

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

FORMER CONWAY BOMBING

AND GUNNERY RANGE

OPEN HOUSE

COPY

PLACE: CAROLINA FOREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
285 EAST PERRY ROAD
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA

DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1999

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

REPORTED

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1 BY MR. NESBIT:

2 Good evening, everyone. My name is
3 Ron Nesbit. I'm with Charleston district
4 Corps of Engineers. I want to thank everyone
5 for being here tonight. There are a few of
6 you here. In fact, I think I got around and
7 I had the opportunity to speak with each of
8 you a few moments. I again want to say I'm
9 real happy that you were able to come.

10 This is the first open house for
11 this project, and I want to be able to give
12 you the opportunity to know where we are,
13 what we've been doing and where we expect to
14 be going from here, since we have gotten the
15 right-of-entries from you, in some cases over
16 two years ago, and we've come back. And we
17 expect that we will be coming back for some
18 revisions, since we are now looking at moving
19 forward with the project a little more
20 aggressively.

21 Before I get too far along, if you
22 will turn to page one in your handout.
23 You'll notice that there's an organization
24 chart. And in our organization chart it
25 identifies the layer, based upon the

1 organizations that are involved in this
2 project. I'm the Project Manager from
3 Charleston district, along with Patti Berry
4 from the Huntsville office. She's not here
5 tonight, but Bruce is one of her
6 representatives here.

7 We have Parsons Construction -- I'm
8 sorry. Parsons is our contractor. We have
9 Zapata Engineering. That's our public
10 relations contractor. And also there is USA
11 Environmental, which is also a subcontractor
12 to Parsons as well.

13 Before I go any further, I would
14 like for them to introduce themselves to you
15 and give a little brief scenario about
16 themselves, starting with Belinda.

17 BY MS. ESTABROOK:

18 I'm Belinda Estabrook, and I'm with
19 the Corps of Engineers. I'm from the
20 Savannah district, and I am in the real
21 estate division. I've been working on
22 obtaining rights-of-entries to give the
23 government access to go on to the properties
24 that are within the ranges that are in this
25 study. And I appreciate the cooperation that

1 I've had from many of you.

2 And this will be an ongoing process
3 for some properties for a while to come. So
4 in some instances the rights-of-entries that
5 we've obtained, they were for a twelve-month
6 period and will be expiring, depending on
7 when I obtained them from you. So at some
8 point we may come back to some of you and ask
9 for an extension on that entry,
10 right-of-entry, so we can complete the work
11 that needs to be done on the project.

12 BY MR. NESBIT:

13 I'm sorry I neglected to mention
14 that we have Savannah working with us as
15 well.

16 BY MS. ESTABROOK:

17 Yes.

18 BY MR. AWOSIKA:

19 Good evening. My name is Ola
20 Awosika. I'm with Parsons Engineering
21 Science, out of Atlanta, Georgia. My company
22 is under contract with the Corps of Engineers
23 out of Huntsville, Alabama, to do the
24 Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis here at
25 the Former Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range.

1 We've been under contract to do
2 this project over the past twelve months. We
3 still expect to spend maybe another year to
4 try to, you know, wrap up the project.

5 Tonight I will be making a
6 presentation on the history of the Former
7 Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range. And also
8 I'll be telling you briefly what we have done
9 over the past twelve months in this area.

10 Thank you.

11 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

12 Hello. I'm Suzy McKinney. I'm
13 with Zapata Engineering, and I also have with
14 me this evening Greg Hippert, who was
15 managing the front door. We are responsible
16 for community relations for this project;
17 making sure the mailing lists are up to date;
18 that the notices for the meetings are
19 adequately provided to the newspaper and
20 through flyers; and any liaison coordination
21 that we can have between the community and
22 the Corps of Engineers to keep the public as
23 involved as possible. And I'll talk about
24 that a little bit later this evening as well.

25 BY MR. RAILEY:

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I'm Bruce Railey from the
Huntsville Center Corps of Engineers. We
have the responsibility for the design and
investigations of potential and known
ordnance sites. And we contracted with
Parsons to perform the study that we're going
to be talking about tonight. Out of
Huntsville, Alabama, excuse me.

BY MR. NESBIT:

Those are the players from the
government's perspective as to how and who
will be involved in actually administering
this project throughout.

One administrative thing. I would
like to be certain that everyone before they
leave tonight do sign in and make any
adjustments to the -- your address, if there
are any corrections there, so that we can
have that list as a mailing list for later
on. So we do actually need that.

I've given you, or at least I've
told you that the purpose of the meeting is
to inform you, the general public and
landowners, what we are involved in, what the
project is, what we've done to this date to

1 acquaint you with what the process is for the
2 actual clearing of the project should we find
3 an exploded ordnance, as well as what our
4 current status is.

5 And by the end of this evening, you
6 will not only know what our status is, but
7 you will also have a good feel for where
8 we're going and what the next stages are
9 going to be and a time frame when we expect
10 to be able to proceed in that direction.
11 I'll be followed at this point by Bruce, who
12 will give us some information on the process.

13 BY MR. RAILEY:

14 If you'll turn back one page from
15 the handout. Thank you. This is a standard
16 process that we use when we're investigating
17 an ordnance site. The main point of this
18 figure is to show that we are moving from
19 where we don't know very much to where we've
20 taken all the information as we go through
21 this process to focus our efforts on those
22 areas where there is a confirmed potential
23 for ordnance. This site -- and

24 Ola will talk about it briefly --
25 this site has been evaluated through the

1 inventory project report to determine, yes,
2 this is a former DoD use area and it does
3 have a potential for risk, ordnance risk.

4 And an Archives Search Report was
5 performed. We have a copy right here. It's
6 in the burgundy book there. And that led to
7 a determination that there was a need for
8 further investigation. And our Engineering
9 Evaluation/Cost Analysis is just a study.
10 It's an investigation.

11 You'll note that from the figure at
12 any time there are some areas that if we do
13 confirm that there's ordnance and there's
14 potential harm to the public or the
15 environment, we do have the authority to take
16 action for a time critical removal action;
17 and that is to take care of any imminent
18 hazard we might find.

19 But we also do have the option to
20 -- this used to be called a no further
21 action, but it didn't meet the intent. This
22 is a formerly used defense site; it always
23 will be. So we have the responsibility to
24 track those properties where we don't think
25 that there is a hazard. And so some areas

1 may fall into the category of no DoD action
2 indicated. They're still on the rolls and
3 they're still within the area. It's just no
4 action is needed at that time.

5 So throughout this process there
6 might be property that fits. But so far
7 we've had no time critical removal action
8 needed. And some areas have been weeded out;
9 that there were just small arms, areas where
10 no explosives were expected. If at any time
11 there is an area where any of those items are
12 found, it could go back and we might have to
13 do another study in that area. But right now
14 we're right in the middle.

15 The other key point, the key part
16 of this figure is that public involvement is
17 crucial and appreciated at all times during
18 this process. And that's why we appreciate
19 Charleston district pulling you all together
20 here to give you an opportunity to find out
21 what we're doing. And we look forward to any
22 other input you might have. Just driving
23 around today, Ola and I learned even more.
24 He's been out here many, many times. I've
25 been out here a few times. And by talking to

1 more people, we found out more information we
2 didn't have before. And next I will
3 introduce Ola Awosika, who is the project
4 manager for this study.

5 BY MR. AWOSIKA:

6 Thank you. As I said earlier, what
7 I'll be discussing with you this evening or
8 presenting to you this evening basically is a
9 brief history of the Former Conway Bombing
10 and Gunnery Range. Some of you may have been
11 familiar with this information before, and I
12 would imagine some of you probably don't even
13 have that information in your hand.

14 As we know it, the Former Conway
15 Bombing and Gunnery Range came into existence
16 in the 40's. And the whole area was
17 basically acquired by the government to
18 prepare troops in support of the World War II
19 effort in Europe.

20 And the entire area is about 56,000
21 acres, and it was basically used, as you can
22 see, by the US Army Corps and the Air Force.
23 Most of it, what happened here was the ranges
24 were used for bombing and target practices,
25 you know, air-to-ground missile firing, you

1 know, basically from planes that were used in
2 the area.

3 The areas of concern are the range
4 -- if I may point to you, I think you do have
5 a copy of these figures in your handout -- is
6 Range II over here. Range II is where you
7 have the Wild Wing Golf Course, as well as
8 the Myrtle Beach National Golf Course. Then
9 you have Range III, which is an area that's
10 mostly owned by International Paper. Range
11 XX, that area is owned by the D.N.R. It's
12 mostly an area that's now reserved, you know,
13 for wildlife reserve, if you will. And then
14 you have Ranges IV and VII. Half of Range IV
15 is occupied by private residents, if you
16 will. And then south of that area is a new
17 development going on there by a golf course
18 development company. Range VII is mostly
19 residential. As you see again, Range VII is
20 accessed through Highway 90, which runs all
21 the way to 501. So basically these are the
22 five ranges that we're concerned with.

23 Now, there were other areas that
24 were used here back in the 40's. However,
25 there have been initial studies done, as

1 documented in the Archives Search Report that
2 we have in here, that excludes those areas
3 from this current investigation. And the
4 studies that were done in the past showed
5 that those areas, there's no reason for us to
6 go back in there and do an investigation,
7 primarily because there's no evidence of any
8 ordnance found or suspected in those areas.

9 This slide here basically presents
10 you a brief history of the activities at each
11 one of these ranges. Range II was basically
12 used for practice, skip parafrag bombing,
13 rocket firing. Range III was used for
14 demolition, dive, incendiary and skip
15 bombing, or rocket firing. Range IV was used
16 merely for practice bombing. Range VII, a
17 skip bombing range; and Range XX, rocket
18 firing and skip bombing. Most of all these
19 ranges do have in common bombing and rocket
20 firing. The difference between what actually
21 took place at each of these ranges is the
22 types of bombs and rockets that were used.
23 Okay? I will not go into that, but most of
24 that information is available in the Archives
25 Search Report, should you have an interest in

1 getting a good idea of what type of ordnance
2 was actually used at each one of these
3 ranges.

4 As I mentioned to you just earlier,
5 the reason why we're doing work in these five
6 ranges is because, one, either ordnance items
7 have been confirmed there in the past, as
8 documented in the Archives Search Report, or
9 two, the area is highly suspected of
10 containing ordnance items.

11 Three of the ranges, Range II, IV
12 and XX, have confirmed presence of ordnance
13 there. That is, ordnance has been found at
14 the ground surface at some point in time.
15 The other two ranges where we suspect
16 ordnance to be present is Range III and Range
17 VII. Okay?

18 Now, we've been talking about the
19 investigation we're performing here at the
20 Former Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range.
21 It's called an EE/CA, Engineering
22 Evaluation/Cost Analysis. We think it's very
23 important for you to understand the process
24 involved in the EE/CA. That's why I've
25 prepared this flow chart to document the

1 different processes involved in the EE/CA
2 effort.

3 The first task is to prepare a work
4 plan. Before that work plan is prepared,
5 there are other things that have to be done.
6 The first is a site visit. We come out and
7 do a visual inspection of each of the ranges.
8 I came down here with the Corps of Engineers
9 Project Manager and a group of other
10 individuals. We made a site visit to each of
11 these ranges to have a good idea of what the
12 vegetation cover is like, the ground cover,
13 the topography, the residences in the area,
14 whether there are industries, or you know,
15 it's just primarily being used for
16 residential purposes. All of this
17 information had to be documented, so that we
18 could better scope the work plan in terms of
19 how we combat to do the next step, which is
20 the site characterization effort.

21 The other information that we
22 gather during the site visit also includes
23 making contacts with different organizations
24 here at Conway, such as the fire department,
25 the police, the Horry County Courthouse. You

1 know, those are important entities within the
2 county that we need to know their
3 whereabouts, so that should we have any
4 problem when we come back to do the site
5 characterization effort we know who to
6 contact.

7 Now, the second -- a task that I
8 forgot to mention here, that's the prove-out.
9 Information from the prove-out also needs to
10 be documented in the work plan. The
11 prove-out mainly is done to determine what
12 type of equipment that we'll bring in here to
13 do the investigation during the site
14 characterization effort here. The prove-out,
15 we'll bring in some geophysical equipment.
16 You know, it might be like an odometer, an
17 electromagnetic activity unit. There are
18 several other, you know, equipment that can
19 be brought out to do the prove-out. We did
20 this prove-out here back in May last year and
21 selected an EM-61 to do the work. So that
22 information then is put back into the work
23 plan.

24 Now, to do a prove-out one of the
25 important things to do is we have to select

1 an area at the site and plant what we call
2 seed items, to simulate ordnance that have
3 been used there in the past. That is, we
4 make out, you know, different types of
5 materials that look like the bombs that were
6 used in the past, dig the ground and place
7 them at different depths and cover them up,
8 and then bring in the equipment and run them
9 over the area. The signature that we get
10 with our equipment is catalogued in our work
11 plan, so that when we come back to do the
12 work and we run this equipment over the areas
13 that we want to sample, we have something to
14 relate to, to compare the different
15 signatures that we see.

16 The site characterization effort
17 involves four different tasks, if you will.
18 The first one is the site survey of the
19 grids. We have what we call sampling grids,
20 which are just about 50 by 50 in length. And
21 these grids are placed at random locations at
22 each one of these ranges. Those are what we
23 refer to as the sampling grids. And we get
24 our information from those sampling grids to
25 be able to determine all the other data that

1 has to be looked at to conclude the EE/CA
2 process.

3 Next we come out to each one of the
4 grids and prepare the area. Preparation of
5 each grid involves cutting the brush to
6 ground level, because the geophysical
7 equipment that we use had to be moved over
8 the ground surface to be able to acquire the
9 data. We can't move the equipment where
10 there's brush. We will not be able to get
11 sufficient information that we desire. So if
12 some of you have noticed on your property,
13 you would have seen a 50-by-50 foot grid with
14 stakes at the corners and the area would have
15 to be cut to ground level. And the reason we
16 did that was so we can bring our equipment in
17 and be able to acquire data from that area.

18 Then we perform the geophysical
19 investigation. We bring the equipment in; we
20 get the data. And the last portion of -- the
21 last work that has to be done under the site
22 characterization is intrusive.

23 Intrusive effort means we now have
24 to look at the data we've acquired and
25 confirm what we're looking at. So the

1 signatures that we see from the geophysical
2 equipment, we now have to come back to that
3 same location, dig the ground and find out
4 what is there. Is it a nail? Is it a
5 bobwire? Is it a Coke can? Is it a bomb, or
6 is it a rocket? You don't know until you
7 actually do the intrusive effort, which is
8 digging up at that location and confirming
9 what's there. That basically wraps up the
10 site characterization effort.

11 Then we move down the process. We
12 deal with risk evaluation and institutional
13 analysis. The data that we get in here is
14 what we use to perform the risk evaluation.

15 Risk evaluation depends on the kind
16 of information we get from the site
17 characterization effort. That is, if we find
18 a bomb, then the risk to the public is
19 elevated at that point. If we don't find
20 anything, obviously, that's not going to be
21 any risk. But if we find something, a
22 rocket, a bomb, live or not live, that
23 information is important to determine the
24 alternate objection of the risk evaluation
25 effort.

1 Institutional analysis is done so
2 we get a good idea of land usage in the area,
3 whether there's any restriction that has to
4 be placed on property deeds and things like
5 that. This helps us define what we have to
6 do ultimately when we get to the report
7 phase.

8 The first effort of the report
9 phase involves evaluation of alternatives;
10 alternatives meaning, what are we going to
11 do. What do we we recommend that the Corps
12 should look at as the ultimate response to
13 dealing with problems that we identify at
14 this stage of the process.

15 We will identify to the Corps of
16 Engineers several alternatives. They have to
17 make a determination of one alternative or
18 two that they think, in their best interest
19 and in the interest of the public, will take
20 care of the problem at the site.

21 The recommended alternative then
22 goes into what we call the final action
23 memorandum here. This document will become
24 available to you. You will have an
25 opportunity to review it and you will have an

1 opportunity to make comments on it. And your
2 comments will basically be sent to the Corps
3 of Engineers, and then we will give you
4 feedback on what necessary steps have to be
5 taken.

6 Once we get to this phase of the
7 report here, the actual memorandum, the next
8 thing to do is removal action. The Corps of
9 Engineers will determine what to do, if it's
10 necessary to do removal action. That
11 basically concludes the EE/CA process.

12 Now, what have we done on the site
13 to date? We've been working out here for the
14 past four months. As I mentioned earlier, we
15 started this project about twelve months ago.
16 Actually the project started December 1998.
17 We conducted the site visits back in March
18 1997. The work plan was prepared or
19 finalized, if you will, in August 1999.

20 We did the right-of-entry, which
21 most of you are familiar with. What that
22 involves, as mentioned by Belinda, is she had
23 to make contact with most of the property
24 owners to get permission from you so that we
25 can come in and do the investigation work.

1 I'm saying that's ongoing, because as we
2 speak some of the property is changing hands.
3 There are new people coming into the area
4 buying properties. And there are some
5 developers around acquiring some of the
6 existing properties that are already there.
7 So some of the right-of-entries that we
8 already have are now becoming null, because
9 we now have to go to the new owner to
10 actually seek for new right-of-entries. So
11 Belinda is working on that, and she will
12 continue to work on that throughout the
13 project.

14 The site characterization field
15 work, we started that on the 7th of
16 September. The initial effort was basically
17 setting up our grids. We did that from
18 September 7th to October 1st.

19 Site preparation, that is brush
20 clearing so that we can gain access to each
21 of the grids. We did that between September
22 13th to November 12th.

23 We finished the geophysical survey
24 on November 19th. And now we're planning the
25 intrusive effort, which Ron will talk about,

1 sometime January or February of 2000.

2 As I mentioned earlier, I said we
3 used geophysical equipment to acquire data at
4 the sampling grids that were set up at
5 different locations, you know, at the ranges
6 that we investigated. The equipment itself
7 is a device that's mounted on two wheels.
8 What it has, it has magnetic coils up at this
9 level and down at this level. These coils
10 are set up in such a way that it allows us to
11 be able to see what's under the surface in
12 the ground. The equipment is set up so that
13 it detects metallic material in the ground.
14 That's why I said earlier it could be nails;
15 it could be Coke cans; it could be bobwire;
16 it could be bombs; it could be rockets. We
17 don't know for sure until we come back and do
18 that intrusive effort. So it's very
19 important that we have to do that intrusive
20 effort. The data that we've gathered to date
21 is useless without us coming back to actually
22 confirm what is down there in the ground that
23 is giving us those signatures that we're
24 looking at.

25 This is basically a summary of the

1 results of what we've done so far. The total
2 acreage of the area under Range II is 2,005.
3 And that's true of Range III and Range IV.
4 Some of you may wonder, why do we have the
5 same acreage? How did we determine that?

6 Back in the 1940's, what the
7 government did was that when they came in
8 here and located each one of these areas for
9 use, they decided what the area of the target
10 was going to be. And depending on what type
11 of bombs and rockets had to be used at each
12 one of these target areas, they had to have a
13 safety zone so that when those materials
14 explode they will be able to know exactly how
15 far they can go. So that's why you have this
16 outer ring here as a safety zone. The inner
17 ring here is the target area.

18 Targets were physically placed in
19 this area. And the planes would come in and
20 unload their cargo, their bombs and
21 everything, you know. Occasionally you may
22 have stray bombs or stray rockets that may
23 land in the safety zone. The only way to
24 find out is what we're doing right now. Some
25 of the sampling locations that we're looking

1 at are in the target area as well as in the
2 safety zone. So we believe we have total
3 coverage of the sampling area we're looking
4 at.

5 The number of grids sampled in
6 Range II is ten. The number of grids sampled
7 in Range III is 143. In Range IV it is 87;
8 in Range VII, 32. We haven't done work yet
9 in Range XX, because D.N.R. wanted to be with
10 us at the same time when we go out in the
11 field to do the work. So they weren't
12 prepared at the time we were here to do the
13 work. We're expecting to go back in there
14 sometime in January or February to finish the
15 work out there.

16 What have we found? What we have
17 found in Range II, 17 anomalies have been
18 found in the number of grids that were
19 sampled. Five hundred sixty-two anomalies.
20 Anomalies, what I call anomalies here, is
21 basically hits, if you will. H-I-T-S, hits;
22 that is, potential location where we think
23 there might be bombs or rockets, nails, Coke
24 cans, or what have you. Range IV, we found
25 244. And Range VII, we found 59.

1 So the next objective now is to go
2 back to this location. After Ron makes the
3 necessary arrangements, we have to plan the
4 logistics that are needed to get us back out
5 here to do that, to perform that task, if you
6 will.

7 That basically concludes my
8 presentation. Right now I think Ron will
9 take over and discuss with you what the next
10 course of action is at the Former Conway
11 Bombing and Gunnery Range.

12 BY MR. NESBIT:

13 I'll only talk briefly about the
14 next phase that we're about to go into, and
15 that's the intrusive phase. As Ola
16 mentioned, the intrusive phase is involved
17 with the actual identification of what
18 actually is there that they've found by means
19 of the technical equipment that they've used.

20 The hits that he's talked about,
21 such as whether it be in the center, at the
22 target area, or in the safety zone itself,
23 those hits, we have to identify what they
24 really are. The process is to go into that
25 area and actually dig and determine what's

1 there.

2 If in fact we find some type of
3 ordnance, then there are other alternatives
4 that have to be considered. In fact, quite a
5 number of alternatives have to be considered.
6 It has to be determined exactly what it is,
7 what the problem associated with it, and the
8 kind of ordnance it may perhaps be.

9 When we go in and actually do the
10 intrusive, by digging up whatever it is, once
11 we have confirmed whether it is some type of
12 ordnance or a can or whatever the case may
13 be, we will replace that land, that property,
14 that area, back to its original state. In
15 other words, where we dig, we're responsible
16 to replace back in kind the way it was. If
17 we dug up a lot of grass, if it was in your
18 front yard or whatever -- and we're not
19 talking massive areas to actually define
20 what's involved. If we have to dig to remove
21 that anomaly, then we are responsible to put
22 it back the way it was. Okay?

23 Now, that does not mean we're going
24 to dig up trees to remove anomalies. If it's
25 under a tree, if it's under a house, we're

1 not going to remove a house, a tree, or
2 anything of that nature. We're talking about
3 types of areas that not only we can get to,
4 but based upon the land use of the area, what
5 kind of impact it has on the public as well.

6 Also we can't tell if it's under a
7 house or under a tree either, because our
8 equipment has to go over the area to identify
9 the locations where we can find out or at
10 least get the hits, so we can investigate
11 those particular areas.

12 Our current plan to begin the
13 intrusion removal is scheduled for Range III.
14 We will go into that area and actually begin
15 doing the digging to define what it is that's
16 located in that area.

17 The reason for starting with Range
18 III is threefold. Number one, it's somewhat
19 secluded, away from a lot of public. Number
20 two, it's where we found the most hits. And
21 by the way, most of the hits are in the
22 target zone area, which is where we would
23 expect them to be.

24 Once that's been done, we hope the
25 information that we gather from that range

1 will help us to determine better what the
2 hits in the other locations are, so perhaps
3 we will not have to do as much as we will do
4 in this area. But by no means will we not do
5 what's necessary to insure that once we leave
6 that area that we feel that everything has
7 been taken care of in terms of public safety.

8 The next site we'll move to will
9 then be Range II. And we will complete each
10 area prior to moving to the next area,
11 primarily because the information we gather
12 from each area helps us when we go to the
13 next area. And it's paramount for us to
14 provide as little impact on the landowner or
15 the public as possible. We will do
16 everything we can to insure that we do not
17 impact you. If we are going to impact you,
18 you will be informed well in advance so we
19 can coordinate our activities.

20 That's one of the prime reasons of
21 this kind of meeting, so that the
22 communication between us is such that you
23 know what we're going to do or what we are
24 doing and you know what to expect in terms of
25 when we get to the different stages, and you

1 can provide input to us about, for example, a
2 location that we can do certain things.

3 For example, if we found an anomaly
4 there that proves to be a bomb or some type
5 of ordnance that needs to be exploded, then
6 the plan or the process will be to explode
7 that ordnance someplace within that safety
8 zone of that range location. Your input will
9 be important to us to help identify a spot
10 that will not only be safe, less impactive,
11 but also provide the kind of information that
12 we know that we are in your -- or we're
13 providing with your concurrence, that that's
14 the best spot to have it done. So we will be
15 in constant communication with you even
16 before we get to that point.

17 The third location then will become
18 Range XX. By that time we will have already
19 gathered the initial data that we've gathered
20 on the other location that we don't have here
21 at this time.

22 Those are the three areas that we
23 are primarily or will primarily do first
24 before we move to Range IV and Range VII.
25 And the reason behind that is Range IV and

1 VII is more populated than the other ranges
2 in terms of residents. Quite a few residents
3 live in that area. Which then means that
4 there's a lot more coordination effort will
5 be required. A lot of coordination effort
6 will have to be done. And the information we
7 gather from these three ranges may facilitate
8 that we don't need to do the kind of
9 intrusion that we're going to be doing at the
10 other sites.

11 A lot of the hits found in this
12 area is around the fringe area, not in the
13 target area. That's very important to us,
14 because if we got a lot of hits along the
15 outer fringe area -- we're talking scrap;
16 we're talking nails; we're talking cans, all
17 kinds of things, but we're not alluding
18 ourselves that we don't have ordnance in
19 those areas as well. So we do have to make
20 certain that there aren't ordnance in those
21 areas.

22 The question was asked earlier on
23 whether or not, based on the use of a lot of
24 these ranges, whether or not there were just
25 practice rounds and not live explosives in

1 those areas. The answer to that question is
2 predominantly there were practice rounds, but
3 there were live rounds used, as well, based
4 upon records. And of course, records don't
5 tell us everything. So we do have to proceed
6 as though every round that was found in that
7 area or that was used in an area was live
8 rounds. And we will continue to proceed in
9 that direction because of public safety,
10 which is our paramount purpose in this entire
11 episode.

12 Once we have completed those
13 phases, we've actually removed the anomalies,
14 we've identified the anomalies, a report will
15 be written and placed where everyone will
16 have access to them as a final report once
17 we've completed the project.

18 Now, based upon everything I've
19 said, I've said that we're going to do each
20 site individually. It's going to take some
21 time. So therefore, some of the
22 rights-of-ways that we've gotten presently
23 probably will begin to expire by the time we
24 get around to an area. That may expire prior
25 to that happening. Belinda has mentioned

1 that we will be coming back to you and asking
2 for additional assistance in that area by
3 means of either extending the current one or
4 granting us new ones. That's why it's an
5 ongoing process.

6 That's basically all I have about
7 the intrusion and the demolition. Suzy will
8 talk about the public communication.

9 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

10 Ola, could I get you to put the
11 last slide up?

12 BY MR. AWOSIKA:

13 Oh, sure.

14 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

15 First of all, what we probably
16 should have mentioned up front is safety is
17 of utmost importance; safety to you, the
18 property owners, and safety to the teams that
19 are out on the field. We have procedures in
20 place as contractors being out in the field

21 --

22 BY MR. AWOSIKA:

23 Oh, here we go.

24 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

25 Yeah, the last one -- to protect

1 all of our workers. What y'all need to do
2 is, if you see anything that looks suspect,
3 you don't know what it is, a piece of metal,
4 don't pick it up. Don't try to identify it
5 yourselves. 911 has a response team to come
6 out and evaluate that on an emergency basis.
7 So as far as safety is concerned, since the
8 Corps and the removal contractors aren't here
9 full time, that would be the route you would
10 take.

11 As far as community relations and
12 making the information as available as we
13 can, we've established an information
14 repository at the library in Conway. And in
15 the library there is a copy of the Archives
16 Search Report, which you may also review this
17 evening here, and a copy of the work plan.
18 We will also establish a repository at Chapin
19 Memorial Library, to have ease of access to
20 all of those documents. We will also place
21 meeting transcripts in there and other
22 documents and reports as they become
23 available for review and comment.

24 We've established a toll-free
25 number, as on the screen and on the last page

1 of your handout. That comes to our office.
2 I will answer any of the questions that I
3 know the answers to at the time of the phone
4 call. It is a toll-free number, so it leaves
5 no burden for you to make that call. Any
6 answers that I do not have, I will make sure
7 to find those out and have the appropriate
8 person, be it Ron Nesbit, Huntsville,
9 Parsons, get back in touch with you as
10 quickly as possible. Another way, again, to
11 keep those lines of communication open.
12 Don't hesitate to call at any time, if you
13 see someone on the property; you didn't think
14 they were supposed to be there on a certain
15 date, whatever your question might be.

16 Another way we're working to keep
17 everyone informed of significant project
18 milestones are announced in the newspapers,
19 the four local papers. And we run those one
20 to two weeks in advance, at least two to
21 three times consecutively. We publish the
22 meeting announcements and any other items
23 that would be of interest. And we try to do
24 those with a display ad with a logo, so that
25 they stand out from the rest of the ads in

1 the paper.

2 Another way to keep everyone
3 involved is what's called a Restoration
4 Advisory Board. We do not have that board
5 established for this project yet. But this
6 is an opportunity for interested individuals
7 from the community to sit on a board to
8 provide information back to the community as
9 they become aware of these things, and also
10 to be a representative of the community to
11 provide input to the project and the process
12 directly to the Corps of Engineers.

13 And the board would meet on a
14 regularly scheduled basis, possibly monthly
15 if there's a lot going on with the project,
16 or maybe if things quiet down during the
17 project, on a quarterly basis. Those
18 meetings are open to the public. There are
19 transcripts that will be maintained.

20 If you're interested in serving on
21 a RAB or even considered for that -- again,
22 it all will be determined by the interest of
23 the community to participate -- we do have
24 some brochures available over there. And we
25 have some forms sitting by the Archives

1 Search Report that you can complete, and that
2 will give us a gauge as to what your
3 interests might be in our effort to formulate
4 one of those groups.

5 All of the community relations
6 efforts, procedures and the methodology and
7 approach will be documented in a community
8 relations plan that is being drafted right
9 now. It will be submitted to the Corps for
10 their approval. Once that plan is finalized,
11 it will also be available in the library.

12 I think that summarizes the efforts
13 that come to mind. If there are any other
14 ideas to keep folks involved and informed,
15 let me know. We'll be sure to take those
16 into consideration.

17 As has been mentioned all along,
18 public involvement is of utmost importance.
19 There are opportunities to review the
20 engineering evaluation that has those removal
21 alternatives and risk evaluation alternatives
22 documented. After the sampling is complete,
23 there will be a public comment period and an
24 opportunity for the community to comment on
25 that as well.

1 That was all I had, just to get
2 y'all up to date on community involvement.
3 I'd like now to open the floor to any
4 questions you all might have. And if you
5 would, please state your name. We'll put
6 that in the record. That way if we commit to
7 getting you a follow up, we'll have exactly
8 documented what we've promised to get back in
9 touch with you about. And again, we'll
10 document that for the formal record. So any
11 questions this evening?

12 BY MR. MALLERY:

13 My name is Guy Mallery. I'm from
14 Ocean Drive Communications, North Myrtle
15 Beach. How long do you anticipate -- do you
16 have a time, based on the number of sites,
17 number of hits, about how long it would take,
18 for example, for you to get up to the zone
19 I'm interested in, which is Number IV over
20 there? Are we talking a year or six months?
21 What are we talking here?

22 BY MR. NESBIT:

23 That's a difficult question to
24 answer.

25 BY MR. MALLERY:

1 I realize it is. You've only got
2 the number of sites to go by.

3 BY MR. NESBIT:

4 The process that we're going to
5 use, because we're trying to be deliberate,
6 it's going to take us some time to get to
7 that location. I hesitate to guess that it
8 would be between -- definitely would be over
9 six months.

10 BY MR. MALLERY:

11 Okay. That's a good enough ball
12 park. Fine. Thanks. The other question I
13 had was regarding your equipment. Does it
14 tell you how deep the item is? Now, for
15 example, all the hits on my property were
16 between nine inches and twelve inches. If
17 you find anything outside of that, go dig.
18 If it's between nine and twelve inches, I've
19 got Number 10 copper wire stretched all
20 through that.

21 BY MR. AWOSIKA:

22 Okay. Thank you for letting us
23 know that, sir. The equipment that we're
24 using has a depth coverage up to about nine
25 feet, especially in sand. We use this

1 equipment in different types of environment.
2 But when you're working in a sandy area, it
3 has a better coverage because there's better
4 contrast between metal and sand, because
5 there's nothing that relates to metal.

6 BY MR. MALLERY:

7 If you got a hit, would you know it
8 was a copper wire?

9 BY MR. AWOSIKA:

10 No. I wouldn't know if it's a
11 copper wire. But if you have a copper wire
12 there, yes, I will, because it's conductive.
13 I will be able to. The equipment we have
14 will detect any conductive metal that you
15 have under the surface.

16 The depth -- we can ascertain what
17 the depth will be with this equipment. There
18 is other equipment you can use to get a good
19 idea of the depth, but they also have
20 interference from all the things we don't
21 want to be concerned with. That's why we use
22 this equipment.

23 And to add to what Ron said
24 earlier, sir, when we come out here to do
25 this work, based on the number of hits that

1 we have, the effort, the actual effort in the
2 field is not going to take that long. It's
3 the logistics of dealing with the residents,
4 getting the right-of-entries and getting you
5 the information that we're coming and this is
6 how we're going to do the work that's going
7 to take some time.

8 BY MR. NESBIT:

9 Also I might mention, there's a
10 safety factor involved. In areas where we
11 have residents, during the portion of the
12 intrusion, digging, there are safety
13 requirements that they're going to have to
14 follow that adheres to certain safety zones
15 being adhered to. Which means the
16 possibility -- not possibility --
17 probability, if it's in anyone's immediate
18 home area or anything like that, that the
19 individuals will have to be removed from the
20 site while that work is being done.

21 So that's, there again, another
22 reason why the coordination effort and the
23 information we get from you, as to the
24 schedules that goes on in an area and stuff
25 like that, will become very important to us.

1 BY MR. RAILEY:

2 It will just be during daylight
3 hours.

4 BY MR. NESBIT:

5 When I say removed from the
6 premises, I'm not talking weeks or anything
7 like that. I'm merely talking of during the
8 process when the actual work is happening.
9 In most cases, as Ola mentioned, we're
10 talking hours rather than days.

11 BY MR. AWOSIKA:

12 And there will be no immediate
13 threat to cutting cables. If you have cables
14 in your yard, when we do this work, sir, we
15 don't come in with heavy equipment that would
16 just chop right through everything. We dig
17 by hand. They use their hands to sift things
18 right through the ground slowly.

19 BY MR. MALLERY:

20 We do have telephone cable in our
21 yard.

22 BY MR. AWOSIKA:

23 They do take their time to get it
24 done properly.

25 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

1 Any other questions? Anything
2 else?

3 BY MS. HUGHES:

4 I'm Lucy Hughes. I had some
5 property, I believe, in your Range II. I
6 wanted to ask, and I don't really know, has
7 any study like this been done before on other
8 government property? Is this a procedure
9 y'all used for that?

10 BY MR. NESBIT:

11 Yes.

12 BY MS. HUGHES:

13 And is this the same device y'all
14 used?

15 BY MR. AWOSIKA:

16 Yes, ma'am. Actually, ma'am, we've
17 been engaged in this type of work for the
18 past six years. We have a contract with the
19 Corps that has been in place for the past
20 five years. And we've done, my company has
21 done up to about 25 bombing and gunnery
22 ranges already across the United States.

23 BY MS. HUGHES:

24 I wanted to also ask, I talked to
25 the gentleman here before the meeting. And

1 he had said -- we talked about whether live
2 rounds were used or not. And he said there
3 was evidence, you have records that live
4 rounds were used at all these ranges.

5 BY MR. NESBIT:

6 I will clarify on that. What it
7 was, we're uncertain whether it was totally
8 live rounds or just practice rounds. But
9 we're proceeding as though all the rounds
10 that were used were live rounds.

11 BY MS. HUGHES:

12 Okay. I'll add something else. I
13 understand the government -- I don't know
14 what the right word is -- but took or used or
15 had use of about 95 plus acres of land, and
16 we're only talking about 55,000. So there's
17 an extra 35 that was not used?

18 BY MR. NESBIT:

19 I made a note of that, because your
20 number was somewhat in discrepancy with the
21 number we used, and we're going to check that
22 out.

23 BY MS. HUGHES:

24 Because I have a copy of the actual
25 list.

1 BY MR. NESBIT:

2 I understand. Because that did
3 bring about a question in my mind were there
4 other areas where we weren't involved, or
5 were we just talking about the ranges that we
6 are in fact doing the -- that we are
7 investigating.

8 BY MS. HUGHES:

9 Let me ask something else. If you
10 have land that is not developed, of course I
11 can see the way to check it. You're going to
12 be able to check that area better than an
13 area with houses on it. But that doesn't --
14 I mean that doesn't -- when you go into a
15 subdivision that has houses, you're not going
16 to be able to say that area is safe, right,
17 because you can't adequately check it?

18 BY MR. NESBIT:

19 Take for example, one of the sites
20 that we're going to be involved here in Range
21 Number III, that property is basically owned
22 by International Paper. And we're having to
23 deal with a lot of trees, a forest, in fact.

24 BY MS. HUGHES:

25 In that area are you going to take

1 the trees down?

2 BY MR. NESBIT:

3 No. What we've done -- and I
4 better let Ola --

5 BY MR. AWOSIKA:

6 Yes.

7 BY MR. NESBIT:

8 -- be more specific about it.

9 BY MR. AWOSIKA:

10 What we did at each of these ranges
11 is that initially before we placed a sampling
12 grid, we basically, we basically took into
13 concentration that we're looking at an area
14 that ordnance will be present anywhere. So
15 we went up by aisles as to where we placed
16 the sampling grid.

17 BY MS. HUGHES:

18 You went up by what? I'm sorry.

19 BY MR. AWOSIKA:

20 We went up by aisles as to where we
21 placed the sampling grids. We basically had
22 the sampling grids placed randomly across
23 each of the ranges. Now, when we went out
24 during this site survey to actually map the
25 ground of where these grids fall, if it falls

1 on top of a house, we physically move the
2 grid off from the house and put it on the
3 adjacent land area to the house. So that's
4 not by aisles as to where we put grids.

5 BY MS. HUGHES:

6 So many grids, so many square feet?

7 Is that what you're saying?

8 BY MR. AWOSIKA:

9 Yes, ma'am. Like I said, the
10 grids, the size of the grids is constant.
11 It's 50-by-50 foot grids that were placed all
12 over the area.

13 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

14 For clarification, the process is
15 separated into a sampling characterization
16 phase. So these grids are not meant to tell
17 us exactly where all the ordnance is. It's
18 to give us a representation of an
19 respective range. Are there items?

20 And then that is statistically
21 modeled and presented in this document that
22 extrapolates, okay, we found X items when we
23 dug these certain anomalies. This isn't a
24 removal action at this phase.

25 Then what we do, we collectively,

1 is take that information and find a risk.
2 Well, if we found X number of items in this
3 area that's populated by residents, then the
4 risk is given a level. And what might be
5 recommended is a removal action. Then we
6 come back out. And that's when it's a more
7 comprehensive cleanup to address the risk.

8 If you don't find ordnance and it's
9 undeveloped area, it's a wildlife refuge with
10 no public access, then there's probably no
11 need to do any more than the initial sampling
12 that was conducted. Does that clarify a
13 little bit the samples and the cleanup?

14 BY MS. HUGHES:

15 But to clarify, there's really no
16 government records to say which areas really
17 had the live artillery and which did not?

18 BY MR. RAILEY:

19 I definitely wasn't a pilot in
20 World War II. But whenever they -- my
21 understanding is they wanted to save the good
22 stuff for Europe. And my understanding is
23 they would let them go out with items that
24 were either filled with flour or sand or a
25 spotting charge so they could be rated on how

1 well they did.

2 And then I understand that those
3 that were really good, they let them go out
4 with high explosives and drop it. We went
5 out today. There were craters in the sand
6 that withstood 50 years of time. The records
7 are so spotty.

8 This is a very good site, and this
9 is one thing Suzy earlier clarified. There
10 are a little over 2,000 potential formerly
11 used defense sites, FUD sites. And we are
12 approaching them as a priority. You know,
13 we're coming to those that either the
14 interest is higher, the development is
15 higher, or there's a higher risk to the
16 public. And I don't know why this site came
17 before another one, but we're here. And
18 we're going to deal with this until it's to
19 the point where risk has been reduced
20 adequately.

21 BY MS. HUGHES:

22 All the sites that were used are
23 going to be checked?

24 BY MR. RAILEY:

25 Pardon?

1 BY MS. HUGHES:

2 All the sites that were used are
3 going to be checked?

4 BY MR. NESBIT:

5 Let me clarify one thing about the
6 sites. That is, all ranges that were used
7 will be scrubbed from an information
8 gathering perspective. However, all ranges
9 will not go through what we're doing here,
10 because there are other ranges in this area
11 that are not or we will not go through the
12 process we're going through now. Because
13 either the ranges were used for small arm
14 fires, such as rifle practice and weapons
15 fired of that type, which do not fall in the
16 category of ordnance.

17 So those are some of the things
18 that disqualify certain ranges that may have
19 been used during that period that do not
20 qualify for what we're doing now as well.

21 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

22 Maybe I'm just beating a dead horse
23 to follow up still. The 2,000 plus sites can
24 only be addressed as much as funding becomes
25 available to go through this process. And

1 this EE/CA process is consistent for the
2 sites. And I believe Bruce said possibly a
3 hundred to a hundred fifty sites have
4 currently gone through the EE/CA process or
5 in the middle of the EE/CA process across the
6 country.

7 BY MR. RAILLEY:

8 And this is consistent with -- we
9 have some other brochures over here -- the
10 environmental regulations. We do follow the
11 same procedures that are used for
12 environmental cleanups. We have a different
13 task, because there is an imminent hazard.
14 We want to get rid of something right now,
15 not something that might cause cancer in the
16 longrun. So we have a different focus.

17 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

18 Any other questions? Anything else
19 from anyone on the panel? Well, again, we
20 appreciate your time this evening. We're
21 available as long as you would like to stay
22 and talk. Feel free to take some of the
23 brochures that have been placed on the table
24 since we started the meeting. And again,
25 give us a call if you have any questions.

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And we look forward to seeing you soon.

Thank you.

BY MR. NESBIT:

Thank you.

(The taking of the meeting concluded at 7:55 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript of the proceedings of the US Army Corps of Engineers Open House for the Former Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range, consisting of fifty-three (53) pages, is a true and correct transcript of the meeting; said meeting was reported by method of Stenotype with backup.

I further certify that I am neither employed by nor related to any of the parties in this matter nor their counsel; nor do I have any interest, financial or otherwise, in the outcome of the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 17th day of December, 1999.

COPY



Kimberly S. Ray
 Kimberly S. Ray, RPR
 Registered Professional Reporter
 Notary in and for the State of
 South Carolina
 My Commission Expires: 3-19-06