13 also check in with those who are connected  
14 virtually. You should already be un-muted, so if  
15 you un-mute yourself, we'll be able to hear you.  
16 And then if anyone has -- any RAB members have  
17 dialed in by phone, you can raise your hand by  
18 pressing star 9, lower it by pressing star 9 again.  
19 You can mute and un-mute yourself with star 6.

20 So, let me just first turn to our RAB  
21 members who are connected virtually to see if you  
22 have any questions.

23 All right. David Winn, go ahead, sir.

24 MEMBER WINN: I have two questions.

25 My first question is, I understand Catharine is

1 taking on a new project, so am I understanding --  
2 and my understanding is that Steve Willis is going  
3 to take over her role in this -- in working with the  
4 project team. I'd like to understand, and I think  
5 the RAB would probably like to understand, what is  
6 Steve's technical background, and is it such the  
7 same as what Catharine's technical background is?

8 MR. SUELTFUSS: All right. Thank  
9 you, David. And Steve, would you like to address  
10 that one?

11 MR. WILLIS: Sure. So, I started my  
12 career -- can you hear me?

13 MEMBER WINN: Yep.

14 MR. WILLIS: I started my career with  
15 the Air Force back in 1985 working on B52s that were  
16 actually stationed here at Wurtsmith. I was a  
17 structural engineer doing maintenance on them at  
18 Kelly Air Force Base, which is now a BRAC base and  
19 is closed. So, I've kind of come full circle from  
20 working at an active base to now working at a closed  
21 where B52s were stationed.

22 When the base closed, I transitioned  
23 from the aerospace industry into the environmental  
24 field. I was actually a support contractor for what  
25 was the predecessor of AFCAC, it was FC, for about

1 five years. In the last 16 or so years, I've worked  
2 for URSA doing environmental cleanup and MMRP work,  
3 and now I'm back with the Air Force again.

4 MEMBER WINN: Okay. And that's great,  
5 but I guess where I'm going is -- Catharine, correct  
6 me if I'm wrong, you -- based off your doctorate's  
7 degree, you understand geology, you understand  
8 toxicology and so on and so forth. Steve, do you  
9 understand that amount of work?

10 So, I guess my whole point in this is  
11 if you don't, is there someone -- a supplemental  
12 person that's going to come in and join the group  
13 that's going to take up that role?

14 MR. WILLIS: I have an understanding  
15 of -- of comprehensive environmental projects. Like  
16 I said, I've been a project manager the last  
17 16 years. So, I'm not a toxicologist, but I work  
18 with them. I understand the language. I work with  
19 risk assessors, I've worked with chemists, I've  
20 worked with biologists, I've worked with geologists.

21 So, yes, I understand the process, I  
22 understand the various fields required in  
23 environmental investigation and cleanup. But, as  
24 the program manager, I can bring all of those fields  
25 together.

1 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: David, I'd like  
2 to answer your question as well. So, we have built  
3 a team that has toxicologists, has hydrologists.  
4 You have met Janet Anderson, you have met our soil  
5 scientist, Hunter Anderson, you've met John  
6 Gillespie back in the day. All of these people will  
7 continue to support this group, everybody they've  
8 been working with. We have a good, solid technical  
9 team. Plus, we have Andrea and Ryan, they're here  
10 on site, and as you have questions and you have  
11 needs, we will continue to answer your questions,  
12 and we will continue to answer your needs. This  
13 team is solid. And right now, my management  
14 confirmed with me today that they are going out for  
15 more expertise to fill my position. So, this team  
16 will be strong and will proceed.

17 MEMBER WINN: Okay. That's my only  
18 concern, Catharine, is I just want to make sure --  
19 and I think the other RAB members want to make sure,  
20 because my question or concern is the people before  
21 you, your predecessors before you, Matt Marrs and  
22 Dave Gibson, I don't think either one of them had  
23 any kind of a technical background, therefore, it  
24 was not as beneficial as the current team that you  
25 have now.

1           So, I just want to make sure -- and  
2           that's the reason for my question, is to make sure  
3           that the team is still as solid as the team that you  
4           currently have right now.

5           CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Absolutely. The  
6           team is solid.

7           MEMBER WINN: Okay. That's my first  
8           question. My second question is, Steve -- and I'd  
9           like you and maybe Beth to explain, I think in the  
10          last RAB meeting, we talked a little bit about the  
11          lateness of the BCT meeting minutes. Since then,  
12          I've seen that you've been able to update a lot of  
13          those BCT meeting minutes as well as, you know, Beth  
14          has updated them and put them on the MPART website.

15          As I also understand, and I believe,  
16          there's a different process now of how the BCT  
17          minutes are going to be administered and brought in  
18          so that the community has access to them. Could you  
19          explain?

20          And I'd like Beth to also explain this  
21          different process so that we, as a community, and  
22          we, as the RAB, have assurance going forward that  
23          the BCT minutes, based on when the BCT meetings  
24          happen, that we are going to be in know of what's  
25          going on and not six months down the road.

1                   MR. SUELTFUSS: Okay. Let's start  
2 with Steve Willis and then we'll go to Beth. Go  
3 ahead, Steve.

4                   MR. WILLIS: So, we're actually  
5 looking at revamping the BCT process in general.  
6 The meetings have evolved over time and to more of a  
7 review of action items and the status of reports and  
8 documents, and less so on focusing on technical  
9 topics and reviewing them and coming to an agreement  
10 on a plan forward. So, we're shifting them back  
11 into more of that realm. We're trying to pick some  
12 topics with real meat to them, put together a  
13 briefing package, providing it to EGLE ahead of time  
14 so that they can prepare, and we come to this  
15 meeting, discuss a topic, come to some agreement on  
16 the plan forward for it, and the minutes would be  
17 much briefer than they have been, basically  
18 documenting the agreements reached in the meeting,  
19 and then we'll review them, we'll give them to EGLE  
20 for review, and then once they're finalized we'll  
21 provide those to the RAB.

22                   MEMBER WINN: Okay. But I understand  
23 that the Air Force is going to release a set of  
24 meeting minutes to the RAB, which I -- you just  
25 said, and then, as I understand, EGLE will review

1 those minutes, and then also if there are any  
2 additional comments that EGLE doesn't agree with,  
3 they will then update that and put it on the MPART  
4 website. Beth, is that correct or incorrect?

5 MEMBER PLACE: So, that's pretty much  
6 correct. So the -- the Air Force generates the  
7 first round of minutes. That comes to us as a draft  
8 final. We review them, it goes back to Air Force.  
9 They finalize them. At that point, Steve sent them  
10 out to the RAB, and they also continue, at that  
11 point, as a final document, and then I place them on  
12 the MPART website. In the past, there's been some  
13 comments that haven't been incorporated, so I've  
14 just highlighted that on the version that we placed  
15 on the MPART website.

16 MR. SUELTFUSS: David, does that  
17 address the question that you had?

18 MEMBER WINN: Yes, it does. Thank  
19 you.

20 MR. SUELTFUSS: All right. Thank  
21 you. And so do we have other RAB member questions  
22 virtually? All right. So, RAB member questions.  
23 Just an opportunity for discussion among the RAB  
24 members. I see Arnie has a question. Go ahead.

25 MEMBER LERICHE: A follow up question

1 to Beth and Steve. Will the BCTs still  
2 include -- you mentioned you're going to move more  
3 to a topic -- technical topic-based meeting, but  
4 will the BCTs still include status of the CERCLA  
5 process items of documents, and the movement of the  
6 different stages of production of the document by  
7 the contractor, you guys approve the Air Force, and  
8 then it moves to review by EGLE and so forth?

9 MR. WILLIS: We do not intend to go  
10 through them in that level of detail. It'll really  
11 be highlighting key documents that either we're  
12 preparing and giving EGLE a head's up that they're  
13 coming, or if a document is in EGLE's hands, letting  
14 them know that it's critical to the process and we  
15 need their comments. But, just keeping each other  
16 informed on key documents, not necessarily every  
17 single document and where it is in the process, but  
18 we do have tracking sheets for documents and for  
19 action items that we sent out on a regular basis to  
20 keep each agency informed of what's going on so that  
21 we don't spend two hours in a meeting going through  
22 item, by item, by item.

23 MEMBER LERICHE: Exactly, but those  
24 were not shared with us three or four years ago when  
25 I asked for them, but then every once in a while,



1 maybe once or twice a year, it would show up  
2 attached, that tracking sheet, to the BCTs, and that  
3 was so helpful for us to keep up with what documents  
4 are going through your process so we can focus our  
5 reviews and understanding. So, I would hope that  
6 you will include those as an attachment.

7 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: So, right now,  
8 they're not being tracked as a BCT, but instead,  
9 I've Andrea looking at those and tracking them for  
10 us, and then sending them out as RAB updates. So,  
11 they're highlighted as where each document is in the  
12 process. So, I think we've been sending those out  
13 every other month. We could probably send them out  
14 more regularly if we wanted to.

15 MR. WILLIS: Yeah, we can send those  
16 out monthly.

17 MEMBER LERICHE: I don't want to add  
18 work, but just attach it so it's together so there's  
19 a copy in the IR, there's a copy that's sent out to  
20 the RAB members so that we're staying abreast of the  
21 work that you're doing, I think it will help a lot.

22 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: The problem with  
23 what was happening was we were spending hours just  
24 going over documents that we could have looked at in  
25 five minutes and gone we know where we're at and we

1 know where our items are.

2 So, we weren't doing anything  
3 technical during the BCTs. It's time to get the  
4 BCTs back to decision-making sessions, not document  
5 review --

6 MEMBER LERICHE: I agree.

7 MR. SUELTFUSS: Steve, did you have  
8 a comment you wanted to --

9 MR. WILLIS: I was just going to say,  
10 we can send that out monthly to the RAB members.  
11 It's not something that goes in the admin record,  
12 because it's really not a document that we use to  
13 make decisions, it's more just of the status  
14 document. But, yeah, it's something we're already  
15 updating regularly anyways, so sending it to the RAB  
16 members is no problem. So, yeah, we can continue to  
17 do that.

18 MR. SUELTFUSS: And Beth Place,  
19 anything you'd like to add?

20 MEMBER PLACE: Just EGLE was  
21 supportive of the change in the minutes, then, you  
22 know, we're receiving the trackers, Steve and  
23 Catharine and I have started to meet, you know,  
24 weekly again, schedule-permitting, so we'll miss one  
25 or two here and there, to help keep on track for

1 those, but we're -- EGLE is very supportive of the  
2 more technical form of the meetings and  
3 decision-making.

4 MR. SUELTFUSS: Thank you. Okay.  
5 Yes, Tim Cummings?

6 MR. CUMMINGS: Hi. Dr. Varley, I'd  
7 like to reopen the question from earlier regarding  
8 the storm sewer. The question was -- well, your  
9 answer, I should say, was that you were putting  
10 together a plan and that it was up for getting  
11 approval.

12 I guess my question here is, is what  
13 is the plan? Because we -- as a township, I'm not  
14 in that meeting with you, but I guess once a month,  
15 each month you meet with the superintendent, Bill  
16 Palmer and possibly others from the Township, and we  
17 haven't had a meeting with you in a couple of  
18 months, but what is the plan that is being proposed?  
19 And -- that is my first question. I have a followup  
20 after that.

21 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: The plan is to  
22 line the infrastructure. So, we have been talking  
23 with the Township for -- hold on. Can you guys hear  
24 me better now? Let's just take this off. All  
25 right. Sorry about that.

1 All right. So, we've been talking  
2 with the Township for the last year working through  
3 the logistics, getting the money lined up, making  
4 sure that we have a path forward. We have done our  
5 cost analysis, looking at what it would take if we  
6 were to put our own line in versus a partnership  
7 with the Township.

8 We have shown our management what it  
9 would take, it has gone up to leadership, and we  
10 expect a good path forward where we're collaborating  
11 and we're moving forward together.

12 This also goes forward for, as we  
13 talked about, stormwater in the RI, and making sure  
14 that we have a comprehensive look at all the  
15 difference places that stormwater is going, and as  
16 we move forward just as a whole to make sure we  
17 understand our delineation of these plumes and where  
18 we can actually take action as soon as possible.

19 MR. CUMMINGS: Okay. Good. So, in  
20 this plan, does this mean that you're going to be  
21 proposing taking over, as the Air Force, the  
22 ownership of the storm sewer system in order to do  
23 the sliplining?

24 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: No. We are  
25 going to pay the Township to do the lining.

1 MR. CUMMINGS: You pay them to do it?

2 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: We are going to  
3 give them the funding so that --

4 MR. CUMMINGS: Okay. I got it.

5 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: -- they can get  
6 the contractor to do the work.

7 MR. CUMMINGS: Okay. Got it.

8 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: That is what we  
9 have talked with both Tammy and Annabelle.

10 MR. CUMMINGS: Okay. Good. That  
11 wasn't clear with them, because they're asking me.

12 So, the next topic here is several  
13 years ago when we had the central system installed,  
14 we sent -- as an agreement, we were charging the Air  
15 Force for the storm sewer. And several invoices  
16 were paid for the use of the storm sewer for the  
17 water that is filtered and then released from the  
18 system, goes into Lake Huron.

19 So, since then, we have no longer been  
20 paid for the storm sewer in central. When the  
21 Mission Street system was put online, all of that --  
22 all the payments stopped.

23 So, the question here is what is the  
24 plan for this? If you're not assuming  
25 responsibility for the ownership of the system, but

1 you're going to pay us for that, is that -- are you  
2 looking for something, Dr. Varley?

3 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Oh. I've got  
4 phone a friend going on right now. I like phone a  
5 friend, my whole entire team will help me respond to  
6 your questions, so it always works this way, so --

7 MR. CUMMINGS: Go ahead. Go ahead.

8 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Yeah. So, what  
9 we're talking about is a ready-to-serve fee and a  
10 sliplining of the problem area, the area where there  
11 are breaks and birds get in. And yes, the goal is  
12 to pay a responsible party a ready-to-serve fee.

13 MR. CUMMINGS: Got it.

14 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: And we've got to  
15 be careful with language, because the language  
16 that's used brings down different restrictions that  
17 we shouldn't be talking about in the first place,  
18 because we're not talking about stormwater, we're  
19 talking about infrastructure, we're talking about  
20 utilities, we're talking about moving treated water  
21 down a system.

22 MR. CUMMINGS: That's right. And a  
23 system that, frankly, was built decades ago and not  
24 meant nearly for the volume that you're using it  
25 for, which is part of the reason why we're concerned

1 about this. So, good, yes, clarification in terms  
2 is important.

3 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: And I still do  
4 not see it as the final remedy. So, just to be  
5 clear, we are moving towards a final remedy, and at  
6 the pace we're going, I'd like to see it -- final  
7 remedy getting implemented around 2025. So, if we  
8 keep pace --

9 MR. CUMMINGS: As final remedy, what  
10 do you envision that to look like so we --

11 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: It's going to be  
12 based on our findings. But, honestly, if you look  
13 at FT002 and how we're using the infiltration there,  
14 we could use infiltration to get better pasture, we  
15 could use infiltration to actually make sure that we  
16 are recirculating and cleaning out the groundwater.  
17 And not having a continuous source that's bypassing  
18 any of our systems.

19 MR. SUELTFUSS: Just a note, Rex  
20 Vaughn, we see your hand up and we'll come to you  
21 here in just a moment, but --

22 MEMBER VAUGHN: Thank you.

23 MR. SUELTFUSS: -- Mr. Cummings, any  
24 further questions?

25 MR. CUMMINGS: I'm good. I'm good. I

1 was just letting her answer the question.

2 MR. SUELTFUSS: All right. Okay.  
3 Let's turn to Rex Vaughn with a question.

4 MEMBER VAUGHN: I'm looking for a  
5 clarification from Catharine. You pronounced the  
6 word "relining" quicker than I could process it, but  
7 are you talking about a polymer liner inside the  
8 existing drain?

9 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Yes, that's  
10 correct.

11 MEMBER VAUGHN: Okay. Thank you.  
12 That was my only question, because that's a way to  
13 extend life of an existing structure and not have to  
14 replace it; is that correct?

15 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Yes, sir. The  
16 other complication that we've come across is that  
17 there's a garage over the top of part of the line  
18 that's broken, so we have to think about the  
19 infrastructure that is there and how to best repair  
20 it, right, or make it so that we're not -- the best  
21 solution for the area in the situation.

22 MEMBER VAUGHN: Okay. Is that garage  
23 on private property?

24 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Yes, sir.

25 MEMBER VAUGHN: Why don't you just buy



1 it?

2 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: What?

3 MEMBER VAUGHN: Buy it. Knock it  
4 down.

5 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: We can't do  
6 that. We're trying to turn over land. I'm working  
7 with the airport right now to turn over land.

8 MEMBER VAUGHN: Well, then buy it and  
9 give it to them for a dollar. But you've answered  
10 my question, thank you.

11 MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. Thanks, Rex.  
12 And to Arnie Leriche.

13 MEMBER LERICHE: The storm sewers, the  
14 whole conversation for the last three years has been  
15 about reimbursement for use and things like that.  
16 And you mentioned tonight that it's mostly, or it  
17 is, a conveyance of the treated water from your  
18 pump-and-treat systems.

19 In addition to that, it is also a  
20 storm sewer. It's receiving stormwater off roofs of  
21 buildings, and things like that, on the base. There  
22 are sections where it could be picking up,  
23 occasionally, with rain events, actual groundwater,  
24 contaminated groundwater, potentially, and so --  
25 while the street floods.

1           So, anyways, my point is this: Does  
2 the RI work plan include a sampling and analysis of  
3 any potential contributions of PFAS coming through  
4 -- collected by and coming through the storm sewer?  
5 Because I've seen that analysis as an RI item in  
6 other bases, other RI studies going on right now.

7           CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: To look at the  
8 clean water that we're discharging; is that what  
9 you're talking about?

10           MEMBER LERICHE: No. Potentially  
11 contaminated water.

12           CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: From where.

13           MEMBER LERICHE: Anywhere. I don't  
14 want to get into the details, but --

15           CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: I'm confused  
16 right now, Arnie.

17           MEMBER LERICHE: I can show you a  
18 couple of bases where the RI includes those  
19 analysis. Peterson Air Force Base is one that comes  
20 to mind. So, there's an example that you can take a  
21 look at and see if there's an application --

22           CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: So we are --

23           MEMBER LERICHE: -- that should be  
24 done here.

25           CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Phone a friend.

1 We are helping -- sorry, I've got multiple coming in  
2 at once. We are helping the airport with their  
3 understanding of stormwater as they've replied to  
4 EGLE, and we are going to continue that as well as  
5 with the Township. Yeah, so we are working with our  
6 partners to address that.

7 MEMBER LERICHE: Because pre-treatment  
8 kind of raises its ugly head too, on connections  
9 from anything that's on the base. But, this would  
10 be the time to address that, as you're helping  
11 other -- the airport, and the --

12 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Yeah, we're  
13 doing a comprehensive, and that meeting got  
14 cancelled this week. Sorry, I wasn't understanding  
15 where you were going with it. But, yeah, we are  
16 meeting with the airport and the Township to come up  
17 with a comprehensive understand of what the  
18 stormwater looks like.

19 MEMBER LERICHE: But is it an item in  
20 the RI?

21 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Yes. Correct,  
22 sir. That's part of -- yes.

23 MEMBER LERICHE: And when will we see  
24 that? With the work plan?

25 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: As soon -- well,

1 I don't know how much detail is in the work plan,  
2 but that will be coming out as soon as the Township,  
3 and the Air Force, and the airport meet, and come up  
4 with the overall comprehensive plan.

5 We have met with the airport. They  
6 were provided a non-compliance that's been involved  
7 as well. And we came up with where we are going to  
8 start sampling, but we need to look at it as a  
9 holistic versus a single round, just a single spot.

10 MR. SUELTFUSS: Let me turn back. I  
11 see you have a follow up question and then I'll --

12 MEMBER LERICHE: Well, the RI --

13 MR. SUELTFUSS: Let me just jump in  
14 and make sure we're all speaking one at a time. Go  
15 ahead, Arnie.

16 MEMBER LERICHE: I mean, the RI is the  
17 heart of the CERCLA program to move to the next step  
18 of the feasibility. And we've got some other things  
19 going on. The Township is doing studies the last  
20 couple of years -- excuse me, let me finish -- with  
21 the State on the wastewater treatment plan and other  
22 things. You've got work that you're doing with the  
23 airport on -- and including the stormwater and so  
24 forth, but that's all well and good, I'm glad it's  
25 happening, however, it's -- wherever it applies to a

1 potential contamination source, it needs to be  
2 into -- in the RI, and I'm a little surprised that  
3 it's not already an action -- an item in the plan.

4 MR. SUELTFUSS: And Dr. Varley?

5 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: We are looking  
6 at it with the RI. So -- and we are doing it  
7 comprehensively with our partners, the Township, the  
8 Forest Service, and the airport.

9 MEMBER LERICHE: Okay.

10 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Thank you, sir.

11 MR. SUELTFUSS: All right.

12 Actually, Mark Henry had a hand up, and then Beth,  
13 I'll turn to you. Go ahead, Mark.

14 CO-CHAIR HENRY: Well, I was going to  
15 put a little more specificity to Arnie's question.  
16 The stormwater sewer that discharges to a three  
17 pipes ditch is coming from the airport direction,  
18 and that outfall contains PFAS above rule 57  
19 numbers, to the best of my knowledge. And it's  
20 coming out of a storm sewer. And to paraphrase  
21 Arnie's question, is an effort going to be made to  
22 find where the groundwater that -- or whatever  
23 source is providing that PFAS to the storm sewer is  
24 determined during the RI, and potentially stopped as  
25 part of the remedial action?

1 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: The answer is  
2 yes. I've got many different types of "Yes", but  
3 the answer is yes.

4 CO-CHAIR HENRY: Okay. Thank you.

5 MR. SUELTFUSS: Thank you, Mark.  
6 And to Beth Place.

7 MEMBER PLACE: Yes. I just wanted to  
8 mention that Air Force is working with our -- with  
9 OI and our emerging contaminants unit from the Water  
10 Resources Division, I've been involved in some of  
11 those discussions to sample stormwater outfalls.

12 In addition to that, EGLE does have  
13 comments for Air Force to have a comprehensive look  
14 at the stormwater inputs to PFAS contamination  
15 during the remedial investigation. So, that is  
16 included in the EGLE comments.

17 MR. SUELTFUSS: Just -- yes.

18 MEMBER LERICHE: That's something --  
19 Catharine, I think what you're doing is you're  
20 receiving input from other -- your team?

21 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Yes, my team --

22 MEMBER LERICHE: And that's great, I'm  
23 glad it's happening. I wouldn't expect you to have  
24 all the answers. However, it would be very helpful,  
25 such as in the meetings that we used to have, that

1 your contractors stand up and we know who is  
2 talking, we know, if there's a follow up later on,  
3 who --

4 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Arnie --

5 MEMBER LERICHE: -- is answering these  
6 things, because this happened at the last meeting in  
7 this room, and --

8 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: So, part of this  
9 is that our team -- a lot of people were taken out  
10 by COVID in the last couple of weeks. They were not  
11 allowed to travel, they were texting me instead of  
12 talking, I would rather them save their voices, save  
13 their energy, provide me what they --

14 MEMBER LERICHE: Perfect. All I'm  
15 suggesting, is it possible that those people be  
16 added to the attendees list, and that when you  
17 receive something, just say I just received this  
18 from X, Y, Z and this is what the answer is.

19 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: We are one team.  
20 We will function as one team. I'm getting it from  
21 everybody all at the same time, so if Mark wants to  
22 come in, I've got four different responses all at  
23 the same time of "Yes". We will function as one  
24 team.

25 MEMBER LERICHE: Thank you.

1 MR. SUELTFUSS: Other questions from  
2 the RAB members? Yes, sir. Mark Henry?

3 CO-CHAIR HENRY: I have a question  
4 that was submitted to me by Joe Maxwell, who is not  
5 here today. And as a background to his question,  
6 let me state that a few years ago, I'm guessing  
7 seven years ago, eight years ago, DEQ, at the time,  
8 did a study on Wurtsmith Air Force Base and found  
9 where water that had been in the water distribution  
10 system on the base had been isolated for some  
11 reason, shut off, and the State went in and sampled  
12 that water within water supply lines from fire  
13 hydrants, hot water heaters from buildings that were  
14 no longer being used, et cetera, and found  
15 relatively high levels of PFAS in those samples.  
16 And the -- if it is true that the PFAS was in the  
17 water distribution system, and that water  
18 distribution system serviced not only the workers on  
19 the base, but also the families on the base in the  
20 housing area, it is very likely that there was some  
21 exposure to PFAS.

22 So, Joe Maxwell's question is, is the  
23 USAF going to wait to test the veterans and  
24 employees who served here -- wait a minute.

25 Is the Air Force going to wait to test



1 the veterans and employees who served here, or wait  
2 until they are all dead to finally run blood tests  
3 on them to find out if they were exposed to PFAS  
4 while they were living here?

5 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Okay. So, first  
6 things first, we are in charge of cleanup, we do not  
7 do health. But, that being said, we are the  
8 representatives of the Air Force here on site,  
9 right? I have looked at that report. That report  
10 is a single report that has some data in it. It  
11 does not show the modeling or the timeframes of when  
12 that was fully turned off. We do know that the  
13 wells were abandoned around -- I believe it was 1993  
14 or something along those lines, and from that, there  
15 was no data taken for PFAS before that actually  
16 happened. So, we didn't know that PFAS was an issue  
17 before those drinking water wells were  
18 decommissioned.

19 We also know that it wasn't every  
20 single fire hydrant that actually was hot. So, we  
21 don't know what people could have actually been  
22 drinking. If the data doesn't exist, I don't know  
23 how to analyze it. I looked at it myself as well,  
24 and I have a health background.

25 CO-CHAIR HENRY: I understand, but

1           there is -- that report is highly suggestive that  
2           there was PFAS in the water distribution system.  
3           And the question that Joe is asking is, is the Air  
4           Force going to be looking at service members and  
5           employees who were potentially -- and families who  
6           were potentially exposed to those chemicals in the  
7           water distribution system in a sooner than later  
8           scenario? Because people are getting older and  
9           people are dying.

10                   CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: So again, we do  
11           cleanup.

12                   CO-CHAIR HENRY: I get that.

13                   CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: The color of  
14           money we work with is cleanup money, it is not  
15           health. We depend on ATSDR and we depend on DHHS  
16           and DHHS to provide the health, right?

17                   CO-CHAIR HENRY: Who's going to do the  
18           detective work?

19                   CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Cathy, can you  
20           help me out here?

21                   MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: Yes. I'd like to  
22           add to the comments that Mark is saying that -- and  
23           also include that some of us on the RAB are meeting  
24           with Secretary Kidd on a quarterly basis and  
25           presenting questions to him, one of which was about

1 the exposure to veterans and their families on this  
2 site, and he indicated the same answer you did,  
3 which is there's no data to support that those  
4 family were exposed to PFAS in the wells that were  
5 created here in 1985 and were used through 1993.  
6 Just the suggestion that there was no PFAS in those  
7 huge plumes that those wells were placed on is  
8 utterly ridiculous, and I believe that the community  
9 members that have lived here at the time think the  
10 same thing --

11 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: So, let's go  
12 from a technical standpoint, right?

13 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: I don't want to  
14 argue science on it, because it's just -- I just  
15 don't want to argue that.

16 MR. SUELTFUSS: I'm sorry, go ahead  
17 and finish any comment --

18 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: But we do have  
19 the opportunity to ask the Department of Defense  
20 these questions, and I want to address the blood  
21 sampling, or the, you know, health monitoring.

22 We didn't receive a report on this,  
23 and it is in the works, it's in an exposure  
24 assessment through State of Michigan, that people  
25 who live in Oscoda will be able to participate in

1 it, it will be starting in the spring/summer of this  
2 year going through the end of the year, and it will  
3 include blood sampling, exposure questionnaire in  
4 terms of PFAS exposure, and possible water sampling.  
5 So, that will be an opportunity for veterans that  
6 have ever been here, or been here since 2012, and  
7 have visited Oscoda in the last ten years. So,  
8 that, again, is not a RAB responsibility, but it  
9 does address maybe Joe's question.

10 MR. SUELTFUSS: I didn't hear the  
11 organization that will be doing that.

12 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: Department of  
13 Health and Human Services, the State of Michigan.

14 MR. SUELTFUSS: Okay. Great. So,  
15 let me just check in with Puneet Vij, and see,  
16 Puneet, if you have anything that you'd like to  
17 share on this.

18 MEMBER VIJ: So, yes, as Cathy  
19 mentioned, there's going to be an exposure  
20 assessment starting this year in summer, and  
21 depending on the eligibility criteria, like, anyone  
22 who had -- who ate fish, deer, or wildlife, like,  
23 after 2012, they will be eligible. This exposure  
24 assessment is still in the planning and development  
25 phase right now. There will be updates. That's

1 why, regularly, we meet, our community advisory  
2 team, and Cathy is a part of that. So, yeah, there  
3 will be a blood draw as well as there will be water  
4 sampling.

5 MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. Thank you,  
6 Puneet. And, you know, one of the beneficial  
7 aspects of these Restoration Advisory Boards, even  
8 though the focus is on environmental restoration, it  
9 draws in organizations with lots of different  
10 competencies. And so when questions come up that  
11 may not be ones that get resolved in a Restoration  
12 Advisory Board, at least we can direct them to the  
13 proper agency.

14 Mark, I know you started that question  
15 on behalf of others, but let me just turn back to  
16 you, see if there's further questions that come to  
17 mind, further discussion. Go ahead.

18 CO-CHAIR HENRY: I wanted to raise the  
19 issue, that's why I provided a little background to  
20 Joe's question, but I think that this needs to be  
21 discussed on a higher level. I think that the Air  
22 Force really needs to do detective work in the RI to  
23 find out if there was exposure at this base, and at  
24 other bases that are going to be looked at. The  
25 State found some creative ways to find water that

1 had been incapsulated in areas that was left over  
2 from base operations. I'm sure that could be done  
3 at a lot of BRAC places.

4 MR. SUELTFUSS: Dr. Varley, any  
5 response or --

6 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: I'm still trying  
7 to figure out how. How would we do that and how  
8 would that help with cleanup?

9 CO-CHAIR HENRY: It won't help with  
10 cleanup at all. It will help understanding if  
11 service members and their families have been exposed  
12 to PFAS while they were living on the base.

13 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: I'm still trying  
14 to figure out how do you track something that was  
15 only used during a specific timeframe and you don't  
16 have the data to model it? And I'm thinking about  
17 it from a military perspective, right?

18 So, military members, and even some of  
19 us GS members, every three years or so, we get a new  
20 assignment, we move to a new base. How do you know  
21 that the exposure was from a specific location  
22 during a specific point in time?

23 CO-CHAIR HENRY: Well, for -- for  
24 transitory military people, it becomes more  
25 difficult, granted. But, there were civilian

1 workers who work on the base for their careers.  
2 Working on their base for 20, 25 years of their  
3 career as civilians working for the U.S. government.  
4 And those people were at Wurtsmith. And a few of  
5 those people are still around. And it's an  
6 opportunity to find out what kind of exposure they  
7 had while they were working on the base.

8 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: And I assume all  
9 of this was taken to the ATSDR already?

10 CO-CHAIR HENRY: I haven't brought it  
11 to them, have you? I asked ATSDR to take a look at  
12 Wurtsmith Air Force Base, the people that worked  
13 here, and the military families that worked here  
14 about two years ago, and they said they'd get back  
15 with me, and they haven't.

16 MR. SUELTFUSS: And ATSDR is the  
17 Agency for Toxic Substance and Diseases Registry.

18 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: And they work  
19 very closely with DHHS. So, DHHS, do you have any  
20 other thoughts on this?

21 MEMBER VIJ: I'm sorry, can you repeat  
22 that?

23 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Do you have any  
24 other thoughts? I mean, when I start thinking about  
25 this and how military works, and how people move, I

1 just don't understand how the data will be used or  
2 how you can tell what the sources really, truly are,  
3 and then how that helps us progress.

4 MEMBER VIJ: So, I agree with you.  
5 It's like maybe the exposure would have happened,  
6 but without any knowledge about the concentrations  
7 and -- you know, from that particular time, any  
8 discussion will be not certain enough. Like, you  
9 know, so -- we don't have the data from that time.  
10 So, I think that's what I'm going to add. That's  
11 it.

12 MR. SUELTENFUSS: Arnie, I'll come to  
13 you in just one moment. Puneet, you mentioned some  
14 exposure assessment activities. If you might be  
15 able to provide that information to myself or the  
16 co-chairs for that to be communicated as well.  
17 Arnie, we'll go to you.

18 MEMBER VIJ: Sure.

19 MEMBER LERICHE: Well, first off,  
20 Catharine, you've sort of said that it's not  
21 remediation, and that's what the Air Force is here  
22 for, and from my knowledge of CERCLA, you're  
23 correct, because the Air Force now says there is no  
24 current exposure through drinking water coming from  
25 the base. It's debatable a little bit, maybe on the



1 east side of Van Etten Lake, but, generally, you're  
2 right, because there's no municipal water coming  
3 from groundwater on the base.

4 So, therefore, the process is -- and  
5 we went through this, and I helped some of the  
6 veterans group in 2017, '18, that the Department of  
7 Health and Human Services can submit a request  
8 through ATSDR to request a health assessment be  
9 done. It was done back then in the summer of 2018,  
10 the veterans submitted a letter to the ATSDR and  
11 they did a health assessment for TCE and the VOCs.  
12 They completed that a year and a half later, and  
13 that's the same kind of study that the Camp Lejeune  
14 used for Congress to authorize a special medical  
15 monitoring and help to the vets and so forth. That  
16 has not happened -- I don't know if Jake is still  
17 here -- okay. It was a bill that Kildee submitted  
18 two years ago, it didn't move forward, and now  
19 there's one being developed for PFAS. So, that is  
20 the process for that.

21 And as long as there's no pathway for  
22 drinking water exposing anyone in Oscoda or in the  
23 area, then the Air Force is not really involved,  
24 except for maybe helping with records, which vets  
25 were here and so forth. So, I think that's the

1 answer on that, but I think the Department of  
2 Health, in fairness to the vets, because I know a  
3 number of them firsthand and I've worked with them  
4 four years ago doing this, they deserve better than  
5 they've been receiving. And so that's definitely a  
6 topic. And I would suggest you add it as an AI,  
7 action item, that you're going to pass on to the  
8 Department of Health to move it that way. That's  
9 what I would suggest.

10 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Hey, Puneet?  
11 So, Arnie wants to make a health AI, action item.  
12 Is that something that you're willing to chair, that  
13 you're willing to take?

14 MEMBER VIJ: If it's related to the  
15 same question. So, as ATSDR also mentioned, you  
16 know, without sufficient information, it's not  
17 possible to determine if there was an exposure in  
18 the past. It may have happened, but without  
19 data --

20 MR. SUELTFUSS: Okay. Let me move  
21 to Cathy Wusterbarth. You've been very patient.  
22 Cathy, go ahead.

23 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: Yep. I'm  
24 wondering if we could allow Jay Bennett to address  
25 this a little bit for us. I think he has some

1 history that he could share. Would you be willing  
2 to come up, Jay? Come to the microphone.

3 MR. SUELTFUSS: Come to the mic.

4 MEMBER LERICHE: We need Congressional  
5 help.

6 MR. SUELTFUSS: And this is Jake  
7 Bennett?

8 MR. BENNETT: Yes, Jake Bennett,  
9 Congressman Dan Kildee's office. A couple of  
10 things.

11 So, we obviously -- we've been working  
12 on this. I've worked on VA case work for almost 20  
13 years, and I know it's very difficult for people,  
14 for veterans, specifically, to connect all of the  
15 dots. You have to say how much were you supposed to  
16 at that level, does this health condition happen, do  
17 you have this health condition, a lot of other  
18 things like that, and that's why it's so difficult  
19 to connect all the dots. What they're looking at is  
20 were they exposed to it.

21 So, for also being a firefighter, I'm  
22 very familiar with the fire hydrants. The dry  
23 barrel ones that we have right now, typically, they  
24 have holes in the bottom of it to allow them to  
25 drain. Unfortunately, a lot of those holes get

1 clogged, so the water is not allowed to come out,  
2 and that's why in a lot of these fire hydrants, the  
3 PFAS is at different levels, because some of them  
4 have been able to be flushed and go out, some of  
5 them have not been able to be flushed. So, that's  
6 why they're seeing these varying numbers.

7 So, the reason why the Congressman  
8 introduced the Vet PFAS bill is, because like Agent  
9 Orange, it's so hard to prove at what level you were  
10 exposed, how long ago. So, with that bill, it  
11 created a presumption, and the Congressman  
12 essentially modeled it after the Agent Orange one to  
13 say if you were exposed, we're going to presume --  
14 and if you were exposed, and we know from the CA  
15 study, a lot of these health conditions are the  
16 result of exposure to PFAS, then we're going to  
17 presume that that's because of that exposure to the  
18 Department of Defense.

19 So, like with other conditions, we  
20 have a good knowledge, through the CA study, that a  
21 lot of these health conditions are recurring in  
22 somebody who has been exposed to a lot of PFAS. So,  
23 that's why it's difficult, but what I think you're  
24 getting at is the VA has a duty to assist when  
25 somebody files a VA claim. It's the VA's

1 responsibility to gather as much information for  
2 that veteran, for their claim, as possible.

3 So, what they're looking at where the  
4 Air Force and the DoD can help out with is getting  
5 as much information as they can about what those  
6 prior exposures are. So, that's why it's so tough  
7 right now for these veterans to get claims for PFAS  
8 exposure, is because they didn't know to look for it  
9 back then to get this information.

10 So, that's kind of what the problem  
11 is, what the veteran's problem is, so any additional  
12 information, we can try to get, even if it's  
13 modeling, because we know the plumes were in the  
14 area where this water was being drawn out for the  
15 base. So, we know right now, from the mappings, we  
16 know the plume is from a specific plane crash that  
17 happened, we know when that plane crash happened, we  
18 know that the foam was put on there, we know this  
19 plume is because of that, so we can probably  
20 confidently say that the PFAS in the plume where the  
21 wall was being pulled up for the water to put for  
22 the base, we know that probably had PFAS.

23 So, any of this data, this background  
24 information you guys can provide, it can help the VA  
25 in their duty to assist for these people's claims,

1 but obviously, separate from that, we're trying work  
2 on the vet PFAS bill that will just presume that if  
3 you were exposed to it and you have this condition,  
4 it's because of your exposure to PFAS. I hope that  
5 kind of fills in some of gaps here.

6 MR. SUELTFUSS: Thank you for that  
7 summary, sir.

8 MR. BENNETT: All right. Thanks.

9 MR. SUELTFUSS: So, I do just want  
10 to be cognizant of the time we have, and I know this  
11 important topic will be what we start off our public  
12 comment period with as well. Before we move into  
13 public comment period, let me just see if there are  
14 further RAB member questions.

15 MEMBER LERICHE: Just one quick point  
16 so we don't further confuse things. The response  
17 that the Air Force made to someone who requested  
18 what is the Air Force doing about -- and are they  
19 using that study. And the answer that came back  
20 said the Air Force doesn't know anything about it.  
21 I did some quick research, because I knew Bart  
22 Delaney presented the capture zone, which was a  
23 modeling report, and the hydrant data to the RAB on  
24 August 30th of 2018. That's a month after that  
25 report was finalized, so it's on our record for the

1 RAB, you did not have the ability to know that fact,  
2 but whoever was involved in answering that response  
3 did not do their homework, and we need to do a  
4 little bit better job.

5 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: So, what I'm  
6 getting from my team is that, based off of our  
7 knowledge and what we've looked at, we did not know  
8 that the plumes were there during that time --

9 MEMBER LERICHE: That what?

10 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: That the plumes  
11 were, actually, in fact, there at that timeframe in  
12 those --

13 (Multiple speakers.)

14 MR. SUELTFUSS: Go ahead, Dr.  
15 Varley.

16 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: So, I'm just  
17 going to read it: "We did not know the plumes were  
18 there when the wells were used. There was a flaw in  
19 EGLE's capture study." No, that was not a response  
20 that was accurate.

21 MR. SUELTFUSS: Okay. Again, we do  
22 have a veteran's group that will be leading off  
23 public comment on this same topic. Before we move  
24 into the public comment period, just want to see if  
25 there are further RAB member questions. Mark Henry?

1 Go ahead.

2 CO-CHAIR HENRY: I came into this  
3 meeting with the hope that someone from the Air  
4 Force would explain to the RAB the changes in the  
5 conceptual site model that have been made since the  
6 beginning of the RI. The RI appears to be a third,  
7 maybe a half done, and the conceptual site model was  
8 a dynamic thing, and so I was hoping that someone  
9 could give us an update on how the conceptual site  
10 model has changed, either at this meeting, which  
11 would be good, but perhaps a more formal  
12 presentation at the next RAB meeting.

13 And that, in future RAB meetings, that  
14 this topic is reoccurring; how is the Air Force's  
15 understanding of what's going on evolving during the  
16 course of the RI.

17 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: So, this is  
18 something that I did actually want to touch on,  
19 however, Colin Plank, who is actually doing a lot of  
20 our modeling for us was not able to be here due to  
21 other complications. So, we will have it at another  
22 meeting, because I need the right people at the  
23 right time.

24 CO-CHAIR HENRY: Okay.

25 MR. SUELTFUSS: Okay. Well, thank



1 you. And let me just check in. Looks like no hands  
2 up from the RAB members who joined virtually. Last  
3 call for any RAB members' questions? Yes, Beth  
4 Place?

5 MEMBER PLACE: So, during that  
6 discussion on current groundwater being consumed, so  
7 residential wells, EGLE just wondered if the Air  
8 Force would be revising their residential well  
9 survey during the remedial investigation, since the  
10 plume is expanding, we would want to make sure that  
11 the Air Force understands what residential wells may  
12 be impacted.

13 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: It's not under  
14 contract at this point in time, but it's something  
15 that we continue to talk about.

16 MEMBER PLACE: Okay.

17 MR. SUELTFUSS: Thank you, Beth.  
18 Okay. So, let's move into the public comment period  
19 and continue this discussion, if we could.

20 So, slide 21 provides some guidelines  
21 for our public comment period. Again, these RAB  
22 meetings are essentially in two parts; one is  
23 conversation among the RAB members, and then the  
24 second part, which we're now entering, is  
25 conversation from other public members -- attendees

1 either in person or virtual. So, we're now in that  
2 public comment portion of the meeting, and opening  
3 the floor to the members of the public who are not  
4 RAB members to share comments they have, concerns  
5 they have. Again, those of you who are in person  
6 and who'd like to make a comment, you can come down  
7 to the microphone here. If you've joined virtually  
8 or by computer, you can raise your hand  
9 electronically. If you're on the phone, you can  
10 press star 9 to raise your hand and star 9 to lower  
11 it again. Again, star 6 to mute and un-mute  
12 yourself.

13 Let's go ahead move to slide 22, if we  
14 could. And we have a leadoff comment by the  
15 Veterans and Civilians Clean Water Alliance. I  
16 wanted to turn to Senior Airman James Bussey, if we  
17 could ensure the number ending 7884 is un-muted.  
18 And Senior Airman, please go ahead and speak if  
19 you're able to.

20 MR. BUSSEY: Well, I'm James Bussey, I  
21 worked at the Air Force Base from 1989 to 1992. To  
22 hear the recent news that the Air Force denied  
23 documentation that we were exposed to high levels of  
24 PFAS is really just another slap in the face not  
25 only to veterans, but our dependents and the people

1 of Oscoda.

2 And as far as being tested for PFAS, I  
3 was put into a special VA in 2017 after multiple  
4 requests to then Secretary Shulkin. I was sent to a  
5 risk center and tested four or five different PFAS  
6 compounds, all which returned in phenomenal numbers.  
7 And I will authorize Cathy Wusterbarth to release  
8 those test records, because she has access to my  
9 group files. And also Jake Bennett has access to  
10 those group files. And the VA contamination  
11 specialist, Dr. Ursanewby (ph) -- forgive me if I  
12 don't remember her first name -- concluded the only  
13 way I could have been exposed to such high numbers  
14 was from my service at Wurtsmith.

15 So, I'm your test subject and, you  
16 know, anybody who wants to talk to me, I am more  
17 than willing to share with you any information you  
18 would like. And really -- and I'm imploring you to  
19 take proper action for the citizens of Oscoda. I  
20 mean, we -- you know, deny, deny, deny until you  
21 die, and unfortunately, that's really happening  
22 quite a bit.

23 I run a group called Veterans and  
24 Civilians Clean Water Alliance, which is based on  
25 Wurtsmith Air Force Base, and daily, I get dozens of

1 messages from veterans, "I have cancer." We did a  
2 health poll. Wurtsmith veterans and their  
3 dependents suffer from exotic cancers and other  
4 diseases at an unbelievably higher rate than the  
5 national norm, and to have the Department of the Air  
6 Force deny this is just absurd. And really, that is  
7 all I have to say.

8 And I actually -- actually, there's  
9 one other thing. I'm the one who had the ATSDR  
10 health assessment reopened. They would only do it  
11 for the volatile organic chemicals. They declined  
12 to do it for PFAS, which reasons were already  
13 explained. But, unfortunately, when are we going to  
14 be able to seek help from the town? I mean, we keep  
15 hearing, "We need to study this. We need to study  
16 this more." You can study it to death, folks. You  
17 caused the problem and it's up to you to fix it.  
18 And that's all I have to say.

19 MR. SUELTFUSS: Thank you very much  
20 for your comment, sir, we appreciate those. And you  
21 mentioned Cathy Wusterbarth. Cathy, let me see if  
22 there's anything that you'd like to add?

23 MEMBER WUSTERBARTH: No. He was just  
24 referencing his health records that -- yeah, we  
25 certainly can submit those to the Air Force via this

1 RAB if that's something you find interesting.

2 MR. SUELTENFUSS: All right. Okay.  
3 Thank you very much, sir. Let me just check to see  
4 if there are other representatives of the Veterans  
5 and Civilians Clean Water Alliance that would also  
6 like to speak?

7 Okay. I know Mr. Tony Spaniola had  
8 signed up to make a public comment. So, Mr.  
9 Spaniola, we will turn to you for your three-minute  
10 comment, sir.

11 MR. SPANIOLA: Thank you. Can you  
12 hear me?

13 MR. SUELTENFUSS: Yes, sir. Can you  
14 try that one more time? You were a little bit low.

15 MR. SPANIOLA: Okay. Is this better?

16 MR. SUELTENFUSS: It's a bit better.  
17 Let me ask if we can adjust that. Try one more  
18 time.

19 MR. SPANIOLA: How about now?

20 MR. SUELTENFUSS: Okay. I think that  
21 works. Yes, sir. Go ahead. Thank you.

22 MR. SPANIOLA: Thank you very much.  
23 There's a number of things that I want to talk  
24 about, not the least of which is this -- the issue  
25 with the veterans and their families. But, just a

1 couple of things first.

2 In a recent meeting that we had with  
3 some officials at the Pentagon, I was personally  
4 assured that there is sufficient funding to  
5 accomplish everything that needs to be done at  
6 Wurtsmith, and if that were not the case, that I  
7 were to report to that person at the Pentagon to let  
8 them know, and that that would be straightened out.  
9 So, if any funding -- if there are any funding  
10 issues within the Air Force on this cleanup, I would  
11 ask that that be relayed to me or to NOW and we will  
12 follow up.

13 Secondly, the remedial investigation  
14 process, the fact that it's being done in secret, is  
15 not acceptable. I'm hoping that something can be  
16 done to fix that. I know that in other situations  
17 at other bases in the country, it has happened that  
18 there has been ongoing involvement and back and  
19 forth between the community members and the Air  
20 Force while the RI was in development, and I hope  
21 that's something that can happen here quickly.

22 With regard to the BCT meetings,  
23 people from the community should be allowed in,  
24 period. And as a backup to that, we have a court  
25 reporter here tonight transcribing everything. All

1 this back and forth with minutes and reviews, and  
2 back and forth, bring a court reporter to the  
3 meeting, transcribe the meeting, and issue these  
4 transcriptions right away. Delays are not  
5 acceptable.

6 Now, with regard to the veterans at  
7 Wurtsmith and their families, the treatment that  
8 they are receiving is unconscionable. In the  
9 military, it's supposed to be soldiers first. What  
10 we're hearing is that it's soldiers last, if ever.

11 The Department of Defense issued a  
12 statement in response to a public engagement session  
13 question denying any acknowledgment of any data that  
14 would show high levels of contamination in the  
15 drinking water. The scientist from the Department  
16 of Environmental Quality conducted the  
17 investigations, including the reports that were  
18 provided, has called that a flat-out lie. Those  
19 aren't my words, those are his. And the Department  
20 of Defense had the opportunity to correct that after  
21 being interviewed by a news reporter from MLive.  
22 The Department of Defense doubled down and continued  
23 to say, "We don't know anything about this." And  
24 I'm going read a quote from the scientist Bob  
25 Delaney: "Even if we had never produced any data,

1 it's ridiculous. Anybody going to that base knowing  
2 the history of PFAS, knowing the groundwater flow,  
3 knowing how this stuff travels, would know that  
4 people were drinking this stuff at high levels.  
5 This is not rocket science. This is basic 101  
6 environmental geology."

7 Now, the Air Force should not be  
8 punting this issue to DHHS. It's the Air Force's  
9 responsibility to take care of the people who have  
10 served our country. And to kick them under the bus  
11 and to continue to kick the can down the road on  
12 this, is just totally unacceptable. Our community  
13 can't stand for this. And this is not the end of  
14 this issue, I promise you.

15 Dr. Varley, I ask that you talk to  
16 your superiors and figure out a way to help these  
17 people. That's what we're supposed to be here to  
18 do. They put their lives on the line for us, this  
19 is not a time to be sweeping them under the rug.  
20 Thank you.

21 MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thank you, Mr.  
22 Spaniola.

23 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: All right, Tony.  
24 I'd like to take a second just to talk to everything  
25 you said, at least in overview.



1           So, the big thing comes down to how we  
2 look at data and what data we have available. We  
3 try to make data-driven decisions, and we work with  
4 ATSDR and DHHS to make those decisions.

5           Cathy, I ask that you provide the  
6 records to DHHS so that they may share them with  
7 ATSDR and decide any appropriate paths forward. And  
8 we will do our due diligence to continue to work to  
9 make cleanup efforts, because that is our job and  
10 that is what we are tasked with. We will do what we  
11 can to contain, capture, remove source areas as fast  
12 as we possibly can.

13           MR. BUSSEY: Yeah, this is James  
14 Bussey, I have another question. Not a question,  
15 but a statement.

16           MR. SUELTFUSS: Go ahead and make a  
17 comment, you have three minutes.

18           MR. BUSSEY: Okay. Real quick here,  
19 like I said, I'm your test subject. The VA  
20 determined, after 200 e-mails to Secretary Shulkin  
21 (inaudible) called me, they determined that it could  
22 only have come from Wurtsmith.

23           So, again, you know, please take my  
24 health records, my exposure records to your  
25 superiors, because there's your answer. And I was

1 only there for three years. So, what about the  
2 people who have been there longer? What about the  
3 dependents that grew up there.

4 Again, to have the Air Force deny  
5 this, it's unacceptable. You know, veterans are  
6 dying every day. Dependents are dying every day.  
7 And unfortunately, we're -- we're not being taken  
8 care of by the VA. It's taken me ten years to get  
9 where I am. I'm constantly fighting.

10 And I'm -- I'm just upset that the Air  
11 Force is continuing to say we don't know about any  
12 documentation. Well, again, here I am.

13 MR. SUELTFUSS: Senior Airman  
14 Bussey, thank you very much for those comments and  
15 also for providing that information. And it sounds  
16 like your suggestion to Dr. Varley was that that  
17 information be provided to MDHHS --

18 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Yes.

19 MR. SUELTFUSS: -- for the possible  
20 -- conveying to the agency to document substances  
21 and --

22 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Correct. Our  
23 job is cleanup, their job is health. We need to  
24 move forward in this together, and the best way to  
25 do it is to get the health agencies doing the

1 health, and we will do what we can to support what  
2 we can. A lot more goes into it than just the three  
3 years at Wurtsmith. It's what was your career, what  
4 was your exposure, what was your diet like. There's  
5 a lot more that the health agency would need to get  
6 into, so -- and that's not our job as cleanup.

7 MR. SUELTFUSS: I believe we also  
8 have a comment or a response from Dr. Steven  
9 TerMaath, so Dr. TerMaath, we'll turn to you.

10 DR. TERMAATH: Yes, thank you very  
11 much. I just want to try to clarify some things  
12 too. First of all, the Department of the Air Force  
13 does care very much about those who have served and  
14 served well, and we recognize that, and we do it.  
15 The part of the Air Force that you're dealing with  
16 tonight can only speak to what we have in front of  
17 us, and I think it's important to note that I  
18 realize Mr. Delaney has thrown dispersions on the  
19 Air Force with regard to that, but the very study  
20 that his data was in, DEQ concluded that there is no  
21 way to know the concentration or the duration  
22 of -- that was in the water. And that's been the  
23 problem for the health agencies to now try and  
24 figure out that.

25 The Department of the Air Force and

1 knowing where the wells were and everything  
2 acknowledges that it's extremely likely and probable  
3 that there were exposures by those who were either  
4 assigned or civilians that worked on there, but it's  
5 not known what concentrations were needed, and so --  
6 were exposed. And so -- and if you also look at the  
7 report, there was something like 22 samples taken of  
8 the hydrants or whatever. 7,000 was the highest.  
9 But over half of those samples that were taken were  
10 below the EPA health advisory level. So, those are  
11 some of the things that came into play in reaching  
12 that.

13 We don't -- from a health perspective,  
14 the Department of Air Force is not analyzing the  
15 acceptability or anything else of the data. We  
16 provide that data and the health agencies are doing  
17 their best to figure it. Let's face it, we got EPA,  
18 we've got the Agency of Toxic Substances and Disease  
19 Registry working on it, and the VA, others are all  
20 trying to figure out, what does the science tell  
21 them that it is? I recognize there's some empirical  
22 data that's been presented here tonight that says  
23 more -- that it exceeds the rates of cancers  
24 compared to the normal population, all of those  
25 things on there.

1           So, I apologize that we're not able to  
2 address the health issues. Well, I don't apologize  
3 as much as I say we're unable to address those, and,  
4 you know, Mr. Kidd's office is working very  
5 diligently with the other agencies to try and get  
6 any information they can give us that would be  
7 useful in how we address the cleanup activities that  
8 we do. And sorry for the interruption on that, but  
9 I did want to help get those clarifications.

10           MR. SUELTFUSS: Thank you, Dr.  
11 TerMaath, we appreciate that input. Let me just  
12 check to see if there are other public comments to  
13 be made. Again, if you are here in person and would  
14 like to make a public comment, please come up to the  
15 microphone. If you've connected electronically,  
16 please just raise your hand electronically. If you  
17 are on the phone, please press star 9 and that will  
18 raise your hand.

19           If you would like to, would you share  
20 your name and then make a three-minute comment?

21           MS. SMITH: Sure. My name is Heather  
22 Smith, I actually was born right here on Wurtsmith  
23 Air Force Base.

24           As far as the health stuff, I get it,  
25 you guys -- it's the cleanup thing. At the same

1 time, I do want to say that I was born on the base.  
2 I lived on the base for nine years. My dad pretty  
3 much stabilized here. When the base closed down, he  
4 went to New York for a year and a half until he  
5 retired, we stayed here. So, there are some of us  
6 that have that exposure that's really just here. If  
7 you saw where I live, which is off of Colbath, you  
8 could argue that, that I've been exposed since, but  
9 I do have a sibling that was quick to get out of  
10 this town. You know, once she turned 18/19, she was  
11 out of here. So, this was her primary residence as  
12 well, she's had no exposure anywhere else. I just  
13 wanted to kind of throw that out there that we're  
14 here, there are some of us that are here that this  
15 is our only place. You know, I -- I left here, I  
16 joined the military myself. I left for ten years, I  
17 came back. And then -- so that's all I really have  
18 to say on that. We're out here, we really are.

19 And I wanted to comment on the access  
20 agreements. Being someone that lives, like, off of  
21 Indian Trail right off of Colbath, most of the  
22 people out there that I have interactions with are  
23 summer people. So, if you're sending out those  
24 letters for those agreements during the fall and  
25 winter months, there's a good chance that they're

1 not going to respond, because they're not permanent  
2 residents here.

3 Also, I know, like, there's a  
4 sportsman's club that has lake access right there.  
5 There are -- there's cabins, there's also a public  
6 access. Are we looking at those things to be able  
7 to put testing wells out there?

8 So, I think the target population,  
9 especially in my area too -- there's not very many  
10 of us that are permanent residents back there, most  
11 of them are rentals. So, I think taking into  
12 account that when you're looking into our areas that  
13 are contaminated, you know, how many rentals are  
14 back there, how many are permanent, and then making  
15 sure you're targeting the right people. If they're  
16 seasonal, then we have to make sure we're reaching  
17 out downstate to those people that live down there.

18 MR. SUELTENFUSS: Thank you very much  
19 for your comment, Ms. Smith.

20 CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: Thank you,  
21 Heather.

22 MR. SUELTENFUSS: And thanks for just  
23 the emphasis that this is not a conceptual or a  
24 hypothetical discussion, this is real life, you  
25 know.

1           Are there other public comments to be  
2 made in person, virtually, over the phone, or some,  
3 as of yet, undeveloped method? Anything else to  
4 share?

5           Okay. Well, so, we have gone through  
6 the full agenda that we had in front of us, and  
7 co-chairs, I think we're at the conclusion  
8 adjournment portion of the meeting, but I just  
9 wanted to turn to you both for any closing comments  
10 you have.

11           Mark, if you'd like to start off, and  
12 I'll turn it to Dr. Varley.

13           CO-CHAIR HENRY: I'd just like to  
14 thank everybody for participating in this that was  
15 able to, and I hate to see Dr. Varley go.

16           CO-CHAIR DR. VARLEY: I'd like to  
17 thank everybody that's part of this team. The team  
18 really does extend beyond the people that are with  
19 the Air Force, beyond the people that are at these  
20 tables. It's everybody that's working together  
21 every day to make progress, and progress will  
22 continue. Thank you all.

23           MR. SUELTFUSS: All right. Well,  
24 thank you all very much. We are adjourned, and  
25 thank you for your participation. Have a good



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night.

(Meeting adjourned at or about the  
hour of 7:40 p.m.)

Minutes certified by:



-----  
/s/ Quentina Rochelle Snowden, CSR-5519  
QRS Court Reporting, LLC  
800.308.0068, 810.691.4226  
Dated: March 8, 2022

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