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1 SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED
2 STABILIZATION OF IN-WATER FACILITIES
3 FOX ISLAND LABORATORY
4 FOX ISLAND, WASHINGTON
5 Taken Wednesday, April 17, 2002
6 NICHOLS COMMUNITY CENTER
7

8 APPEARANCES:

9 STEVE BINGHAM
Adolfson Associates, Inc.

10 LLOYD SKINNER
Adolfson Associates, Inc.

11 CAPTAIN STEVE PETRI
Naval Surface Warfare Center
12 Carderock Division

13 BOB KOLLARS
Naval Surface Warfare Center
14 Carderock Division

15 BILL BAXLEY
Fox Island Laboratory

16 MIKE BASS
Fox Island Laboratory
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1 MR. PETRI: Welcome to our open house. This
2 is our scoping meeting. My name is Steve Petri. I'm
3 the commanding officer of the division of which Fox
4 Island is a detachment. We planned out an evening here,
5 and I think that we allowed too much time for just
6 milling about and discussing. So we're on track right
7 now to start at 7:30 with a succession of presentations
8 and introductions and discussions.

9 But in the interest of being efficient and not
10 wasting people's time, I wanted to offer you the
11 opportunity to start doing something between now and
12 then. We're going have to stick to the agenda just
13 because we have to stick to the agenda because it's an
14 agenda. Okay? But I know there are some other folks
15 coming and they're expecting to be able to come in a
16 little bit later and fit into the program.

17 But our thought is maybe we can give you an
18 introduction to what it is we're talking about doing
19 with our consolidation of the facility here. Matt, if
20 you want to use some time now to go over here.

21 MATT CORSI: I can wait. There's a couple of
22 guys in front of me that wanted to --

23 MR. PETRI: Whatever you want to do. My
24 thought is, I got this sequence of events that we're

25 starting at 7:30 and not going to waste your time. I
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1 think next time we do a scoping meeting like this, we
2 won't allow for quite so much time for sitting around
3 and discussing.

4 But what's your thought? What would you like
5 to do for the next 40, 45 minutes?

6 AUDIENCE: Start.

7 MR. PETRI: Okay. Start, knowing that we may
8 have to go and repeat some stuff at 7:30 whether folks
9 come in. Would that be all right?

10 MEMBER: Who is it that's going to be arriving
11 at 7:30?

12 MR. PETRI: I don't know. This is a community
13 invitation. If they're coming in at 7:30 thinking that
14 it's at the beginning of something and we're in the
15 middle, we kind of owe them the courtesy to bring them
16 up to speed of where we are. I don't want them to
17 suffer for our planning for too long a period to have
18 this. What do you think? Open to your suggestions.
19 Start?

20 AUDIENCE: Let's start.

21 MEMBER: Do you have some sort of formal
22 presentation?

23 MR. PETRI: We do have some sort of formal
24 presentation and then talk about the whole process we're
25 going through and then opening the floor for comments,

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1 however the comments might take place. So everybody in
2 favor of getting started a little bit earlier then?

3 AUDIENCE: Yes.

4 MR. PETRI: Anybody opposed to that?

5 AUDIENCE: (No answer.)

6 MR. PETRI: Anybody undecided?

7 AUDIENCE: (No answer.)

8 MR. PETRI: With that then, why don't we get
9 started.

10 I'm here because I care deeply about what
11 we're doing. I'm back in Bethesda, Maryland, which is
12 on the right coast, you know. And there are really are
13 people that live there. But we take very seriously what
14 we're doing and we're embarking now on a process. One
15 of those laws that has legislative common sense.

16 National Guard made a policy act that says,
17 "Whenever we do work that impacts the environment of the
18 folks around us, we owe it to those folks around us to
19 involve them and get their position, their comments,
20 their ideas, and their concerns, to make sure we address
21 all those and any actions that take place. It's common
22 sense. I support it 100 percent.

23 And I came out here to make sure that we
24 started all this off on the right foot so that you know
25 that's what we're about. We want to approach the work

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1 that we do in a way that's responsible. We're your
2 neighbor and you're our neighbor and we want to be good
3 ones. We take that very seriously.

4 We're in the process of a process. The
5 process that we go through for coming through the
6 assessment of outlining alternatives and getting your
7 comments and addressing them is a formal one that's laid
8 out in the act and makes sense. This is one of the
9 steps in doing that.

10 And as we come through this, the folks who are
11 involved in what's going on tonight will outline that
12 process for you. But we have a number of different ways
13 that we'll be able to get your comments either in
14 writing tonight or you can mail them in or we have a
15 court reporter that's recording all of the dialogue, a
16 number of venues we have for getting your comments. We
17 want to make sure all those that are open to you, and we
18 want to get everything that you can think of so we can
19 factor all of those things into our plan here.

20 Carderock Division is the parent organization
21 of Fox Island. We are an element of the Naval Surface
22 Warfare Center. Our particular responsibility is for
23 ship and ship systems, haul and machinery.

24 We're in the haul machinery electrical
25 business for the entire fleet, basically three Navy's:

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1 the Navy that we got at sea right now, supporting it and
2 keeping it fit to fight; the Navy that we're buying now
3 that's on the way, and we support all the work that goes
4 into it; and also the Navy that's on the drawing board
5 for the 10, 15, 20 years from now. We have a role in
6 all of that. And to a certain extent, the Fox Island
7 Laboratory plays into that as well.

8 So I'm here from the Carderock Division. We
9 also have the Engineering Field Activity Northwest.
10 There are several folks here from that organization.
11 That's a Navy organization that does the engineering,
12 the civil engineering function for Navy. They are up in
13 Silverdale. Still Silverdale?

14 MEMBER: Paulsbo.

15 MR. PETRI: Paulsbo, now. Okay. But they're
16 up there on the Kitsap. And it is the Kitsap? It
17 hasn't moved, right? Just need to make sure.

18 And then we have supporting us a contractor,
19 Adolfsen Associates, who is actually going do --
20 supporting us tonight and they're actually going do the
21 work of the Environmental Impact Statement as we're
22 coming through. That's quite a lengthy process that
23 we're going to be working through for the next year or
24 more, and we'll outline all that for you.

25 With that, I'm going to check my notes to make

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1 sure I haven't forgotten anything I wanted to say. So
2 we're really here to listen tonight. We want to hear
3 what you have to say.

4 And with that, do you have any questions for
5 me? I'm going to be here the whole time, if I don't
6 answer your question now --

7 MEMBER: If you weren't planning an expansion
8 of the facility, is there a process for examining

9 what's currently there and how it might be currently
10 affecting the shoreline?

11 MR. PETRI: That all comes into the same --
12 once we get into the consolidation of what's there, we
13 assess what is there, and how what's there is impacting:
14 environment, aesthetics, all those things. So our
15 intent is to take a look at all of those things and come
16 through the issues, in a win/win approach.

17 MEMBER: Captain, do you have a comparable
18 facility as the Fox Island Laboratory on the east coast
19 or any place else in the United States?

20 MR. PETRI: No, we don't. Now, we have other
21 facilities all other the country. The Carderock
22 Division has ten detachments all over the country, but
23 none has what Fox Island has. Ready access to a port,
24 ready access to an airport, the location that we have
25 here with the bog as it is, the depth and the bog

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1 contour, access from sea to be able to bring ships in
2 here. There's nothing anywhere else in the country that
3 has all of those things put together.

4 We considered long ago when we were first
5 talking about the physical plant years and what we had.
6 Do we consolidate? Do we close up shop and move, and
7 there's no place to move to. So that was a pretty early
8 assessment that we made.

9 MEMBER: So the Bangor facility, something
10 along like Bremerton cannot be adequate to do the
11 testing that you're required?

12 MR. PETRI: Correct. The canal up by Bangor
13 is not deep enough, and there's no airport -- no port
14 facility nearby. Of course, there is the submarine
15 base. There's nothing more quite like it.

16 MEMBER: What port facility do you use?

17 MR. PETRI: Tacoma and Seattle.

18 Depending, to make it work. Get the tug
19 service working. That's what makes it convenient. When
20 you're talking in practical terms of how you actually do
21 work, if it takes you hours to get to work there, that
22 all contributes to an inefficiency of the facility. And
23 in this day and age, if we don't get our efficiency up,
24 the budget is just not there for us to be able to
25 continue to deliver the product that the Navy needs for

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1 the national defense. We are constantly driven for more
2 cost effectiveness.

3 And this is a little bit of a side -- because
4 we're an industrially-funded activity, we function like
5 a business, even though we're the Navy. I know that's
6 kind of strange and unnatural, but we're an industrial
7 facility. We do not just have money to spend any time
8 we want to spend it.

9 We actually have to go out and get work, and
10 other activities have to bring work for us. Our work
11 generates the overhead. The overhead supports the
12 infrastructure. It's a great challenge. It's like a
13 game of chess. The rules are very simple but the game

14 is phenomenally complex. We're a business that runs
15 with profit-incentive, but our incentive profit is 0.
16 And it's an interesting experiment that we
17 have been marketing for 30 years now. That drives us,
18 to the bottom line, to that little rabbit trail, is that
19 it drives us to behave like a business. And so just
20 like any other business, if we have an efficiency, we
21 have money that's not buying a product, we are exiting
22 those areas right and left because we can't afford to
23 sustain them.
24 Any other general questions? Okay. I'm going
25 to turn it over to Steve Bingham.

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1 MEMBER: Can you describe more specifically
2 what you do out here?

3 MR. PETRI: We have folks who can give you
4 more detail. Some of the folks will talk about that in
5 a collage of photos. But Bob or good ol' what's his
6 name over there with the long pants on -- I'm told he
7 never wears long pants. Janise says he sleeps with long
8 pants on. They can talk about all of those things. We
9 do underwater research in the machinery areas generally,
10 but we don't get into the particulars.

11 MEMBER: You kind of lost me when you said you
12 are like a corporate-profit organization.

13 MR. PETRI: What don't you get when you say a
14 profit --

15 MEMBER: You make underwater devices and sell
16 it on the open market.

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18 MR. PETRI: I would love to do that. In
19 general, what we wind up doing, we'll patent things and
20 we'll license patents for other folks to manufacture.
21 Generally, we don't get into the business of
22 manufacturing and selling stuff. In fact, I can't think
23 of any time that we did.

24 We're in the technology business. We're not
25 in competition with the industry. We do the things that

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1 industry can't do or doesn't do or won't do. But think
2 of it in terms of we do the research piece and test and
3 evaluation piece and the life-cycle piece of ship system
4 engineering from a technology perspective for the Navy.
5 And then when it comes to components and things like
6 that, we typically either team with the industry or buy
7 from industry or whatever.

8 We're licensed in the industry to do that.
9 But we don't make very much money doing it. It's not a
10 profit-making business. We only do about \$20 million of
11 business a year outside of the Navy. We do about
12 \$850 million a year total.

13 MEMBER: I guess that's one way to help. I've
14 got a question to describe who your customer is and they
15 call the plumbing to support you.

16 MR. PETRI: That's right, yeah. To support
17 them or to develop a technology or to test or whatever.
18 Those are the kinds of things that we do. But they

19 bring the money to us to do that.

20 MEMBER: Who is your customer?

21 MR. PETRI: It's mostly other activities
22 within the Navy. It's either, in some cases, the Office
23 of Naval Research or it's the program executive
24 officers, who are those people who are charged with
25 actually buying the stuff that the Navy feels whether

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1 it's the aircraft carriers or the submarines or
2 whatever. And they hire us to staff either their
3 offices with engineering talent and science talent, work
4 to do tests for any number of things.

5 MEMBER: Can they go elsewhere if they choose
6 not to use you?

7 MR. PETRI: In general, they could. There's
8 nothing that mandates that they come to us other than
9 we're the ones with the expertise.

10 MEMBER: You started out by saying that was a
11 business. Since you're in business with somebody that's
12 in competition to find a man who rides the business, and
13 you're saying you have a monopoly on the business --

14 MR. PETRI: Right, but it runs under
15 business-type rules with industrial funding. It's
16 weird. It looks like a doctor, acts like a doctor, but
17 it's not a doctor.

18 MEMBER: I guess I'm not seeing the depth.

19 MR. PETRI: You're not the only one. There
20 are rules around it. It's not as if we're an industry.
21 We are not an industry. We don't have those same kind
22 of things.

23 MEMBER: You're the Navy.

24 MR. PETRI: We're the Navy, not a business.
25 But I can't go out of business if I don't make the ends

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1 meet. That is a reality.

2 I'll turn it over to Steve Bingham from
3 Adolfsen Associates.

4 MR. BINGHAM: I had a long introduction for
5 Captain Petri and he got up in front of me a little bit.
6 I won't bore you with that.

7 My name is Steve Bingham. I'm with Adolfsen
8 and Associates and we're contracted with the Navy for
9 this project. We're in charge of doing EIS, working
10 with the Navy, and we'll evaluate all alternative
11 stabilization methods.

12 Tonight is basically your opportunity to
13 provide input, scoping the EIS, which issues we will be
14 looking at in the EIS. Regarding alternatives, some of
15 you may have looked at some of the boards that chose the
16 four alternatives we're looking at. We thought it would
17 be instructive to provide a little more detail in that
18 and Bill Baxley will say a few words about the details
19 of the board. Would you like to have that forward?

20 MR. BAXLEY: Yeah, actually that may help.
21 Just bring that forward, please.

22 As Steve said, my name is Bill Baxley, and I'm
23 the environmental manager for Fox Island as well as

24 other detachments. I'm actually based out of Fort
25 Lauderdale, Florida. But because we have similar

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1 issues, some of the coastal stuff down in Florida as
2 well as up here, they decided to give me this project
3 and did my familiarity.

4 So basically, the captain gave a good overview
5 of what Carderock as a whole does. And the boards point
6 to what the facility does. But what I'm here to explain
7 too you is, basically, the situation we have right now
8 with the physical part of the facility and it's
9 relationship to the beach and some of the alternatives
10 that we're looking at to improve those aspects: the
11 facility, possibly the beach, and also personal safety,
12 which is something that's come to the light of way.

13 The overall project is basically to stabilize
14 our in-water facilities at Fox Island Lab. Basically
15 what we do at Fox Island, we have a few barges that we
16 use for doing underwater research, acoustic research and
17 other things that need -- an inland coastal area with
18 relatively deep water that Carr inlet affords us.

19 And what's happened since -- we've been at
20 Carr Inlet since the '50s. That's when the range was
21 established. And a lot of the mooring systems that we
22 used for our current facilities were installed in the
23 '50s. And over the years, just like anything, they've
24 aged and have begun to deteriorate and be damaged by
25 storms and things like that. So now it's at a point

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1 where we realize that if they continue to deteriorate,
2 eventually we could have a problem that would drive us
3 into a reactionary standpoint as opposed to carefully
4 planning out and evaluating the solution to the problem.

5 And the main problem that we have is
6 stabilizing our in-water facilities and improving safety
7 for the people to work here and also ensuring that we
8 can continue to do the mission here at Fox Island.

9 MEMBER: Stabilizing from a --

10 MR. BAXLEY: From a mooring standpoint, from
11 keeping our flooding access where they are now and being
12 able to withstand the forces of the storm, tide, and
13 other physical aspects. What I'm talking about is the
14 physical facilities we have here, not stability as far
15 as business.

16 So in order to do that, basically what we've
17 done is we started looking at the problem and seeing,
18 No. 1, how we got where we're at, and the potential
19 alternatives of solving this problem. And also taking
20 the opportunity to gain any comments that the public may
21 have regarding our facility and make sure that we
22 consider that as part of our environmental process.

23 So one of the opportunities that we've had a
24 few years ago was to purchase a concrete pontoon
25 section, which I had a poster of it back there from the

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1 Makah Indian Tribe. This was basically an offer that
2 came up that either they had -- the Department of

3 Transportation gave a lot of these pontoons to the Makah
4 Indian tribe. They had them stored up at their
5 property. Basically, they decided they didn't need them
6 so they were starting to sell them off.

7 So we heard of that and we thought, Well, that
8 might be a potential solution to our mooring problems.
9 So taking the opportunity, we purchased the pontoon and
10 we currently have it stored up in the Naval Station
11 Everett pending this review and making sure that it's
12 the right thing to do here at this facility.

13 MEMBER: When did you purchase that?

14 MR. BAXLEY: Where did we purchase that?

15 MEMBER: When did you purchase that?

16 MR. BAXLEY: We purchased it, I believe, in
17 late '99 or early 2000.

18 MEMBER: Specifically, what are the mooring
19 problems that you're talk about?

20 MR. BAXLEY: The mooring problems,
21 basically -- when the system is held together right now,
22 we have wooden dolphins, a bunch of wooden piles driven
23 into the ground and tied together. We have mooring
24 lines going from there to hold our barges in place. We
25 also have anchors going out into the inlet for holding

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1 that side -- the outboard side of the barges.

2 In addition, in order to get our main 241
3 barge out in the water deep enough so we can work and do
4 diving operations, we need to be far enough offshore to
5 get proper depth contour. In order to do that, we have
6 two smaller barges basically acting as spacers off to
7 the end of the piers so we can get out to that water
8 depth, and those barges were originally used to hold --
9 to suspend the submarines that's shown back there. We
10 used to do those in the early '80s.

11 Since we came up this morning, we hooked
12 everything together to maintain our current
13 configuration. Over time, there are barges that have
14 rusted, we haven't had the opportunity to repair and
15 maintain them because we just couldn't take them out of
16 the system. And just over time, they begun to
17 deteriorate.

18 MEMBER: Over time, has that depth decreased?
19 Is that one of the reasons why you're trying to extend
20 it? Previously, was the depth adequate for your
21 experiments?

22 MR. BAXLEY: Previously, before we came into
23 this particular configuration, we primarily did more
24 submarine work further out in the center. We didn't do
25 as much diving work which necessitates the deeper water

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1 right into the barge. So as our mission involved and
2 changed, this requirement for deeper water right under
3 the barge became more to the forefront, and that's why
4 we're trying to get it out as far as we could. So
5 that's one of the reasons that we have it spaced out
6 there.

7 So, basically, we have this wooden dolphins

8 that have been there since the '50s and are starting to
9 rot. And some of the larger storms have kind of
10 loosened up the system. And also these small rusty
11 barges in the middle, if, by chance, they sunk, then we
12 could loose the whole moor.

13 MEMBER: Maybe they don't have any small
14 barges that you can replace those with? Like dry dock
15 and fix them?

16 MR. BAXLEY: Well, actually the Navy does have
17 an inventory of barges. That's one of the things,
18 initially, that we were looking at. Although once we
19 actually started looking beyond the issue of possibly a
20 rusty sinking barge, there were other aspects to this
21 stabilization project that just simply replacing those
22 two small barges wouldn't solve a variety of other
23 issues that have come up due to this configuration. And
24 those include getting people and equipment from the dock
25 out to the main 241 and having to transfer heavy

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1 equipment out and stuff. Access was also a perceived
2 benefit of stabilizing our moor.

3 MEMBER: Where did they do the testing before
4 a couple of years ago when there was deeper water?

5 MR. BAXLEY: Where did they do the testing
6 beforehand? I would have to ask Bob Kollars about that.

7 MR. KOLLARS: A lot of the equipment that we
8 test now is doing experimental equipment with the need
9 for smaller objects being tested outside of the bottom
10 of the barge didn't exist back in the '50s when we were
11 a testing submarine facility. Submarines went away and
12 we looked forward to new RNDs, smaller cranks as the
13 mission changed, and that's when the need came up when
14 the equipment started being developed.

15 MR. BAXLEY: So, basically, that's what we
16 needed to do is to stabilize our stuff. And I can
17 certainly meet with you all to go over any other
18 questions and stuff. I just wanted to basically give
19 you an overview of what we want to do, kind of show you
20 the alternatives, and then give it back to Steve and he
21 can take your comments on the project or opportunity to
22 give a presentation.

23 MEMBER: Were there any proposed alternatives
24 that involved putting the pier further out in the middle
25 of the bay where it used to be -- the barge itself, the

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1 large barge? I mean is that an alternative?

2 MR. BAXLEY: Actually, that could be an
3 alternative, but just looking at the feasibility since
4 the water gets very deep, very quick, just the
5 feasibility of putting a bottom-mounted pier in that
6 deep of water.

7 MEMBER: No. I wasn't suggesting that.

8 MR. BAXLEY: You mean moving the whole system
9 back out?

10 MEMBER: I remember the large barge used to be
11 moored out there. It was out there for a couple of
12 years now before they actually brought that thing in to

13 where it is now.

14 MR. BAXLEY: Right. That's probably back when
15 we were doing submarine stuff out there on the static
16 side which is further off shore. So we need a floating
17 facility to do actually do that sort of testing stuff.

18 MEMBER: Even that barge was out there like --
19 that barge was designed to go to remote parts in the
20 inlet and operate up to six months or a year, whatever
21 it takes. Primarily, most of the work we're doing is on
22 shore power and it's in a depth of about 50 to 60 feet
23 of water.

24 MR. BAXLEY: So this is just a quick overview
25 of our alternatives and why we need to do this project.

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1 So I'll give it back to Steve and he'll give you an
2 opportunity to comment.

3 MEMBER: Do you have copies of those drawings,
4 something that you can hand out.

5 MR. BAXLEY: The green sheet should have it.

6 MR. BINGHAM: Thank you, Bill. I want to
7 speak just briefly about this scoping process. That's
8 the reason for the meeting here tonight. Scoping is a
9 very critical part of the environmental, the overall
10 environmental review process. It's an opportunity for
11 citizens or tribes, agencies, and other interested
12 parties to really give their input as to what should be
13 addressed in the EIS. And it ensures that the EIS, when
14 it's completed, is comprehensive, that it's focused and
15 the key issues are identified and addressed.

16 For these reasons, we really encourage your
17 comments tonight. Whether you write them or give us a
18 presentation, in whatever form you may choose to take,
19 we really truly encourage your input.

20 Before we begin comments, there is a few
21 housekeeping items that we need to talk about. Please
22 sign in if you plan to speak, as everybody who plans to
23 speak sign in.

24 And when you speak, please state your name and
25 address so we know where you live and can get ahold of

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1 you. Also we like you to limit your discussion or your
2 comments to five minutes. If you need more than that,
3 we can add time at the back end. If you keep it to five
4 minutes, we can keep the flow going pretty well.

5 Also, this is your opportunity to make
6 comments to us. We're in a listening mode, so we're
7 really not a question and answer format. We're looking
8 for your comments and we'll listen closely.

9 So anyway, we'll start from the top, and I
10 think you ought to come up so the court reporter can
11 hear what you say. We'll start with Peter Johnson.
12 Please state your name and address.

13 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Pete Johnson. My
14 address is 600 Third Avenue here on Fox Island. And I
15 appreciate the opportunity to talk tonight and I just
16 got a few, four or five, slides to keep me moving along.

17 I already sort of changed what I wanted to say

18 because of something that I just heard from Bill Baxley,
19 and I apologize if I mess your name up, and that was you
20 said this 360-foot pontoon was bought two years ago.
21 And it was about two years ago and now we're doing a
22 study 24 months later. And one of the proposals does
23 not include that 360-foot floating dock. I'm not so
24 sure this thing was well planned out, and I'll come back
25 to that. I think that if it wasn't for some letter

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1 writing that began last summer, that this meeting might
2 never have happened and that boat might already be
3 floating out in front of our property. If I sound like
4 I'm whining, then I'm whining. I'm the immediate
5 property owner directly to the west of your facility,
6 Captain.

7 Anyway, the property has been in my family for
8 over a half of a century and I'm here because I'm
9 concerned about preserving the beach and the property
10 for my kids and their kids and the generations to come.
11 That beach used to look a lot better than it did.

12 So I'm here to talk about the beach. We got a
13 couple of points, to talk a little about the history of
14 the beach right there. My concerns are of what I
15 desire. I view this as my opportunity to speak out.
16 We're not a committee. This is me expressing my
17 opinions.

18 The beach has been in the family forever. My
19 beach is 288 feet long. I pay a lot of property taxes
20 on that beach. It's on the south side of Fox Island.
21 The beach, basically, at one point in time ran east and
22 west. The beach now runs and it arcs out toward the
23 pier. We're going see some pictures of that with some
24 other folks here in a little bit, but the bottom line is
25 the original high tide mark on my beach has moved out

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1 toward your barge 85 feet. We'll come back with some
2 more data here in a little bit.

3 The pier went in in the 1960s and we have some
4 drawings of those as well. And immediately after that
5 pier and that barge went in, there was an immediate
6 effect on the beach. And we also have some pictures to
7 show that. I don't think that's a point that you
8 guys -- that anyone is willing to argue. We know that
9 it's having an effect on the beach. We need to fix it
10 and then we can talk about some of these monster
11 programs you guys have.

12 Slowly and quietly, this thing has gotten
13 bigger. At first it was -- and I got to apologize. I
14 know I sound like little combative. I like Mike Bass,
15 and he's a personal friend of our family. But this
16 isn't person to person anymore. This is property versus
17 Navy kind of thing.

18 But slowly and quietly, that facility has
19 gotten bigger. All of a sudden, there were more
20 moorings, there are more pilings, there are more barges,
21 the building got bigger, the building moved out to the
22 original high tide land. You know, was all that stuff

23 legally done? I don't know. Is that a big question to
24 ask? I don't know. It might be.

25 I've been gone around the world for a few

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1 years, and each summer I come home and I'd see how the
2 beach has changed. Finally last summer I came home and
3 it took a big floating rusting raft and big floating
4 rusting buoy and unsafe cable on my beach for me to
5 finally write a letter. And I wrote the letter because
6 a bird told me that there was a big 360-foot long
7 pontoon coming. This was last April, a year ago April.
8 A year ago right now.

9 So I wrote a letter to Mike Bass, didn't hear
10 back from Mike Bass, and went on to Robert Kollers.
11 Didn't hear back from Robert Kollers. Maybe I did.
12 There's a lot of correspondence. Then other people
13 started writing letters.

14 I am a Hartfield. We are here tonight because
15 we wrote those letters. I am a Hartfield. If we didn't
16 write those letters, that thing would be floating out
17 there right now. Because there is a number of people
18 who said it was on its way, that it was going to be here
19 momentarily, and that they were proud of their
20 expansion. I don't think there was going be an
21 environmental impact study done without us initiating
22 it.

23 My concern is the beach has changed
24 dimensions. Instead the beach was east and west, it now
25 arcs out, and my far east end arcs out 85 feet further

0026

1 than it used to. I invite everyone of you to come to the
2 beach. Bring your cameras, call your friends, come out
3 with your measuring tape and you measure it. The barge
4 and the moorings extend from the property line in front
5 of my property over 40 feet.

6 Is my whining a little bit of an eyesore?
7 Maybe a little but I grew up with it there. I don't
8 care too much about it being an eyesore, but the boat
9 motors run early, the lights shining on the property.
10 How many feet does it need to take up? Does it need to
11 take up my whole property before I complain? So this
12 thing is going to get bigger in front of my house?

13 I sort of fell like I've been taken advantage
14 of a little bit. Not until tonight has my family who
15 has owned the property for a long, long time been asked
16 their opinion, been involved in anything like this.
17 This is a great thing to have. I'm glad we're doing it.
18 I wish we did it earlier. And I just feel a little bit
19 like we have been taken advantage of because we've
20 always been sort of a quiet little neighborhood, sat
21 back and let the Navy do what they wanted to do.

22 Why did it take a letter to make this happen?
23 Maybe it didn't. Why did it take a letter to get that
24 crap off the beach after all these years?

25 What do I want? I want the beach fixed. I

0027

1 don't have a collapsing bulkhead. My neighbors do.

2 I've got a beach that has gained elevation on one end by
3 ten feet and lost elevation on the other end by six. We
4 took pictures. We got them. We got the numbers. You
5 will see them. It's disappointing.

6 My beach used to be an acceptable
7 barefoot-type of beach and now I got big barnacle rocks.
8 I want the Navy to admit that their facility is the
9 cause of it. Now, I'm not saying I want the Navy to go
10 away. It might take that if enough people -- if
11 enough -- if the impact study shows that. By I am
12 saying you've had an effect on the beach. You've caused
13 damage to it and it needs to be taken care of.

14 I want a safe, clean beach for my kids, for my
15 grandkids. I've gotten a sense of some effort to
16 justify the existence of this thing. And I know guys
17 work hard when they're working hard out there, but I
18 don't know if our local congressman or our local tax
19 payers or our local residents, our local media really
20 know what goes on out there. And I know we got some
21 neat slides that show us what we are supposed to think
22 what goes on out there. I don't know how this place has
23 passed the base realignment closure list time and time
24 again when there is a cutback in budget, and we got this
25 facility out here on Fox Island. There has got to be a

0028

1 place better to do this stuff.

2 I'd also like for someone to prove to me they
3 have a legal right to keep getting bigger and taking
4 up -- I know it's not my property in the water by
5 putting a bigger boat in front of our property and the
6 property to the east.

7 Conclusion. I sort of feel a David and
8 Goliath. Boy, the Navy came in, passed the slides, it
9 looks great. A lot of people. And here we are, the
10 little guys, the property owners that are sort of the
11 David. It's sort of a little bit intimidating, but we
12 need to stand up. What's next?

13 Hopefully your study will say, "Wow, you know
14 what? These guys have got a couple of good points. We
15 are wiping out their beaches. We need to fix that."
16 Does us getting together as a committee and getting
17 legal action, going to get the television media down
18 here on my beach, is that something that I'm planning?
19 Not immediately. We got to work together.

20 I got a little misquoted in the newspaper last
21 week, and I know some people were poking some fun at
22 that, but we do have to work together as a team to bring
23 this thing to a good conclusion. We are all neighbors,
24 but I think the Navy needs to step up.

25
0029

1 currently a military officer, I understand the military.
2 And I know the military justifies its existence when
3 it's in certain places. They also go great lengths to
4 minimize the impact they have on the surrounding area.
5 I don't know if that has happened here on Fox Island.

6 I am not speaking for the military, I'm not

7 speaking for the Airforce, I'm not speaking for the
8 Navy, I'm speaking for me. I can tell you that I'm
9 pretty sure that when the military crashes an airplane
10 into a barn and that barn burns down, the military
11 rebuilds the barn, at least pays the guy enough money to
12 rebuild the barn. You guys have destroyed someone's
13 personal property, and it's mine, and I want it fixed.

14 So guys, it's time to step up to the plate and
15 admit you have caused this thing. Let's not talk so
16 much about getting bigger. Let's talk about fixing
17 what's broken first. Again, I invite all of you out to
18 my property.

19 Remember, when you moved to the end of the
20 runway at McCord Airforce Base because the property
21 prices are cheap, and then complain about the air, the
22 noise that the airplanes make, you're full of crap. You
23 move them. We were here first. You moved to our
24 neighborhood, and now you have hurt our beach. We
25 didn't move into your neighborhood.

0030

1 Getting ready for this thing, I went to your
2 website, and I want you to take a close look of this
3 quote from the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock
4 Division website. "Together we will create the
5 corporate environment ethic that will allow us to go
6 beyond compliance and become caretakers of our
7 environment." That's your quote, not mine. "Become
8 caretakers of our environment."

9 I challenge you to stand up to your own quote.
10 I challenge you to become a caretaker of the
11 environment. I challenge you to fix the beach and the
12 bulkheads and the damage that you have done. I
13 challenge you to prevent it from occurring in the
14 future. Thank you for your time.

15 MR. BLASER: Good afternoon or good evening
16 everybody. Thank you for coming. I'm amongst the
17 grieving neighbors. My name is John Blaser. I live
18 directly west, about two blocks west. Peter here lives
19 right next to me. I live one more block to the west.

20 This right here I put together shows what I
21 intend to do for you in, hopefully, a short amount of
22 time. An introduction, a brief history, I'll give you a
23 brief history of what I know about this facility. We'll
24 talk about the environmental impact, the horrible
25 environmental impact it's had on my property and the

0031

1 damages that I suffered that needs to be fixed, and the
2 reparations to fix them.

3 Again, my name is John Blaser. That's where I
4 live, 598 Third Avenue, Fox Island, Washington 98333. I
5 welcome anyone to come out and verify anything,
6 especially members of the press or Norm Dicks's office.
7 Is there anyone here from Norm Dicks's office?

8 REPRESENTATIVE: Right here.

9 MR. BLASER: Are you Mary?

10 REPRESENTATIVE: Yeah, and I've actually been
11 out to Matt Corsi's property and have seen the property.

12 MR. BLASER: Well, you'll have to come visit
13 mine too.

14 A brief history. My family -- I'm a sibling
15 of Peter here. My family has owned this property for a
16 very long time. The Navy acquired this property, I
17 think, in the -- if they've been there since the mid
18 '50s, they actually purchased it somewhere around 1960.
19 And in 1967, they drew up the design for this facility
20 and the pier, which I have the blueprints of.

21 Initially, when the facility was put in --
22 well, initially there was just a small barge and a row
23 boat. And then in '69 or so, they built the pier and
24 there was one small barge, much smaller than the
25 smallest barge is now. Initially, there was no impact

0032

1 on the beach, obviously, so we just put it in. And you
2 know, my family always, and to this day, still continues
3 to have a good relations with the individuals that work
4 there. We all love our country. We're all patriotic.
5 We have nothing against the Navy. We're defending this
6 country. Most of us have been in the military, so we've
7 always supported it.

8 I'm now going tell you how my beach has been
9 destroyed by this place. No. 1, there's a massive
10 buildup of materials. There is a tremendous amount of
11 buildup on the beach. Matt's presentation is going to
12 show this a little bit better than mine. What I've done
13 here is I've taken this individual photograph of the
14 facility's pier and I superimposed over it the
15 architectural drawings of the pier back in 1967, which I
16 have the original copies right there.

17 This was done on my computer. This line right
18 here represents the topographical map that was taken by
19 the surveyor in 1967 where the beach was. The beach in
20 front of my house was a perfect straight line. The
21 beach was all round rocks. No large rocks with barnacles
22 on it, no exposed clay. It was all a very pretty beach.
23 It's no longer that way.

24 This material that you see right here is all
25 built up. And from this picture here, it doesn't look

0033

1 like very much. But right there, there's ten feet of
2 material. We're talking hundreds of thousands of yards
3 of rock and material that built up underneath the pier.
4 This is an aerial photo taken in 1995. Matt has several
5 of these photos starting back, I believe, in the '30s
6 showing to prove to you this shoreline was straight.

7 There was no point here at all, whatsoever.
8 This was a perfectly straight shoreline. Now this
9 material has built out, and this is seven years old.
10 It's built out a lot more since then. We were inches
11 from this barge at low tide in that photo there. Right
12 here, that's my brother standing there. These first
13 three dolphins or pilings are completely buried in the
14 sediment. They used to be 11 feet between the bottom of
15 those concrete piers and the native soil.

16 Right here coming out from the barge to this

17 point, right there, is 85 feet from the edge of the
18 vegetation used to be, the high tide water mark.
19 85 feet it's moved out. This person standing right here
20 would have been 12 feet under water, based on where
21 they're standing. Where I took this photograph, where
22 I'm standing, I was standing on a log that once floated
23 where the high tide water mark was.

24 The next thing after a massive build up of
25 materials, is the extensive shoreline change. This is

0034

1 just a photograph showing the curvature of the shoreline
2 that you saw in the other photo. And there, again,
3 that's taken right over there showing that barge. This
4 is the buildup right next to the barge that I shot about
5 a week ago.

6 At the low of this tide right here was
7 actually a one-foot tide because we checked the tide
8 table. And that thing is literally inches from the
9 barge, and that's why they want to move the barge out
10 further so they can have deeper water.

11 Here is another shot of the same thing, all
12 this material. At one point, they had all sorts of
13 depth, now they don't. That is the same shot showing
14 the curve.

15 The beach elevation has changed and my
16 bulkhead and several of my neighbors' bulkheads are
17 failing as a result of the scouring of this beach. This
18 is a shot of my bulkhead built three years ago and it
19 has completely collapsed. The reason it's collapsed is
20 because the beach elevation itself is dropping. Right
21 at the point underneath this pier it builds up and then
22 it scours out at either side, and you can see that from
23 the aerial photos that Matt's going to show you.

24 This is another portion of the bulkhead and
25 that's the same portion that's falling down. This right

0035

1 here, that's my house, this is my bulkhead, and that
2 entire thing just fell one foot in the last three years.
3 I have bench marks to prove it. I have another
4 stationary object up on the hill, and it just fell one
5 foot. As a result of this falling, this collapsing,
6 this photo, I don't know what I can show you to prove my
7 point more. This is my neighbor's photo, the Corsi's,
8 where this entire boat ramp has fell five feet because
9 the beach has fell. And notice the composition of the
10 beach that I'm going to talk about in a minute. That
11 used to be all round rocks. Now, as everything is
12 scoured out, what's left is the bigger rocks and clay.

13 This is another shot of the bulkhead,
14 completely toppled over and fell because it's been
15 undermined by the beach falling, all as a result of the
16 Navy.

17 Right here you can see this embankment is
18 failing just like mine is. As a result of this bulkhead
19 no longer there to hold it. So he's suffering actual
20 property damage just like me.

21 The beach composition changes. That's what my

22 beach looks like. Driving down here, I thought, I need
23 to bring a photo of what it used to look like. I would
24 of had to dig one out and eventually put it on, but it
25 used to be all round rocks. It still is as you get

0036

1 closer to the Navy because that's where my beach is, but
2 right now I'm left with this.

3 Large rocks. And you can just -- I can see
4 because I've lived here forever, but this whole thing is
5 scoured and carved out right here, just like it is on
6 the other side. The beach here is dropped. This is
7 carved out. What's left are large rocks and large areas
8 of clay which soak up the water.

9 Here is some examples of the clay, and this
10 changes from week to week, but oftentimes we have a
11 whole beach full of clay. And this is what happens. I
12 spoke to somebody here who is charge of Fish and
13 Wildlife for the Navy. And what I end up with now every
14 day that there's a storm, is I look outside and I see
15 mucky, dirty, silty water. This is all a result of the
16 United States Navy's facility here at Fox Island. This
17 is the waves scouring at the beach which has exposed
18 clay and silt and it's churning up in the water and
19 that's what it looks like. As a kid, we used to have
20 lots of fish out here: flounder, salmon, perch. They're
21 not there now and I don't know why.

22 Here is another shot of the same surf, how
23 it's dirty. And if you go way down the beach a half a
24 mile, it's nice and clean because about a half mile away
25 is where it quit scouring the beach. This is what's

0037

1 beginning to slough on my property. That's where --
2 besides my bulkhead being too small and failing, my
3 property is beginning to sluff.

4 That's looking the other direction. That is
5 what it used to look like. I need the Navy to fix my
6 bulkhead. I didn't break it, they did. The existence
7 of that facility which came out after my property owned
8 and operated this property, they have caused my bulkhead
9 to fail. They must fix it. It's not my responsibility
10 to fix what they are causing to me. My bulkhead must be
11 raised in elevation and my bank must be fixed and
12 retained.

13 The Navy must return the beach to its original
14 state that it was in. They cannot come in, put a
15 facility in with a pier and barge, completely destroy
16 the beach and change everybody's environment, cause
17 property failure, and then just say, "It's no big deal."
18 This must be included in the Environmental Impact
19 Statement. It needs to be done now. I cannot stand to
20 wait four more years for this environmental impact study
21 to be finished while my beachfront is falling apart.

22 The Environmental Impact Statement that's
23 prepared by the energy folks, it must include, it has to
24 include justification for the existence of this
25 facility. I, as a tax payer, want to be satisfied that

0038

1 this work that's been done to this place can't be done
2 somewhere else. I don't know how you're going to fix
3 the beach without taking the pier out. I just don't
4 know. I don't know what the engineers have come up
5 with, but to me without taking out the pier and the
6 barge, nothing is going to be resolved. So I want to
7 know if this place has to be here.

8 Was this facility ever on a brack list, and
9 I've been told that it was, which is a base realignment
10 closure list. It wasn't enough for a closure, but just
11 up for review just like every other facility is. I want
12 to know why it wasn't closed.

13 I live right on top of this facility and I
14 watch what happens down there day after day, and so does
15 my wife. And I know they do a lot of stuff inside, you
16 can't see it, but that place is not busy and there's
17 very little that goes on there. When the subs were
18 there, there was a lot more going on there. Now,
19 there's nothing going on there.

20 And I'm sure, even though we're all told here
21 that this work could be done somewhere else, I don't
22 believe it. I think it could be done somewhere else.
23 And I'm calling on Norm Dicks' office to investigate
24 this and justify to me as a constituent that this place
25 can't exist somewhere else.

0039

1 The pier and barge have destroyed and will
2 continue to destroy our beaches until something is done.
3 This facility has caused me and several other property
4 owners actual property damage.

5 This meeting was called to discuss what should
6 be included in the Environmental Impact Statement
7 regarding the possibility of expanding this facility,
8 which I find laughable. Given the overwhelming evidence
9 that the Navy's current predicament of destroying
10 neighbored beaches and neighboring property exists
11 because of this facility, it seems, added to its size,
12 is not the correct response. Reducing its size or
13 eliminating it all together is the correct response.
14 Thank you.

15 MATT CORSI: My name is Matt Corsi. My
16 residence is 1601 Fourth Avenue North, Seattle,
17 Washington 98109. This property has been in my family.
18 Both of my brothers currently still live there for about
19 50 years. What I got here is, basically, an assembly of
20 photographs that show the crescent change of the beach
21 all the way back since the first ariel photos in 1944.
22 And I'm going to talk about some of the technical issues
23 of why this is occurring at this facility. This is a
24 picture of the shoreline in 1944. The barge is
25 currently right about here. You can see this is a

0040

1 relatively straight line. It curves around a little bit
2 here. My property is about in this zone and John and
3 Peter live about here.

4 1961, same thing. Relatively flat shoreline,
5 a little bit of a curve to it. Vegetation has grown up.

6 1965, same thing. You can see the roads have been put
7 in here down to where the Navy currently exists. 1970,
8 this is just after the construction of the bulkheads
9 here and the insulation of the barge. And you can see
10 already a slight change in shoreline here. Relatively
11 straight along here. You can see this coloration of the
12 shore indicates a pretty even distribution of different
13 size of materials. You got sand, you got small gravel,
14 you got a mix of some large material found lower where
15 the small material doesn't -- it's pushed up actually
16 towards the shoreline.

17 '74 is not a very good photo, but it does show
18 the contour of the shoreline. A slightly larger buildup
19 of material here, and you can see the scouring action
20 here has already caused a little bit of indentation at
21 this point.

22 1985, you can really notice the shape of this.
23 It's a slightly larger barge here. It looks like a
24 facility. Again, notice the dip right here in the
25 buildup. That's the problem I want to address in the

0041

1 EIS is what's happening here and at this point in time
2 now, a lot farther down the beach this photo is going to
3 show.

4 1988, more build up. You can see the building
5 is a little larger here and Peter talking about the
6 process that they want to get this stuff constructed.
7 And I don't recall any community involvement on that
8 either.

9 1992, you can really see a radical buildup now
10 that the debris up here has been there for years and has
11 dried out and rotting because the water never gets up to
12 this point. You can see over here the scour of the
13 waterline along this zone is really encroached upon what
14 used to be a natural protective shoreline. And I'll
15 explain what the moor is about, the process and that.
16 But essentially the beach material moves in its natural
17 process, it moves typically predominantly in one
18 direction based on the direction of the waves at the
19 beach.

20 MEMBER: Matt, what are you so smart about
21 this?

22 MATT CORSI: I'm a graduate from the
23 University of Washington in Civil Engineering. I've
24 studied shore protection, wave action, that type of
25 thing. I have a little bit of background in this. My

0042

1 practice is an Instructional Engineer.

2 1995, again, this is seven years old. You can
3 see the size of this thing. It's quite a bit bigger
4 today. If you notice the white here and the darker
5 areas here, that sort of indicates a distribution of
6 different size of material on the beach. The whiter of
7 the material, the finer the size, the darker the colors,
8 the larger the size of material on the beach. You can
9 see this whole zone in here is dark. There's no fine
10 material left. Because that fine material is washed

11 away, the elevation of the beach has dropped. And as
12 that elevation drops, the high tide line encroaches
13 horizontally in towards my property and is scouring awa
14 bulkheads and the dirt behind it.

15 Here is a comparison from 1970 to 1995. You
16 can see a pretty obvious change there. This right here
17 is essentially a shape right. They built this facility
18 out into a zone. It used to be natural beach. I'm not
19 quite sure how that occurred given the skirt of our
20 amount of regulations for shoreline. It's there now and
21 that's a fact.

22 Here is a comparison of the shoreline from a
23 little farther out: 6170 in '95, 61 flat 70, a little
24 bit of buildup in '95, you can see the arc here, the
25 erosion here, and it has just gotten worse since that

0043

1 point in time. One thing I will note, the predominant
2 direction of the material and the flow of the material
3 on the beach means gravel and sand is from this side to
4 this side. So there's a buildup here and this zone is
5 the zone that it scoured.

6 So on the other side of the barge, there
7 really is no evidence of erosion because the material
8 continues to move in its natural pattern until it gets
9 to this point and then it's plugged up, basically.

10 Some photos. These guys covered this pretty
11 well already. You can see the gap here between the
12 shoreline and the pier. That's the same pier and that
13 same point is right about here.

14 This right here is a pretty telling picture.
15 This is 1969, I believe. A photo shows the distance
16 between a relatively low tide, the beach and the top of
17 the pier, and John had that overlaid, but you can
18 compare that to this. That point right there is this
19 point right here. All this material is built up which
20 used to be a straight line. You could probably draw a
21 straight line right there that would show the beach
22 contour running top to bottom is now this curve. And if
23 the beach were like it used to be, this high tide line
24 right here, this midlevel tide line would be much
25 farther from the shore.

0044

1 This is a photo of the Army Corp of Engineer
2 Shore Protection Manuals. This is some text I had in
3 class I took. This is a classic picture of the effects
4 of break water. Now the installation barge is
5 essentially, in my opinion, has crated a break water out
6 there. And what happens is waves coming in hit the
7 barge and you can see here right and here they curl
8 around the edges of it. And because they curl around,
9 when they hit the shore, they're at such an angle, they
10 wrap and push material in this picture that would
11 normally be pushing it in this direction down the beach
12 this way, they actually focus the material to a point
13 from both sides. And that's, essentially, looks exactly
14 what happened at Fox Island.

15 This is just another description of that

16 process. The waves come in hitting the obstruction and
17 then curl around. This is another excerpt of the Shore
18 Protection Manual. I'll read the underlined part here
19 "Detrimental Effects of Break Waters. Reduction and
20 elimination of wave action also reduces longshore
21 transfers into the shadow." Now, I'm in the shadow of
22 the barge. The offshore break waters. The spit, which
23 in the form of a sand bar, carries erosion of the shore
24 to the structure as well as associated down drift beach
25 erosion, and that down drift beach erosion is my primary

0045

1 concern. It's what I want addressed in the EIS and what
2 I would like to have the Navy fix. I want my bulkhead
3 put back and i want my beach restored to its original
4 state.

5 1980, the beach and the ramp that John talked
6 about, you can see the straight line of the bulkhead.
7 You can see the land behind it at a relatively constant
8 elevation, the level at the top of the rock.

9 2001, that same line is up here at the top of
10 the bulkhead is down here. The ramp is collapsed and
11 dropped. You can see the size of the material on the
12 beach here, especially large cobbles and clay and pretty
13 good size of barnacles, no fine material. The reason
14 for that is there's no replenishment for fine material.
15 The spit that is built up from the Navy, it's basically
16 clogged all that material for shipping down at the
17 beach.

18 There is a comparison of the two. You can
19 see, again, the scenery here the height of the top of
20 this, and this thing has radically dropped in here.

21 John talked a little bit about the quality of
22 material on the beach. This is right in front of our
23 property. You can see huge rocks, no climbing material
24 in the sand, no gravel. This is a zone that transitions
25 back to the fine gravel and material that is built up

0046

1 here. This is an even closer shot that shows a nice
2 even distribution of fine material and sand. A very
3 usable beach.

4 One thing I'm not going address because I'm
5 not an expert on it, is how the wildlife and sea life is
6 affected by this. I would think there's a natural state
7 where certain organisms and the food chain is in some
8 sort of balance here. With this kind of condition, I
9 don't see how that balance can exist. I would be
10 willing to bet that the food chain, things are affected
11 in a local area around this facility.

12 This is a shot that shows the curve of the
13 beach. This beach used to be flat line across here,
14 then more of the buildup. What conclusions have I
15 reached about this? Obviously the navy structure has a
16 noticeable negative impact on the shoreline. Since the
17 installation of the facility, the shoreline has changed
18 significantly. Erosion of the adjacent private property
19 has been continuous since the installation of the
20 offshore barge. The rate of ruin is continually

21 accelerating. As this spit grows, less and less
22 material is allowed to move down the beach. And I think
23 it's to the point now where there's no material moving
24 down. We're scoured down to clay, we're scoured down to
25 large rocks and the elevation is really -- every time

0047

1 there's a storm, we loose land, we lose more rock and
2 it's starting to actually encroach on one of the houses.
3 There's a big concern there.

4 Modification of the removal of the barge
5 required to eliminate further shoreline erosion. Now,
6 it looks like they're looking at some modification, but
7 it's my concern that you don't address the existing
8 condition out there that you put something bigger in, it
9 causes an even more radical affect. We have two houses
10 out there that they both end up sliding right into the
11 bay because the bank is encroaching on the foundation of
12 the houses.

13 Replacement of the beach material is required
14 and return the shoreline to the state its natural
15 origin. I don't think taking this thing out, removing
16 it out is going to have a quick enough effect to make a
17 difference on the problem that my property is
18 experiencing. I think somehow the material needs to be
19 imported and put back on the beach and restore it to its
20 natural elevation to keep the high tide line away from
21 the base of my bulkhead like it used to be.

22 Federal regulations clearly indicate the
23 government makes sure that if there are more changes to
24 the shoreline, it must not negatively impact adjacent
25 shoreline or adjacent private property. I looked into

0048

1 it a little bit. There's two acts passed by Congress in
2 the '60s and '70s that address this specific type of
3 thing. I think the Navy is obligated to scrutinize this
4 and include the investigation of this specific issue
5 because there has definitely been a negative impact on
6 the shoreline. That's it.

7 MR. McCUE: I'm Dave McCue. I live at
8 474 Third Avenue, Fox Island. I'm approximately
9 1600 feet down the beach from the Navy yard. If you're
10 looking at the water, I'm on the right. I'm in the
11 scour path of this beach erosion. My beach has dropped
12 in the last year one foot, the total amount of the
13 beach.

14 The way I can tell that is my neighbor next
15 door has a monument out on the meander line where his
16 property stops and the line begins. He installed that
17 monument when he bought the property ten years ago. He
18 put a steel stake in the ground. He put a five-gallon
19 bucket around it, and the steel stake was at the top of
20 the gravel line. He scoured out the five-gallon bucket
21 and filled it with concrete.

22 And if you go down in front of his beach, you
23 can see these monuments. There out of the ground this
24 far, and he's about ready to lose his monument. And
25 that is 50 feet out from the high tide line, and that is

0049

1 for his property, 50 feet. Myself, my sister and my
2 brother have 400 feet, and that has all dropped. So
3 we're close to half a mile from the facility.

4 And I've always wondered, where is all this
5 beach -- where has it gone? I know it's gone and that
6 was a natural erosion of the island because of the
7 southwesterly winds coming across Carr Inlet have a
8 tendency to scour the beach, move it to my next
9 neighbor, and goes onto the next neighbor and the next
10 neighbor. The problem is all the gravel is down in
11 front of the Navy. It stopped, just physically stopped.
12 We don't have the replenishment of the gravel that we've
13 had for years and years.

14 Myself like the Corsi's and the Ray's, I've
15 been there for 60 years and I have never seen such an
16 erosion happen on the property. And I just have to
17 agree with the previous people that they have stopped
18 the natural replenishment of the beach and it has to be
19 fixed.

20 Thank you.

21 CHRIS CORSI: I want to just pull up a picture
22 here that I saw. I don't really have anything prepared.
23 My name is Chris Corsi. My address is 590 Third Avenue,
24 Fox Island.

25 In seeing the picture that John took, it's

0050

1 kind of interesting photo because it was of my house.
2 And I was wondering what he was doing sneaking around
3 the beach taking pictures of my house. What I haven't
4 heard anyone address so far, and what I would like to
5 address, is the fact that I'm losing property from my
6 bulkhead falling down: the waves coming in, the tide
7 line getting higher, and what it's doing is taking my
8 property away. Now I cannot replace that property.

9 If my bulkhead falls down and erosion happens
10 20 feet back and I want to build another bulkhead, if
11 I've got another \$50,000 hanging around, then I have to
12 build that thing back. I have to build it back where
13 the line is right now, and you can see where it's
14 dropped here. That used to be the line. I think my
15 brother has pointed that out.

16 What happened is you saw a nice bulkhead at
17 one point and it's now deteriorating and falling into
18 the bay. Now when I go to replace this, which we've
19 already done once -- I lost about 20 to 30 feet of
20 property extending out on the beach. There was a wooden
21 bulkhead there and they all the beach dropped and they
22 all fell down or replace it with a rock, a nice rock
23 bulkhead, and it's now falling down. I've lost about 20
24 feet. I'm losing more property now. Pretty soon it's
25 going to encroach on my house and my house is going to

0051

1 be gone, and the next thing I'm going to be living out
2 on the road and nobody wants to do that.

3 The next thing I'm concerned about is my
4 brother living over here. That's my brother's house.

5 He lives right next door, and he has four children. Not
6 only am I concerned about them, but I'm concerned about
7 people walking by my beach. And these 20-ton rocks that
8 sit here are teetering sometimes, falling on somebody.
9 What happens when somebody walks by my beach and that
10 rock decides to move and falls on somebody or crushes
11 one of my brother's kids or something like that? That
12 is a genuine concern of mine. Not only am I losing
13 property, it's a hazard.

14 As you can see in the photos that we've had, a
15 beautiful access to the beach. This end of the ramp
16 here used to be buried, but it's -- all this stuff has
17 just eroded away. I think we have driven this point
18 home. So I won't speak anymore, but I just want to air
19 my concerns about what's going on there.

20 MR. PEDERSON: My name is Larry Pederson,
21 P-e-d-e-r-s-o-n. I have live at 566 Third Avenue, Fox
22 Island. First, I want to thank my neighbors for a very
23 thorough and professional presentation of the property
24 that's happening out there. I'm relatively new. I've
25 only been there for about seven years. I use it as a

0052

1 beach house. Since we have been there, I've had to
2 build -- we bought some extra property and put a brand
3 new bulkhead in three years ago, replaced our original
4 bulkhead. That was 90 feet. And in the last two years,
5 the beach, again, has sunk to the point that if it
6 continues, I'll probably have to restack all the rock
7 again. We've had sluffing of our property in the front
8 yard.

9 The beach is hardly walkable. My grandkids
10 have trouble. In fact, the little ones I don't want to
11 go down there because they can't walk. There's too many
12 big rocks. If all this problem is coming from the Navy,
13 then I feel like the rest of them, the Navy is
14 responsible. It should be taken care of. Thank you.

15 MR. ANDERSON: My name is Bruce Anderson. I
16 live at 748 Sixth Avenue. I would like to start by
17 thanking Mike Bass and all the people who've worked for
18 him. He took care of some really nasty problems in the
19 '80s when the sea lions were barking and keeping us
20 awake at night, and we're eternally grateful for that.

21 I only have one question. I don't have any
22 fancy slides. I just would like to know what the
23 proposed alternatives here, why one of the alternatives
24 isn't closing down the facility and doing the testing
25 someplace else.

0053

1 MR. BINGHAM: Thank you, Mr. Anderson. That
2 completes the sign-ups. If there is anyone else that
3 would like to speak, there's still an opportunity to do
4 so.

5 MR. MADDOCK: I'm Dave Maddock. Beach 130,
6 Brickklin Road. Brickklin Road is -- the people on Fox
7 Island as far as history is the old brick yard, and
8 that's about probably half a mile east down the beach
9 from where Dave McCue is. So we're probably a mile from

10 the facility.

11 And when the brick yard was built back in the
12 1890s, there was a pier in front of that brick yard
13 where they put -- they loaded the bricks on the pier
14 because that's why there's an indentation there.
15 There's probably 300 feet of no-bank water running down
16 there because they took all the clay out of the bank.
17 They made bricks there and loaded them on the pier and,
18 of course, took them away.

19 I wasn't alive at the time, but the rumor has
20 it, in 1910, a big storm came by and there was millions
21 of bricks on that pier and the storm took them out.
22 That's why today if you walk down, there's still bricks.
23 You'd be digging in bricks all over the place.

24 We lived there 25 years down in there, and the
25 neighbors keep commenting, "We've never seen this piling
0054

1 before." So you got old piling that has been put in
2 there before the turn of the century have now started
3 poking their little heads out of the ground.

4 MEMBER: You're about two miles, one mile from
5 the facility?

6 MR. MADDOCK: One and a half miles down there.

7 MEMBER: So that zone and influence has moved
8 down, all the way down.

9 MR. MADDOCK: It's moved down. So we've lost,
10 at least, it used to be a pea gravel/small rock beach.
11 Again, we're making the kids stop walking on the
12 barnacles. But we're starting to see the clay, you're
13 seeing the big rocks, and you've lost that because these
14 piers that weren't there before, they were covered with
15 about three feet and we've lost three feet, and now
16 we're starting to get these old 19th century pilings up
17 on the beach. And it has affected, of course -- and the
18 bulkheads, you're starting to see, of course, the
19 footings down on the bulkhead and it's sinking. Thank
20 you.

21 JOHN CORSI: My name is John Corsi, 590 Third
22 Avenue.

23 Everybody's talked about the kind of
24 structural impact and maybe the cost that it's going to
25 take to fix this stuff. And my main concern is just the
0055

1 use of the beach. You can't use the beach any longer.
2 Where we used to be able to take a boat and pull it up
3 on the shore and hop out, you can't do it anymore
4 because there are huge boulders, barnacle rocks. The
5 kids, like Larry said, they can't go down on the beach
6 any longer. I used to sit there with my grandmother and
7 my aunt and we used to sit there with little sticks and
8 we'd look for aggot for hours. We'd find little aggot
9 and put them in a jar. We'd have this huge jar of
10 aggot.

11 MEMBER: The name of this is Aggot Beach.

12 JOHN CORSI: Yeah. No longer can we do that.
13 There's just small little pockets of gravel. So the
14 kids can't walk on the beach. It's dangerous to get

15 down there and it's completely destroyed really the
16 whole reason why we live there. We live there to enjoy
17 the beach. Obviously, we don't live there because of
18 our house. The house is always moved and settled
19 slightly other the years.

20 Over the past five or six years, it has sunk.
21 It is completely out of whack. You wouldn't believe it.
22 It's almost unlivable. What do I do? Do I repair it?
23 Do I repair it just to have it fail even further?

24 So laying in bed at night, listening to the
25 wind whistle, listening to the waves pounding on

0056

1 bulkhead, sometimes I can't sleep because when I wake up
2 in the morning, what's going to be left? What damage is
3 going to be done today? This has been going on for six
4 or seven years.

5 About five years ago, Mike Bass came down to
6 the beach. And I asked him, I said, "Mike, what's going
7 on with that spit building up down there? Look at my
8 boat ramp where it used to be." So I did talk to him
9 about this issue, and he gave me some solutions about
10 piling some rock up underneath my boat ramp. So I think
11 they were -- have you guys been aware of this problem?
12 This erosion problem, this spit build-up? Have you been
13 aware of it? Have you guys been like not aware that
14 this has been happening or have you -- did you know that
15 it was occurring? That's my question.

16 MEMBER: We have been aware of that part of
17 the island has been falling in. Our road just caved in
18 several times and had dropped about four or five feet.
19 There's a whole area that we're in is not stable. Above
20 us, not below us. That is what I'm aware of.

21 JOHN CORSI: I guess I just wanted to kind of
22 address it from more of a human standpoint. Just kind
23 of the reason we live there, the reason that I live
24 there is for my kids so they can grow up in that
25 environment, use the beach. And now we're really not

0057

1 able to use the beach or our home like my grandparents
2 wished us to. And that's my problem. I just want it to
3 be fixed.

4 MR. BINGHAM: Is there anyone else? One more.

5 MS. KOVAL: My name is Colleen Koval. I live
6 at 466 Third Avenue. First of all, I used to play with
7 my mother. I used to walk down the beach. And I'd like
8 to attest to the fact that it was a beautiful beach. In
9 fact, we used to -- the game was to hop on all the logs
10 and not touch the beach before I got to the Corsi's.

11 Well, my brother, David, forgot to tell you
12 that he's lost about ten feet of his beach. And this
13 last year I've lost about five and I keep dumping dirt,
14 trying to keep ahead of it. And that's it. I just to
15 make you aware that it's starting to erode even further
16 down.

17 MATT CORSI: Matt Corsi, again. I just want
18 to respond on Mike's comment about the land and how it's
19 moving. The land does move from time to time. It does

20 shift, but that's an entirely independent problem than
21 what we're talking about here. Beach scour and the
22 movement of land are relatively isolated issues unless
23 you're talking about taking a huge -- I mean we're
24 talking about a mile and a half that's affected now.

25 A mile and a half of that land up there isn't
0058

1 moving. There's some small local pockets of land that
2 do slide. They essentially slough off the top and some
3 sand material falls into the bay. It gets washed away.
4 If anything, that should actually be replenishing the
5 beach because there's material coming down into the
6 water and it should get distributed, but that's not
7 happening. That's being washed away as well as the
8 material. Some of it is a separate issue.

9 MEMBER: You guys are really doing a super job
10 of putting this together, and I don't live on the beach.
11 I do live on Fox Island. My concern is this. You give
12 a very graphic history of how this started in '65. It's
13 35 years ago. Is this the first time you've approached
14 the Navy? If not and you have approached the Navy, what
15 has been their response in the past?

16 MR. GORDON: My name is Mike Gordon. I live
17 on Pawhaw View Drive, Fox Island, 1053 Pawhaw View.

18 So my question is, this is 35 years ago this
19 problem started, and it looks like nothing has been
20 done. And you're talking about hundreds of thousands of
21 dollars in bulkheads and nobody has done anything about
22 it?

23 MEMBER: Nope. What I was told is that when
24 that pier existed, there was pilings of the pier. They
25 came in and installed extra pilings. What Mike told me,
0059

1 is that a bunch of driftwood originally collected
2 against those pilings. And it got so out of hand that
3 they used to clean it out, used to clean the driftwood
4 out from that bulkhead that was originally there, the
5 driftwood would pile up, they would clean it out, and
6 they would allow some of that stuff to travel through.
7 What he explained to me is that driftwood got so bad, so
8 packed in there, they just couldn't clean it out anymore
9 and it create a dam. I think that may be part of the
10 problem, but that was the explanation that I was given
11 as to why the spit was building up. There was never
12 anything explained to me what they were going do about
13 it. Nothing was ever done.

14 LLOYD SKINNER: I'm Lloyd Skinner. I just
15 want to say, we have a court reporter for the official
16 scoping meeting for the NEPA EIS process. We're
17 perfectly happy to stay for the rest of the evening and
18 talk about these issues and you can talk and ask
19 questions amongst yourselves and have a dialogue. But
20 we could finish the open public scoping statement
21 process and close it, and let our court reporter go home
22 and continue the dialogue, that would be fine.

23 MEMBER: Some of the comments being made need
24 to be on the record. That is pretty evident by the

25 emotion.

0060

1 LLOYD SKINNER: We have a sign-up sheet.
2 People have had a chance to talk. Let's have a second
3 round of comments, not dialogue and Q an A, but
4 comments.

5 MEMBER: I guess the thing is that we brought
6 out a lot of good points. I understand your
7 frustration, you can understand ours. But we're looking
8 at a slide over here that says the results of this thing
9 is going to be in 24 months. These bulkheads and this
10 property can't be done.

11 My question to you back in Maryland commanding
12 Fox Island is going be -- there's going to have to be a
13 quicker turnaround as a response to some of the
14 statements and some of the questions that have been
15 asked tonight. I mean, where are we going go from here?
16 Are we going to wait for another petition to come in the
17 mail to the property tax payers in 24 months? No, we
18 can't do that.

19 So I'm hoping that there's going to be a
20 conclusion or some statements made by somebody in charge
21 that's going to say, "Wow, you brought out some valid
22 points. We need to address them. We're going to get
23 back to you. We're going to convene another meeting 60
24 days from tonight or 90 days. The military can work.
25 You can do it.

0061

1 MEMBER: Can I request that someone else get
2 up and speak for just a moment.

3 MR. BINGHAM: The floor is still open and we
4 will do that in a comment fashion, not in a
5 free-for-all --

6 MEMBER: I would like some answers, comments
7 from Congressman Dicks' office. Can you state the
8 position of Congressman Dicks' office, if there is one,
9 and what you would like to see included in the --

10 REPRESENTATIVE: The problem is -- the purpose
11 of Congressman Dicks is to ensure that your concerns are
12 met with the proper individual to make sure that they
13 are addressed. That's the first and foremost. I can
14 tell you individually what I saw in going out to your
15 beach. I can relay that to the Navy, which I have done.

16 Congressman Dicks is dealing with Matt Corsi,
17 who is the only individual that have contacted me is
18 from Fox Island. He contacted me. We immediately got
19 on top of this and said, "Okay. Who do we connect with
20 to ensure that some things have happened?" Now granted
21 24 months is a long time, but Congressman Dicks' role in
22 this entire process is to make sure that it's done as
23 quickly and as effectively as possible so that it
24 doesn't get lost somewhere.

25 So as far as the position, there is no

0062

1 position. It's to ensure that your issues are addressed
2 and that we get done what needs to be done as soon as
3 possible. And if the Navy has done something wrong,

4 which the Environmental Impact Studies will or will not
5 prove, then something needs to be done, and that's what
6 Congressman Dicks will ensure will happen.

7 MR. BINGHAM: Can you give your name to the
8 court reporter.

9 REPRESENTATIVE: Erin Babbe, B-a-b-b-e, 1717
10 Pacific Avenue, No. 2244, Tacoma, Washington 98402. And
11 I would encourage Mr. Blaser and you if you want to
12 contact Congressman Dicks' office, with the letter
13 writing, contact the office. That is what our office
14 needs from you.

15 MR. BLASER: I'm John Blaser, at 598 Third
16 Avenue. I just want to point out one thing. My brother
17 has brought up stuff. You asked, is this the first time
18 you've brought this to the Navy's attention. Matt had
19 been compiling his Power Point presentation for sometime
20 to present to the Navy. He was sort of faxing it to be
21 presentable.

22 When I found out, directly from Mike Bass --
23 I'm going to put it in the middle of April, I don't have
24 an exact date, but almost one year ago to the date --
25 Mike Bass invited me to his desk at the facility next

0063

1 door. We sat down and had a cup of coffee, and he said,
2 "Well, we're looking to improve this facility. Here's
3 what we're going to do." He showed me a painting on the
4 wall. The painting was done by an artist that the Navy
5 had contracted. It was a drawing, this 360-foot long
6 section of the I-90 floating bridge floating in front of
7 my house. And the perspective was looking from my
8 house.

9 Mike, or whoever told this artist to do that,
10 had this done specifically for me because it was drawn
11 from where you're standing on my front lawn looking at
12 the barge. I was a little irritated. I like Mike, but
13 I said, "Mike, you have got to be kidding. You're not
14 just going to bring this barge here." And he said,
15 "Yes, I am."

16 I was in this conversation so I'm going to
17 tell you what I remember. I said, "How can you do
18 that?" He says, "Well, it's too late. It's already on
19 its way." I said, "How can it already be on its way?"
20 He said, "It's in Neah Bay and it's being painted right
21 now and it's going to be here in the middle of May,"
22 which would have been in three weeks.

23 There was never a public forum. There was
24 never an Environmental Impact Statement. There was no
25 call from anybody to discuss anything about this. It

0064

1 was on its way. That's why the Navy finally heard from
2 us.

3 My brother and Matt got together. We said,
4 "We have been putting this off too long. Let's get this
5 ball rolling." We wrote a letter to Robert Kollers and
6 forwarded it on to Marie Hussey. That started this
7 process. That's why we're here tonight. If we hadn't
8 have done that, that thing would be there, I guarantee

9 you. There would be no permits, there would be no
10 shoreline development permits, Department of Ecology,
11 Fisheries, Corp of Engineers, Pierce County, no one
12 would have been involved in it. It would just be here.

13 That's my opinion because I was told by Mike
14 Bass to my face that it was coming. So that's why we
15 finally got a hold of the meeting.

16 MR. McCUE: Dave McCue, 474 Third Avenue.
17 Just in seeing the conversations tonight, everyone has
18 got up and talked about beach erosion, which has been on
19 the west side of the barge. I have seen no one from the
20 east side of the barge this evening. Is there anyone
21 here that might tell us what's happened to their beach.

22 MEMBER: We're on the east side and we're
23 perfectly happy.

24 MR. BINGHAM: It has been suggested that we
25 take a five-minute break.

0065

1 MATT CORSI: If we want to talk about the EIS,
2 here's what I would like to see: I want to see a full
3 assessment of the effect the barge has had on the
4 shoreline. I want to see a full assessment of the
5 effect the pier has had on the shoreline. I want to see
6 a review of everyone of these schemes and the potential
7 effect they may have. I would also like to see a review
8 of the potential effects of moving the barge out much,
9 much further away from the shoreline would have. I'd
10 also like to see the effects or see some documentation
11 of the processes that have gone through in the past
12 regarding the construction at the site and permitting
13 processes.

14 And I don't know when the public inclusion has
15 been law, but at some point in time some acts were put
16 in place. And I would just like to know if those
17 regulations were followed in the proper protocol as was
18 followed in the development of this facility.

19 And I'd also like to see an assessment of what
20 kind of things could be done to mitigate further damage
21 and potentially restore the beach to its original
22 configuration.

23 MR. BINGHAM: I understand there's one more
24 person that would like to speak? No. Do we have
25 anymore speakers?

0066

1 MEMBER: Would those requests be included in
2 the EIS that has been brought up?

3 MR. BINGHAM: They are to be considered with
4 all of the requests that we have in there, yes.

5 JOHN CORSI: I just want to say that since
6 I've been a little kid, when Ken Sheeley first was
7 running the place, the Navy has always helped us.
8 Whenever we had a problem, whenever we needed anything,
9 whether there was a boat that got loose, they have
10 always been there and they have always helped us. I
11 just don't want to paint a bad picture as far as the
12 conduct that they have shown us as people. Mike has
13 been a great guy. He has helped all us at one time or

14 another. Always been willing to do that. So I want to
15 state that and make sure that everybody is aware of
16 that. It's not a personal thing, but has to do with the
17 beach.

18

19 MR. PEDERSON: Larry Pederson. 566 Third
20 Avenue. I would also like to bring up the fact that
21 those people have made, immediately to the west of the
22 barge, that it's moved another 80 feet out from the
23 channel, is going have a negative effect on the view,
24 therefore a negative affect on the property values.

25 MR. BINGHAM: Thank you, Mr. Pederson. If
0067

1 there is no other comments, then we can close the
2 comment session here. The people will be around here to
3 answer questions until 9:00, another 40 minutes.

4 MEMBER: What is the next thing that's going
5 to happen?

6 LLOYD SKINNER: I think the official next step
7 in the NEPA process is what we're doing here tonight is
8 the preparation of a draft of the Environmental Impact
9 Statement which is scheduled for publication sometime in
10 the winter. So it will be six to nine months before
11 their will be an official document for you to review. I
12 think that speaking with Kimberly, who is the lead
13 planner for the project about any additional -- you
14 asked for a public meeting that we can't commit the Navy
15 to additional public meetings. But I think from
16 tonight, you can see the dialogue.

17 MEMBER: Other than legal action, what courses
18 do we have to make the Navy to take immediate response
19 to our actions?

20 LLOYD SKINNER: I think that might be a
21 comment after the scoping session.

22 MR. BINGHAM: We would like to close the
23 comment session. We should also point out that scoping
24 comments will be received by Kimberly for another
25 30 days through May 15th. That's the yellow forms and
0068

1 you can fill them and mail them in. If you want to
2 attach the CDs and photos, whatever you choose, you can.
3 May 17th through 5:00 p.m. There is an email on the
4 green copy and feel free to use that. And, again, we
5 will all be here through 9:00 or at least to answer any
6 more detail questioned about the process or whatever.
7 We invite you to stick around.

8

9 (Conclusion of meeting 8:30 p.m.)

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