



US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

FORMER CONWAY BOMBING

AND GUNNERY RANGE

OPEN HOUSE

COPY

PLACE: NORTH MYRTLE BEACH MIDDLE SCHOOL
11240 HIGHWAY 90
NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA

DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1999

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1 BY MR. NESBIT:

2 Good evening. Can everyone hear
3 me? Because I won't use this. My voice is
4 sort of deep and it tends to carry pretty
5 well, and I'll just forego the mike if that's
6 okay.

7 I want to welcome everyone here
8 tonight for the Open House involving the
9 Former Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range, a
10 project that we're hoping to clear of
11 ordnance and/or define whether or not there
12 is any type of ordnance on those particular
13 sites we've identified.

14 I'm very happy that you're here
15 tonight for a number of reasons, especially
16 that you took the time and the interest to
17 come and to find out more about what's been
18 going on, what we've told you in the past.
19 And hopefully, we're going to try to bring
20 some of that information together, so you'll
21 have a better feel for exactly what we're
22 doing on your property areas and potentially
23 what kind of work will take place at those
24 sites.

25 One bit of an administrative

1 announcement I would like to be certain
2 happened as you came in. I would like,
3 before you leave tonight, if you haven't
4 signed in when you came in, please do so,
5 because we'll take that information and use
6 it for other purposes in the event we have to
7 pass on information to you directly. So your
8 names and addresses are very important to us.

9 The purpose of the meeting tonight
10 is to provide you a firsthand information
11 session so that you understand what the Corps
12 of Engineers has been involved in, in terms
13 of the Gunnery Range Project, as we call it.
14 We're going to take you from the beginning of
15 which people have come to you or called you
16 or written you and asked for permission to
17 actually do things on your property, of which
18 a number of you have provided that kind of
19 approval, the authority for us to go on your
20 site and do the investigations that we do.
21 We'll talk about the history of the project
22 sites. We'll talk about the status of the
23 project site. We'll talk about the status of
24 where we are. We'll talk about where we're
25 going, how long we anticipate it will take

1 for us to get there. But most of all, I will
2 talk to you about your involvement as well.

3 Your involvement in this project is
4 important for a number of reasons. It
5 depends a lot upon how you're involved,
6 whatever happens or needs to be done on the
7 project site as well.

8 If you would take out your packet
9 and turn to page one. That's the
10 Organization Chart. I want to first of all
11 give you a feel for how we're set up.

12 Again, my name is Ron Nesbit. I am
13 the Project Manager from the Charleston
14 district Corps of Engineers, in Charleston.
15 We have a Project Manager by the name of
16 Patti Berry. She's not here with us tonight,
17 but we do have a representative from her
18 office and I'll introduce you to him in a few
19 moments. They're out of Huntsville. We have
20 Parsons, is our contractor. We have Zapata
21 Engineering. Zapata has been very important
22 to us for the public relations contracting.
23 And then, of course, we have support from the
24 USA Environmental Corporation, which is a
25 subcontractor to us as well. The Savannah

1 District is also involved, although not shown
2 here, from the standpoint of our real estate
3 involvement.

4 Before I go any further, let me
5 introduce or have them introduce themselves,
6 the members of the panel here, that are going
7 to be, in some form or fashion, giving you
8 information tonight, starting with you.

9 BY MR. RAILEY:

10 My name is Bruce Railey. I'm out
11 of Huntsville, Alabama Corps of Engineers.
12 Huntsville has been designated as the center
13 for Design Investigation of ordnance sites.
14 I've been to many ordnance sites across the
15 country. And we're serving our customer, the
16 Charleston district, by providing that
17 expertise. I'll be talking about how we go
18 about when we do the investigating the sites
19 of the project.

20 BY MR. AWOSIKA:

21 Good evening, everybody. My name
22 is Ola Awosika. I'm with Parsons Engineering
23 Science. My company is on the contract, as
24 Mr. Nesbit mentioned, to perform the
25 engineering and cost analysis for the Former

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Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range.

BY MS. MCKINNEY:

My name is Suzy McKinney. I'm with Zapata Engineering, and we provide the community relations support for this project. We're located in Charlotte. And as far as trying to keep you all as informed as possible, we do have and maintain a mailing list. We've established an 800 number, and we've established an information repository. And I'll go through that in a little more detail.

BY MS. ESTABROOK:

Hi. My name is Belinda Estabrook. I'm also with the Corps of Engineers. I'm from Savannah, Georgia, and I'm in the Real Estate Division. I have sent letters to all of you. Some of you I've talked to on the phone and some of you I've met personally. My function was to obtain the rights-of-entries that would give the government access to go on to your property. And I would just like to thank all of you for the cooperation you've given me and working with us. We appreciate that. And I may be

1 in touch with you in the future, too. So
2 thank you.

3 BY MR. NESBIT:

4 And the gentleman back there with
5 the camera is David Rich. David Rich is with
6 the Public Affairs Office in the Charleston
7 district Corps of Engineers.

8 I know as we go through this
9 briefing a number of you will have questions.
10 But what I would like for you to do, if you
11 please, is to hold your questions until after
12 we've completed the briefing. The briefing,
13 I promise you, will not be longer than 30
14 minutes. In fact, we're looking at the
15 entire process to take that amount of time.
16 Because we know you're busy; you have other
17 things to do. But yet we need for you to
18 understand what we're doing and how we're
19 doing it, and that's why we're here. So I'll
20 be followed by Bruce, who will pass on some
21 other information.

22 BY MR. RAILEY:

23 Again, I'm Bruce Railey. And you
24 all have this figure. And I don't want to --
25 I don't want to overwhelm you with this

1 figure. Basically, the intent of this figure
2 is to show you that we start from where we
3 know nothing, on this side, to where we know
4 a whole lot and we can focus on where there
5 might be a problem. So if I can briefly go
6 through the figure.

7 First it has to be established that
8 this was a site that was used by the
9 Department of Defense and there might be a
10 potential hazard to the property left behind
11 to the -- to the environment or to the people
12 living there now. And so that's established
13 by the Inventory Project Report.

14 And then, after funding is made
15 available, an Archives Search Report is
16 established. And we have a copy of one in
17 the burgundy folder out in the lobby out
18 here. You can have a look. It's a fairly
19 detailed look at what the site was used for,
20 property ownership. And it will give you an
21 idea of the history of the site.

22 From that, we then determine areas
23 that might require more investigation,
24 another look, a closer look. Get on the
25 ground and walk around and ask people who

1 lived there, people who knew it when it was a
2 gunnery range. And so that is where we are.
3 Right now we're at the Engineering
4 Evaluation/Cost Analysis. We call that an
5 EE/CA. It's just an investigation. That's
6 when we go out to the property. That's the
7 stage where we are right now.

8 Our intent is to finish the
9 investigation and ultimately move to
10 recommend actions in the Action Memo. And
11 that would be done by the Charleston
12 district. They would recommend what would be
13 done at any sites, if there was a potential
14 for any explosives or anything that might be
15 hazardous on any property. And then that
16 takes us to the point where we do the
17 removal.

18 And so this whole process, the key
19 thing I want to stress here is that public
20 involvement is a part of the whole process.
21 And some of you, this will be your first
22 introduction to what we're doing. And we've
23 tried to keep it as brief and simple. We've
24 been rightly accused of talking in too much
25 technical jargon. But we have people in the

1 field who know what they're doing, Parsons
2 and the environmental -- excuse me -- the
3 ordnance people. And we're very willing to
4 answer any questions for you later. But
5 right now we just appreciate you coming here
6 and sitting for us.

7 And one other thing. We do have
8 some flyers out on one of the tables. And
9 this gives you a better idea of the process
10 we go through, you know. If you have any
11 questions, it will be available afterwards.

12 Let me introduce Ola. Ola will be
13 talking -- walking us through -- he's been
14 overseeing the field work out here thus far,
15 and he will be talking about what work has
16 been performed on the property.

17 BY MR. AWOSIKA:

18 Again, good evening, everybody. My
19 name, again, is Ola Awosika. I'm with
20 Parsons Engineering Science out of Atlanta,
21 Georgia. And my presentation this evening is
22 to basically follow up with what you've heard
23 earlier, in terms of providing you a brief
24 history of the Conway Bombing and Gunnery
25 Range; in addition to that, also to bring you

1 up to date in terms of what we have done on
2 this project over the past twelve months.

3 My company, Parsons Engineering
4 Science, has been engaged in the EE/CA effort
5 on several projects for the Corps of
6 Engineers over the past five or six years.
7 So we have a good experience, in terms of
8 knowing exactly what to do when we get into
9 this type of investigation.

10 The Former Conway Bombing and
11 Gunnery Range, as you all know it, came into
12 being back in the 40's. The idea was to
13 establish an operation area here in support
14 of the World War II effort that was going on
15 in Europe. And most of the operation that
16 took place here back in the 40's were
17 basically by the US Army Corps as well as the
18 Air Force. And these involved, practically,
19 using most of the ranges that we have here
20 for bombing and practice rounds for ordnance
21 items.

22 The total area that we're
23 interested in here is about 56,000 acres.
24 And if I may point to this map we have on the
25 sites here, which you all have a copy in your

1 handout, there are a total of five ranges
2 we're interested in. The first one is Range
3 II; the next one is Range III; Range XX, IV,
4 and VII.

5 For those of you who may not be too
6 familiar with the orientation of this map,
7 this is Highway 501 here. And 90 runs along
8 the Waccamaw River, as you have over there.

9 Specifically, the activities that
10 occurred at those five ranges that I just
11 showed you involved mainly bombing and
12 practice, you know, for rocket use, as well
13 as gunnery and what we call skip bombing and
14 strafing.

15 Typically what you have is, you
16 have planes coming in at these ranges. They
17 have targets that were placed on the ground
18 and they would be firing a different type of
19 ordnance to these targets that are
20 specifically placed at strategic locations
21 along each one of the ranges that you see
22 here.

23 In actuality, back in the 40's
24 there were more than five ranges in the whole
25 Former Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range area.

1 But there have been previous studies done to
2 identify which ones we should concentrate our
3 investigation effort at. And that is based
4 upon past history, a review of all available
5 documents that we can find during the second
6 World War that seems to indicate what type of
7 ordnance was used at any one of the ranges
8 that you have here.

9 And the main focus on these five
10 ranges is based on the fact that there are
11 confirmed ordnances at some of these ranges,
12 and some of them do have potential for
13 presence of ordnance to be found at them.

14 Just to give you a quick summary of
15 that again, of the five ranges I've just
16 showed you in here, three of them have
17 actually confirmed ordnance items on the
18 ground surface at the site. Two of them have
19 the potential for continued ordnance items.
20 They have not been identified or seen there,
21 but based on past usage of the site, the
22 likelihood for ordnance to be present at the
23 site is real.

24 As Ron and Bruce mentioned earlier,
25 they referred to the acronym EE/CA,

1 Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis. Any
2 time you get EE/CA, that's what it means.
3 It's basically an investigation effort meant
4 to investigate the presence of ordnance items
5 at a site; and also, an attempt to determine
6 the level of risk to the public and how to
7 address the risk to the public.

8 The EE/CA effort involves a lot of
9 work plans. And those are what we've
10 identified in this chart you're looking at
11 here. The first part over here of the EE/CA
12 effort is to put together a work plan that
13 describes how we intend to do the work at a
14 given site, if you will. Before you can do
15 that, a site visit has to be made to visibly
16 inspect the area of concern, in this case,
17 the five ranges we have at the Former Conway
18 Bombing and Gunnery Range.

19 In addition to that, we have to do
20 what we call a prove-out. A prove-out is
21 meant for us to come in and bring in
22 different types of equipment. We refer to
23 this equipment as geophysical equipment.
24 They are meant to investigate, to give us an
25 idea of what might be in the ground.

1 Typically, what we like to see, it tells us
2 what type of metals that you may have under
3 the surface.

4 Now, given the fact that ordnance
5 items that were used in the past all have
6 metal components in them, we're able to
7 determine the likelihood of the presence of
8 these type of ordnance at a given site.

9 Once you have this information from
10 your site visit and your prove-out and you've
11 determined the type of equipment you want to
12 use, then you can go in and put your work
13 plan together. Okay? And the work plan will
14 scope out exactly what you have to do, the
15 necessary steps, the logistics of information
16 that needs to be gathered before you can
17 proceed with the actual field work. The
18 actual field work is conducted under the task
19 referred to as site characterization. That's
20 when we come out to the field and actually
21 come out with equipment and investigate the
22 site.

23 There are four elements involved in
24 site characterization. The first one is to
25 do what we call a site survey. That is, we

1 send surveyors out to actually map out the
2 location of the sampling grids that we want
3 to investigate at each site. At each one of
4 the ranges we have in here, what the work
5 plan for this project calls for is that we
6 have a certain number of sampling grids
7 placed at each one of those ranges.

8 For example, in Range II here we
9 have about 10 sampling grids. In Range III
10 here we have -- we've proposed to do about
11 160 grids. In Range XX we've proposed to do
12 about five grids. And in Range IV, we
13 propose a total of another 160 grids. In
14 Range VII we propose 40.

15 Now, there are limitations to how
16 many of these grids we can do. When I say
17 grids, what this means is it's an area of
18 sampling that we're interested in. Each grid
19 is made up of a 50 by 50 foot area. And we
20 have many of these little grids randomly
21 placed at each one of these ranges to give us
22 a representative data, so that we can then be
23 able to evaluate the results we get from that
24 effort.

25 After we finish the field work,

1 then we go back to the drawing table. We
2 have the collective data, what we call it.
3 We have to do what we call a risk evaluation.
4 A risk evaluation takes into consideration
5 whether we find ordnance items at a given
6 site or range, if you will. And at that
7 point we're able to determine the potential
8 risk to the public. If at a given site we
9 find ordnance items, we will be able to
10 determine what level of risk it imposes to
11 the public. Okay?

12 A parallel task of that is the
13 institutional analysis. For a range of this
14 size, there are a lot of activities going on
15 around it. There is a lot of developing
16 going on by private interest groups. And
17 there's a lot of private development by
18 property owners, in terms of residential
19 properties. Roads are being built. There
20 are a lot of things that are going on. We
21 need to have a good idea of what's going on
22 and the potential impact of what we want to
23 do on those, on all those different projects
24 that are going on.

25 Once we have information from the

1 institutional analysis and risk evaluation,
2 we then have to put together what we call
3 alternatives evaluation. That is, we're
4 looking at different types of options that we
5 have to use to address the risk to the
6 public. We basically list out several
7 options for the Corps of Engineers to make a
8 determination as to which alternatives that
9 would be the best option for the site.

10 Once that determination has been
11 made, then the information is put into what
12 we call an EE/CA report. That's the
13 Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis Report.
14 That presents the final determination of the
15 Corps of Engineers as to what alternative
16 they think is best for the site.

17 Following that effort, an action
18 memorandum is finally put on the table for
19 everybody to look at. This document
20 basically is the ultimate for the EE/CA
21 effort, and it basically documents the
22 recommended action for the site.

23 What I'd like now to do is give you
24 an update of where we are in this project,
25 the current activities that Parsons

1 Engineering Science has performed over the
2 last twelve months. We have completed the
3 site visit.

4 The site visit was made back in
5 February, March 1997. Over here we did a
6 site inspection. In addition to that, we
7 made local contacts with the local agencies,
8 such as the fire department, the police
9 department, the hospitals, Horry County; just
10 to make sure that everybody was aware of the
11 fact that we are here to do work at the site,
12 consistent with the requirement of the Corps
13 of Engineers.

14 In addition to that, we had to
15 gather additional documents that we could
16 find on land development, land usage. All of
17 that information is really important to
18 developing a site characterization effort.

19 The work plan was prepared over a
20 six- to seven-month period, but it was
21 finalized in August of 1999. A final copy of
22 the work plan, we have it up in the front
23 there. On your way in you saw a big copy on
24 the table; that's the work plan. This work
25 plan, also a copy of it has been left in the

1 libraries, the local libraries here, for your
2 review. Should you be interested in looking
3 at the documents on how we plan to do the
4 work we'll be doing, you're welcome to take a
5 look at it in the library. I guess we do
6 have specific addresses for the libraries,
7 which we will provide to you, also.

8 A major element in the work that we
9 perform is called a right-of-entry. Before
10 we can go to any site to do any work at all,
11 we have to get permission from the property
12 owners to allow us access to their property
13 to do any work. This was a very important
14 aspect of the work we do at this site. And
15 it took quite a while to make sure we had all
16 the right-of-entries that we could get our
17 hands on before we actually came out in the
18 field.

19 The right-of-entry as of now has
20 not been totally completed. We still have
21 some properties that we didn't have access to
22 that we haven't done work at. And there are
23 some properties that we believe over the next
24 couple of months may actually change hands.
25 Some properties may actually be sold which we

1 already had right-of-entries to. We may need
2 to pursue new right-of-entries with the new
3 owners. So right now that process is still
4 ongoing. Until we finish the work in the
5 field, we cannot say for sure that we've
6 fully addressed the right-of-entry issue.

7 The prove-out was completed in May
8 of 1999. We selected the type of equipment
9 to use for the investigation. It is called
10 an EM-61. A picture of the EM-61 equipment
11 is included in the handout that you have, and
12 I will also show you a slide that documents
13 that.

14 The site characterization field
15 work was started back in September, about
16 roughly three or four months ago now. And we
17 believe we've completed about 80 percent of
18 the work required under the site
19 characterization effort.

20 As you can see there, we did the
21 survey of the grids and finished it by
22 October 1. In addition to that, we finished
23 up the site preparation effort on November
24 12.

25 The site preparation effort, if I

1 may explain it to you, involves brush
2 clearing, cutting of vegetation so we can
3 gain access to each of the sampling grids.
4 The 50-by-50 foot grids that I explained to
5 you about, most of them have been placed in
6 areas where you have a lot of trees and
7 brush. For us to be able to use the
8 investigation equipment that we have, we have
9 to cut the vegetation down to a level where
10 we can get into it and be able to run that
11 equipment over the ground area.

12 So some of you may have seen over
13 the past three months, or two to three
14 months, several guys walking around in boots,
15 you know, with some equipment, you know,
16 brush-cutting equipment, cutting vegetation
17 down and all that. These have been done with
18 your permission at those areas that we work
19 at.

20 The last part of the process,
21 actually the second to the last part of the
22 process is the geophysical survey, which is
23 use of the geophysical equipment.

24 The last part is intrusive
25 investigation. We have not done intrusive

1 investigation yet. Mr. Ron Nesbit will
2 explain to you how we intend to do that and
3 where we intend to do it. Currently we're
4 still evaluating the data that we gather from
5 the geophysical survey.

6 That is a picture of the
7 geophysical equipment I was referring to.
8 This device that you see has been used at
9 several sites. And the Corps of Engineers
10 actually has great confidence in the ability
11 of which we take this equipment out in the
12 field, use it to gather data that we believe
13 can provide us the type of information that
14 we think should lead us to believe or should
15 lead us to know if we have ordnance items at
16 a given site or not.

17 Basically that equipment is mounted
18 on two wheels. It's a three-by-three foot
19 type, you know, set-up. It's mounted on two
20 wheels and is steadily pulled along. What
21 you see right here, the receiver -- excuse me
22 -- the transmitter. The receiver is on the
23 backpack mounted on the operator of the
24 equipment. And what they do is they just
25 pull it along lanes along the grids, going

1 back and forth along the grids, making sure
2 to cover every square inch of that grid to
3 acquire the data.

4 The equipment records the data.
5 And eventually we download the information on
6 a computer and then run an analysis on the
7 data to find out what it tells us. What it
8 does tell us is whether there is metallic,
9 metallic materials in the ground, such as
10 cans, nails, bobwire, bombs, rockets.

11 We don't know for sure if an item
12 is a bomb or a nail or a rocket or anything.
13 But what we know for sure is it's a metal
14 object, once we have a signal from it. What
15 we do to confirm what it is, is what Ron is
16 going to talk about, which is intrusive
17 investigation. The confirmation is the
18 actual digging to confirm, if we see we have
19 a response in a certain area of the grid that
20 we've investigated.

21 All right. Currently the results
22 of the investigation we've done is detailed
23 on this table. And if I may, I will try to
24 explain exactly what you're looking at here.
25 The table gives you an idea of the acreage of

1 each range that we have at Conway. It tells
2 you that Range II is mostly made up of about
3 2,005 acres. The area we're interested in is
4 about 2,005 acres. The same is true of Range
5 III and Range IV. Range VII is made up of
6 about 560 acres. And Range XX is made up of
7 about 1,370 acres.

8 You may ask me how did we determine
9 the acreage of each one of these ranges.
10 What you see on the map you have in your
11 hand, you will notice there is a circle drawn
12 around each range. What that is, is referred
13 to as a safety zone. The red line, the red
14 circle, is the target area. During the 40's
15 the targets were placed in the area within
16 the red mark, the red circle. And the planes
17 were flying and unloading their cargo, their
18 bombs and rockets. They would shoot at the
19 targets in the red circle area.

20 Now, the safety zone that we have
21 are meant for stray rockets or stray bombs
22 potentially to fall in that. In addition to
23 that, when those bombs and rockets that are
24 fired into the target area explodes, there
25 has to be a buffer, as to where the fragments

1 from the explosion can travel. So the safety
2 zone is basically what that is. Explosion
3 from any ordnance items within the target
4 area should not go beyond that safety zone,
5 based on what was designed back in the 40's.

6 So our investigation effort is
7 concentrated on the target area as well as
8 the safety zone. We are looking for the
9 potential presence of ordnance items within
10 that target area as well as the safety zone.
11 And the acreage that you see out there is
12 pretty much a documentation of the entire
13 area you're looking at for each of the
14 ranges.

15 The number of grids that we sample,
16 actually sample, each one of the grids are
17 also shown in there. And the total number of
18 anomalies -- anomalies, what that means is a
19 signal that we get from the equipment that I
20 just showed you that we move over the ground.
21 That's how many we have detected in each one
22 of these areas we've investigated.

23 Now, what those anomalies indicate
24 we don't know for sure yet. We only know
25 right now that they are metals. We still

1 have to do additional work to confirm what it
2 is. We still have to look at it a little bit
3 more, and we still have to come back out in
4 the field to do what we call a confirmation
5 walk, which would involve going intrusive;
6 that is, digging the ground where we saw the
7 signal, to confirm what those things are.
8 And Mr. Ron Nesbit will follow up on that in
9 a minute. That basically completes my
10 presentation. Thank you.

11 BY MR. NESBIT:

12 I'm supposed to tell you about the
13 next area that Ola kept referring to, that is
14 the intrusive removal. That's our next
15 stage, based upon what has been done and
16 currently what we're involved in at the
17 present.

18 Intrusive means that we have to dig
19 in the earth at the locations where the
20 anomalies were sited, based upon the
21 geophysical investigation that we've done.
22 In some sites we will find anomalies which
23 may be nails, maybe cans, a number of
24 different things. We have no way of really
25 telling at this point in time. There are

1 some sites that have a lot more anomalies
2 than others. There are good reasons for
3 that, based upon how the ranges were used
4 initially.

5 So therefore, our plan is to start
6 with the idea of working in areas that's
7 going to be less impactive to residents or
8 homeowners as possible. We need to have as
9 much information as we go through the
10 processes so that we can identify what these
11 anomalies are as quickly as possible, but as
12 accurately as possible, to be certain of what
13 we're actually hoping to uncover.

14 We will start in Range III and do
15 that area first, as far as intrusive digging
16 is concerned. I know you're thinking, well,
17 if you find a bomb, a mortar -- correction --
18 a missile, or something of that type, what
19 are we going to do with it?

20 Well, there are a lot of things
21 that have to be considered; first of all,
22 whether or not it's exploded. If it's not
23 exploded, then that brings other
24 considerations into the whole equation.

25 So therefore, the basic thing to

1 keep in mind is if we find a piece of
2 ordnance that has not been exploded and we
3 feel that it is, quote, unquote, a "live"
4 piece of ordnance, then we will probably
5 explode it at a designated site within that
6 location of the safety zone. That site will
7 be determined based on information gathered
8 from the field, along with depending upon the
9 landowners in that particular area.

10 If you're in area -- correction --
11 Range III, II or XX, those particular ranges
12 we will talk with those individuals concerned
13 to insure that their input is a part of the
14 decision-making process. Okay? That's
15 important for us as well as it is for you,
16 because we do not want to impact your
17 property.

18 Once we dig and remove the anomaly
19 or identify what the anomaly is, the question
20 I know also that's in your mind, well, what
21 kind of condition will my property be in once
22 you finish? Your property will be replaced
23 back to its original state. Once we leave an
24 area, your property will be replaced back to
25 its original state.

1 Now, I did not say, hopefully you
2 didn't understand or hear, that if I dug up a
3 tree or blew up a tree that I'm going to
4 plant a big tree in that location. What I'm
5 saying is if we dug an area, we're going to
6 level the terrain back the way it is. If
7 it's grass, we'll regrass it, that kind of
8 thing.

9 Hopefully, we're not finding
10 anomalies under a tree. We're not
11 particularly going in and moving big trees to
12 get to something under a tree. That's not
13 the process. In fact, we cannot even
14 determine if something is under a tree. As
15 you saw from that piece of equipment, we have
16 to pull it behind us.

17 That's the most -- or I should say,
18 the least impactive currently that we feel
19 the way we can approach this to avoid less
20 impact on you, the residents.

21 When we do begin the process in
22 Range IV and Range VII, we will be in -- or
23 we should -- or I should say we will have a
24 lot more coordination effort involved with
25 the residents in those areas, because the

1 types of impact are a lot different. It's a
2 lot more extensive. Therefore, there's a lot
3 of things we're going to need in terms of
4 information from you, as well as the county,
5 the city, and everyone else involved. But we
6 will do what it takes to make certain that we
7 avoid any impact that's unnecessary on the
8 residents in those areas.

9 That's where we are, and that's our
10 next step. The time frame when we have to
11 begin the intrusive removal, we're looking at
12 late January, early February, at Range III.
13 Okay? At the present that area is
14 predominantly -- or I shouldn't say
15 predominantly -- is primarily the
16 International Paper Company location. Then
17 we'll move from there and probably go to
18 Range II, and from there hopefully to Range
19 XX.

20 Everything -- and I want you to
21 understand. Be patient with us. Be
22 flexible. Because everything is contingent
23 upon information that we gather and the
24 determination or the analysis that we get
25 from the information that we gather. So the

1 current plan and direction that we may be
2 heading now may be switched. It could very
3 well happen. And I just want you to be
4 thoroughly convinced and feel that we are
5 being above board on everything that we're
6 doing. I know that things have happened in
7 the past. But I want to be certain that you
8 understand that this is what we have to do
9 and you are an important part of us in the
10 effort to make it happen. So therefore, I
11 need you to be as informed about what we're
12 doing as possible, informed about the process
13 as much as possible, and informed about where
14 you can get information as well. Suzy?

15 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

16 Well, what I want to say first off
17 is safety is of utmost importance through
18 this entire process. And everything that is
19 being done on the ground and in the field and
20 on the properties is done with safety in
21 mind, not only for the workers who are out
22 there but for the property owners, the
23 residents, any traffic that might be passing
24 along this site.

25 I want to take this opportunity to

1 let you all know that if you find anything in
2 your yard, if you see anything that is
3 suspect, it's not going to necessarily look
4 like some of the photos out front. Don't
5 touch it. Don't mess with it. There is a
6 response through the sheriff's office. And
7 you need to call 911, and they will come out
8 and address the item accordingly. So we want
9 to make sure that you all are as safe as
10 possible.

11 I also want to take this
12 opportunity to introduce Greg Hippert, in the
13 back, who is also with Zapata Engineering and
14 will be working with the community relations
15 program as well.

16 Now, Ron and Ola have both
17 mentioned the information repository. In an
18 effort to keep everyone as informed as we
19 can, we've established that at the county
20 library in Conway. If there's another
21 facility closer on this end of the project
22 site where you might also want to see an
23 established repository, let me know and we
24 can arrange that. This is where we will keep
25 copies of the final reports. We will keep

1 the Archives Search Report that was mentioned
2 this evening, the work plans. A copy of the
3 meeting transcripts will be available for
4 your review, and any other documentation
5 regarding the project effort. So if you're
6 aware of a location that's more convenient,
7 let me know and we'll make sure we get one
8 established there as well.

9 Again, communication and public
10 involvement are key to this entire process.
11 We want you to be as involved and informed as
12 possible, your neighbors, any other
13 individuals that you might be aware of that
14 would want to be informed, so we maintain a
15 mailing list. And that's another reason that
16 sign-in sheet is so important. If there are
17 any changes in your address, please make a
18 note of that for us. If you're aware of
19 other individuals who might want to be
20 informed of upcoming meetings or for
21 opportunities for involvement, let us know so
22 we can make sure that they're on that list as
23 well.

24 If you're aware of anyone who
25 missed this evening's meeting but might want

1 to be available for tomorrow night, we have
2 another meeting, same format, scheduled at
3 6:30 at the Carolina Forest Elementary
4 School. You might want to pass that on if
5 you know of others who might want to be
6 available to attend tomorrow evening.

7 Another effort to keep you all
8 informed and have those open lines of
9 communication, we've established a toll-free
10 number. That is on the overhead. It's
11 Zapata Engineering. So feel free to call us
12 with questions. If you see someone on your
13 site, are they supposed to be out here
14 surveying today? I don't know what's going
15 on. Give us a call. If we don't have that
16 information, we'll make sure to have David
17 Rich from Public Affairs or one of the
18 Project Managers return your call as soon as
19 possible. So again, another opportunity to
20 have that open line of communication.

21 Significant milestones for the
22 project will be advertised through the four
23 local newspapers, and we'll try to run those
24 at least the middle of the week -- I know
25 several of the papers it will be run on

1 Thursdays. So we'll run those the middle of
2 the week and then try to catch a Sunday
3 edition, so everyone is informed. And we'll
4 also publicize any meetings through that
5 media.

6 A fourth way to keep involved is
7 through what's called a Restoration Advisory
8 Board. I won't spend a lot of time going
9 into detail on that. We do not have a board
10 established for Conway yet. But the purpose
11 of the board is to have a collective group of
12 community members representing the different
13 interests, business interests, landowners,
14 developers, that would sit on a board, attend
15 regularly scheduled meetings, which are open
16 to the public, and provide input to the Corps
17 of Engineers on the process and future
18 activities.

19 Again, we do not have one
20 established yet. We're soliciting interest
21 to see if individuals such as yourself would
22 like to be considered to serve and to commit
23 the time, either quarterly or monthly
24 depending upon the necessity, to meet and
25 have these meetings. You would be a liaison

1 back to the community to relate that
2 information, as well as be able to bring
3 community concerns directly to the Corps'
4 Project Manager.

5 We do have some information on the
6 Restoration Advisory Boards out by the
7 display, and we also have what's called a
8 community interest form. If you think you
9 might be interested in being considered to
10 serve, if you would like to complete one of
11 those forms, you need to meet with me this
12 evening or put it in the mail. Then we can
13 start to gauge better the interest to
14 maintain that board.

15 All of the processes for community
16 relations will be documented in the community
17 relations plan. That will be approved
18 through the Corps of Engineers and will be
19 available at the information repository once
20 it is approved.

21 So briefly, community relations, we
22 want to keep you involved and as informed as
23 possible. Don't hesitate to pick up the
24 phone and call if you have questions. I
25 think in a nutshell to get this wrapped up

1 for this evening, that's all I had.

2 What I would like to do is open up
3 for questions. If you do have a question, if
4 you would please state your name. We do have
5 an individual taking the meeting minutes for
6 us. This helps us document if we make a
7 commitment back to you for a response that we
8 remember what we need to do and who we owe
9 that to. So if you can state your name. And
10 if there are any questions for any of us,
11 we'll be happy to answer those at this time.

12 Yes, ma'am. Your name?

13 BY MS. JENSEN:

14 My name is Karole Jensen,
15 J-E-N-S-E-N, and I'm interested in other
16 sites that apparently will be reviewed that
17 probably didn't have the problem these
18 particular sites did. Is the place to go for
19 that would be the book out front, the
20 Archives?

21 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

22 The Archives will have maps for all
23 land use and specifically what those were
24 used for. And from there, there was a
25 process to evaluate what the relative hazards

1 to the public were based on the items used,
2 and that process narrowed it down to these
3 specific ranges. And we can review that this
4 evening.

5 And I don't know if -- Ron, do you
6 have anything else to add?

7 BY MR. NESBIT:

8 No. That's about it. Other than
9 the fact that when you're looking up the
10 definition of ordnance, from the standpoint
11 of hazards to the public, we're talking in
12 terms of explosives and items of that. Range
13 fire, such as small arms fire and rifle fire
14 and stuff like that, does not meet the
15 category of ordnance. And I believe some of
16 the other ranges fell into that category.

17 BY MS. JENSEN:

18 Who would handle that in the Corps?

19 Who would handle that type of evaluation?

20 BY MR. NESBIT:

21 There would not be a cleanup for
22 that type of activity.

23 BY MS. JENSEN:

24 One other comment, I don't know
25 where the number was that was advertised in

1 the newspaper. I tried to reach it, and it
2 refers you to another number.

3 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

4 That was the Public Affairs Office.
5 The Charleston district has since moved
6 offices. And this is the current -- David,
7 that's your right number, correct?

8 BY MR. RICH:

9 Yes.

10 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

11 That number will get you into the
12 Public Affairs office in the Charleston
13 district.

14 BY MS. JENSEN:

15 And also, Chapin Memorial Library
16 is down in the middle of Myrtle Beach. And
17 that would be more accessible to gather
18 information.

19 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

20 Thank you. Any other questions?

21 BY MS. SAMS:

22 This information that's available
23 at the library, can you get it off the
24 Internet?

25 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

1 First of all, what is your name?

2 BY MS. SAMS:

3 Barbara Sams.

4 BY MS. McKINNEY:

5 Do we have a website?

6 BY MR. NESBIT:

7 At present we do not have a
8 website. At our other sites we did establish
9 one, and we may eventually establish one for
10 this project as well. There will be other
11 open house meetings or meetings open to the
12 public such as this. And as the interest
13 grows, it will dictate a lot of the
14 additional things that we will do. But in
15 answer to your question, there isn't one at
16 present. We are considering it. And once it
17 is -- a decision has been made, we'll make
18 certain that you're aware of it.

19 BY MS. McKINNEY:

20 Any other questions or comments?

21 Yes, sir.

22 BY MR. ADAMS:

23 Don Adams. As far as the overall
24 length of time for cleanup, I know it's going
25 to be a long process. But do you have a wild

1 guess how long it's going to take to clear
2 all of these areas?

3 BY MR. NESBIT:

4 That's a difficult question to
5 answer, but I'll give you a ball park time
6 frame. Based on -- a lot of it is dependent
7 upon what we actually find through the
8 process of intrusion. Yes. We show a lot
9 of, I call them hits, from the standpoint of
10 the data that we've gathered. But as we
11 begin to actually resume the investigation in
12 terms of intrusion, we may find that there is
13 literally nothing out there. Yes, we'll find
14 debris. Okay? But we may not find anything
15 that's considered a real threat. So
16 therefore, the whole process will move along
17 a lot faster.

18 So it all depends on how much
19 activity we really find that we have to deal
20 with from the standpoint of where public
21 safety is concerned.

22 BY MR. ADAMS:

23 All right.

24 BY MR. RAILEY:

25 The investigation, to let you know,

1 we plan on being completed a month or so
2 after we get back into the field. And the
3 removal action will not follow until after
4 the report is out, and you'll have an
5 opportunity to look at it, and a decision is
6 made on whether there is further action
7 needed.

8 BY MR. NESBIT:

9 Let me mention this to you. Our
10 contractor is very judicious and he wants to
11 move along real fast. That's the nature of
12 the game for a contractor. And he's a good
13 one. However, with this high interest in
14 safety, the Corps and the government moves in
15 this arena a little more deliberate, because
16 there are so many more alternatives that we
17 have to consider on how we're going to deal
18 with certain issues.

19 And until we actually go through
20 the gamut of determining the best approach,
21 the best thing to do, we will move at a
22 deliberate pace, not to draw it out, but one
23 to make certain that what we do is the right
24 and the most economical, and to include the
25 most safe as well, and the least impactive on

1 the residents.

2 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

3 And correct me if I'm wrong. We're
4 anticipating the draft EE/CA, the draft
5 report, to be out later this summer, which
6 would summarize all of the findings from
7 these investigations. And that is an
8 opportunity for public review and comment.
9 That would be available in the library. A
10 public meeting would most likely be held to
11 review all of that before final
12 recommendations would be made.

13 BY MR. ADAMS:

14 So we're looking at basically
15 another couple of years of doing this?

16 BY MR. NESBIT:

17 If you're looking at the entire
18 project, or entire process?

19 BY MR. ADAMS:

20 Yeah.

21 BY MR. NESBIT:

22 Potential. Because we know as we
23 sit here that the first three sites may not
24 take that long, based on the nature of the
25 sites they are. But when you start dealing

1 with sites involving residents, there's a lot
2 more involved.

3 BY MR. ADAMS:

4 Right.

5 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

6 Yes, sir?

7 BY MR. LIVINGSTON:

8 My name is Marion Livingston. I
9 have a split question. Why do you wait fifty
10 some, right at fifty years or better to come
11 back and talk about surveying property
12 because it's a possibility of an explosion
13 being on it or some missiles? And the people
14 that's on this property and stuff has now
15 been there for the last fifty years. And you
16 didn't bother to have no concerns about it.
17 And now all of a sudden it's a great concern
18 about welfare, safety.

19 I ain't heard you talk too much
20 about safety. Only thing I heard you talk
21 about is engineering and planning
22 commissions. So what about the safety? Who
23 do we have to look forward to or look at for
24 having us on these sites or otherwise living
25 on these areas which you've got already zoned

1 out as being a potential hazard, potential
2 hazard, bombs or anything else?

3 But to me that's kind of negative.
4 Because that site in Area VII, there's a lot
5 of metal around there, mostly junk cars,
6 steel, scrap metal that come off the beach.
7 People have been dumping out there for twenty
8 years or better, that I know about, because
9 I've been there twenty-five years. Every
10 time I turn around, there's a big truck
11 hauling stuff in there, dropping it.

12 I'm quite sure your device will
13 detect metal, with all that steel I've seen
14 them hauling back in there. Even that part
15 of land I've got back there, I've got forty
16 or fifty old cars junked on it. I have a
17 small business in it.

18 So there's several areas in there
19 that's got a lot of steel and a lot of
20 aluminum, galvanized, all that kind of stuff.
21 So now all of a sudden it's a potential
22 hazard to us or eitherwise unsafe there that
23 flared up in the last few years.

24 And what about the beach side? I
25 ain't heard nothing mentioned about on that

1 area's side. I'm quite sure -- when I was
2 small, seven years old, eight years old, I
3 used to walk on that side and find shell
4 fragments, and it would be right on the
5 surface of the ground. Now you're talking
6 about digging in the ground over here on the
7 flat land side. I don't see no kind of holes
8 or area where bombs were dropped on that site
9 at, but now you've got us zoned as a
10 potential area.

11 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

12 Well, I'll address the rationale
13 for waiting fifty years. It's a valid
14 question, and it comes up at all of these
15 project sites. The authority to address
16 these formerly used defense sites was not
17 provided to the Army, to the Corps of
18 Engineers, until a CERCLA superfund in 1986,
19 and that provided the funding and the impetus
20 for this process. It's not to say it
21 shouldn't have been done before. It's now
22 saying we have the authority and money, the
23 Corps of Engineers, to pursue the process.
24 And now we can move forward.

25 And safety has always been a

1 factor. And now we've got a process to go
2 through the evaluation and come up with the
3 remedies to minimize and finally get these
4 sites addressed. And let me throw it back,
5 because I don't work with the Corps of
6 Engineers. I want to throw it back to these
7 guys to see if they want to provide
8 additional insight.

9 BY MR. NESBIT:

10 Yes. I might address one other
11 portion of that, from the standpoint of other
12 metals being in the area, people hauling
13 metals there and so on, and the reason why we
14 are concerned about what's under the ground
15 and above the ground. Well, it isn't so much
16 that. And I don't know specifically what
17 parcel of land you have.

18 But as Ola mentioned earlier on,
19 you have a target zone and a safety zone.
20 And everything within that safety zone is
21 what we're really concerned with, based upon
22 the archives and information that we've
23 gotten from records back in the 40's when
24 they actually used the site.

25 We're not trying to remove -- and I

1 should say this again. We're not trying to
2 remove what people brought into an area and
3 discarded or what you may have discarded in
4 an area. Yes. Our equipment will pick up
5 that metal. But by the same token, based on
6 the data and information we've got, we're
7 able to rule those type of readings out as
8 well and focus on the type of items we're
9 looking for.

10 The items that are under the
11 ground, we're concerned about. Primarily
12 because if we didn't know they were there and
13 we now know they're there, then we have to
14 find out what in fact is there, in terms of
15 what might create the harm to the public.

16 So in a roundabout way, what I'm
17 saying is that safety, since we've been
18 empowered to do what we're trying to
19 accomplish now, has been to provide as much
20 safety and take away the unknown about a
21 specific site that we know was used for that
22 purpose and the fact that there were
23 ordnances used in those areas that raise the
24 risk of harm to the public. That's what
25 we're really trying to do.

1 BY MR. RAILEY:

2 One other thing. Parsons, their
3 investigation has confirmed, by the work
4 we've done so far, has found most of the
5 anomalies, most of the items we suspect are
6 actually in the middle where these bombing
7 targets are, specifically in Range III.
8 There weren't too many up here in Range IV,
9 and very, very few in Range VII. So we do
10 dig a lot of bolts, nails, cans and things,
11 but that's just the nature of the business.

12 Now, as far as safety goes, the
13 people who do this, safety is paramount for
14 us. A lot of times we spend a lot of time
15 with our customer in trying to inform the
16 public, so they know that we're the ones who
17 are here.

18 But you're right. We don't talk
19 about safety a whole lot until we do find an
20 item, but it is paramount. The experts are
21 former ordnance military; they all have to be
22 former military.

23 BY MR. LIVINGSTON:

24 That still negates what I'm saying.
25 If you knew all this now, why did you let it

1 go so long? And all of a sudden it's a great
2 concern now. Just answer that first part of
3 that statement and the last part of that
4 statement and get this out for me.

5 BY MR. NESBIT:

6 Let me answer it this way. I can't
7 give you an answer for why our government did
8 not provide the funding or the authorization
9 for us to go back in these areas and clean
10 earlier than we have. That's not within my
11 jurisdiction or power.

12 I do know that now that we've got
13 it, we're moving forward to try to clean up.
14 That's all that I can give you.

15 BY MR. LIVINGSTON:

16 That's an unanswered statement
17 then. Because they're leaving a lot of
18 people in doubt of what you're trying to tell
19 us now about what you're trying to do. And
20 if you just give me negative answers, like
21 you just gave me, then you're putting a blind
22 in front of my window here, now.

23 And you've got all these high
24 technicians now, technology and all this type
25 of equipment, and you mean to tell me you

1 can't tell me whether or not what's going on
2 is within your reach.

3 BY MR. NESBIT:

4 I think we're proceeding in that
5 direction with the technology, with the
6 knowledge, and I believe we are providing you
7 the best possible information we can based
8 upon what we've got available to us. I can't
9 go back forty years and change that. Any
10 other questions?

11 BY MR. BELL:

12 Yes, sir. Jerome Bell. Has there
13 anything of a hazardous material been found
14 at this point? Have you had a call to 911,
15 like you say?

16 BY MR. AWOSIKA:

17 We have run across that in the
18 past, especially in the area, Range III, the
19 property owned by International Paper.
20 Again, if you noticed the slide that I
21 showed, that indicated three of the five
22 ranges have confirmed ordnance items on them.
23 They've found items on this. Confirmed it,
24 yes. They were there, yes, sir.

25 BY MR. BELL:

1 Were they taken away or --

2 BY MR. AWOSIKA:

3 That's what we're after --

4 BY MR. BELL:

5 -- were they live?

6 BY MR. AWOSIKA:

7 No. They were not live. They were
8 not live. Again, the fact they were not live
9 doesn't mean they are not dangerous. So if
10 you see anything at all, you have to assume
11 it's dangerous. You can't say if it's not
12 live or it's live, you know, it poses a
13 threat or not. You have to presume that it's
14 live or dangerous, basically.

15 BY MR. BELL:

16 One other question. If you have
17 bomb craters on your property -- and I'm sure
18 they'll be investigated thoroughly -- but at
19 the end of this, will you people, are you
20 going to level that back out?

21 BY MR. AWOSIKA:

22 Actually one of the things that we
23 did, having done this study, was back in the
24 40's we were able to gather area photographs.
25 And we used area photographs to actually

1 determine the area that was impacted by the
2 bombing. This is part of the answer to the
3 question that the gentleman back there had
4 before. How do you know this is the area to
5 investigate? We have photographs that were
6 taken by the Corps of Engineers, by the Army
7 back then, that shoot those areas. And we
8 have today area photographs taken back in the
9 1990's that show what that area looks like
10 now, so we can compare and see what the
11 ground condition is, present day now. Again,
12 if you're asking are we going to go back and
13 fill up the holes, I don't know.

14 BY MR. NESBIT:

15 Let me answer it this way. We are
16 to replace as it was based upon our
17 disturbance. We're not supposed to enhance
18 the property.

19 BY MR. BELL:

20 Is there any way you reckon we can
21 get a claim on that?

22 BY MR. NESBIT:

23 Sir, I --

24 BY MR. BELL:

25 I'll withdraw that question.

1 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

2 Any other questions? Any other
3 comments from any presenters? Okay. Well,
4 again we want to thank you for your interest
5 and your time this evening. And let me know
6 as much as y'all want to continue to be
7 involved, being considered for the board. We
8 do have forms. We're available throughout
9 the evening to talk with you out in the
10 lobby. So again, thank you, and we look
11 forward to seeing you soon.

12 BY MR. NESBIT:

13 Thank you very much.

14 (The taking of the meeting concluded at 7:50 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE

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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-seven (57) 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