

ST. LOUIS SITE REMEDIATION TASK FORCE

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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WEDNESDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 18, 1996

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BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 18th day of September, 1996, a public hearing was conducted by Ms. Sally Price, Chair of the St. Louis Site Remediation Task Force at the Henry VIII Motel and Conference Center, 4690 Lindbergh Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63144, and the following proceedings were had:

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1 WEDNESDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 18, 1996

2 (In Conference Room:)

3 OPENING REMARKS

4 THE CHAIR: Good evening. My name is Sally  
5 Price and I'm chair of the St. Louis Site Remediation  
6 Task Force. Seated with me is Anna Ginsburg, she is  
7 the vice chair, and we welcome you here this  
8 evening.

9 Seated to my right, in front of me, are  
10 Task Force members and I would like each of them to  
11 stand and introduce themselves at this time.

12 INTRODUCTION OF TASK FORCE MEMBERS

13 MR. RODEN: My name is Conn Roden. I'm the  
14 environmental protection director for St. Louis  
15 County and presently I am serving on the committee as  
16 a representative for Joe Cavato, who was formerly the  
17 public policy director for St. Louis County.

18 MR. FRUENHOFFER: I am Jack Frauenhoffer.  
19 I work for Mallinckrodt at the downtown St. Louis  
20 plant site and I represent the city commission.

21 MR. BINZ: Tom Binz with Laclede Gas  
22 Company. The gas company is an involved stakeholder  
23 as we have gas pipe and main in the areas where  
24 radioactive materials are distributed.

25 MS. DREY: My name is Kay Drey and I am

1 with the Missouri Coalition for the Environment and  
2 I'm on the St. Louis County Commission and I have  
3 been working on this issue for 18 years.

4 MR. GRANT: My name is Jim Grant and I'm  
5 with Mallinckrodt.

6 MS. COOPER: My name is Barbara Cooper.  
7 I'm representing our project person, Tom Horgan, who  
8 has been a member of the Task Force and I'm with  
9 Congressman Jim Talent's office.

10 MS. STEWARD: My name is Elsa Steward. I'm  
11 deputy director of the division of Environmental  
12 Quality for the Missouri Department of Natural  
13 Resources.

14 MS. BUNTON: My name is Molly Bunton and  
15 I'm special assistant to County Executive Buzz  
16 Westfall.

17 MS. COOK: My name is Virginia Cook. I'm  
18 here tonight representating Congressman William  
19 Clay.

20 MR. JEARLS: My name is Lou Jearls. I'm  
21 director of public works and I represent the city of  
22 Florissant.

23 MR. WALL: My name is Dan Wall. I work  
24 for EPA, Region 7 out of Kansas City.

25 MR. LARSON: And I'm Donovan Larson." I

1 work for St. Louis County Water Company and our  
2 involvement has to do with our water mains and the  
3 rights of way as well.

4 THE CHAIR: There are other members of our  
5 Task Force who are not here this evening and if you  
6 wish to see the full membership it is listed on one  
7 of the panels at the back of the room.

8 Also, we had an ex officio member of the  
9 group from the Department of Energy named David  
10 Adler, who is not with us this evening. However, we  
11 do have a representative from the Department of  
12 Energy here, his name is Mr. James Werner. He's the  
13 environmental policy director to Thomas Grumbly, DOE  
14 headquarters in Washington, D.C. Mr. Warner, would  
15 you like to stand. Thank you.

16 I will quickly overview the meeting format  
17 and some of the groundrules. First, I will give a  
18 summary of the history of the site, how the Task  
19 Force came to be and what its process was. That will  
20 be followed by a summary of our conclusions, then we  
21 will attempt to answer your questions regarding the  
22 process of the Task Force, its formation, and our  
23 product. After that we'll take a 15 minute break and  
24 reconvene to take your public comment.

25 OVERVIEW OF THE ST. LOUIS FUSRAP SITE

1           THE CHAIR: For a background of the site,  
2 for those of you new to this issue, we will begin  
3 with a brief overview. Radioactive contamination at  
4 the St. Louis site is the result of uranium  
5 processing performed at the downtown Mallinckrodt  
6 Chemical Company during World War II and the  
7 development of the atomic bomb. Also, subsequent  
8 nuclear weapons production during the Cold War  
9 occurred there.

10           And the residues and wastes from this  
11 processing were transported to the St. Louis airport  
12 area for storage. That is an area we are calling  
13 SLAPS in your report and DOE terms it that as well.  
14 Over the years wind and rain carried contamination  
15 from this site to adjacent properties known as the  
16 Berkeley ballfields and Coldwater Creek.

17           In the 1960s these wastes were purchased by  
18 a commercial reprocessing concern which transported  
19 them to a location on Latty Avenue that is now known  
20 as the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site. The acronym  
21 is HISS. During transit soils fell off of dump  
22 trucks contaminating ditches along the way and  
23 adjacent residential and commercial properties. And  
24 finally, some of the remaining residues were  
25 transported by yet another commercial concern to the

1 West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton.

2 TASK FORCE ORGANIZATION AND PROGRESS

3 As far as the Task Force background, over  
4 the years not much progress occurred over this  
5 problem but public concern continued to grow. Local  
6 opposition to the proposed plan of the Department of  
7 Energy in 1994 was significant. Also, before that,  
8 two referendums were passed in 1990, one in the city  
9 and one in the county, opposing a permanent storage  
10 bunker for the radioactive wastes in the St. Louis  
11 area.

12 In 1992, two commissions were formed to  
13 provide oversight to DOE activities -- the Hazardous  
14 Radioactive Waste Commission for the county and the  
15 Mayor's Advisory Committee for Radioactive Waste in  
16 the city. These groups would form the core of what  
17 would become the St. Louis Site Remediation Task  
18 Force.

19 These two factors, the public opposition in  
20 the form of the referendum and also to the proposed  
21 plan in 1994, decided -- excuse me, Undersecretary  
22 Thomas Grumbly he had decided that he would involve  
23 stakeholders in the decisionmaking process and he  
24 came here for a summit meeting in August of 1994.

25 It occurred in this hotel and it was the

1 result of that meeting where he asked us to organize  
2 as a group, study site issues, help direct the  
3 interim cleanup funds for fiscal years 1995 through  
4 1997, reach consensus on an overall remedy and report  
5 the findings back to him and to DOE.

6           So that brings us to tonight. We now have  
7 a draft report. It has been unanimously approved by  
8 members of the Task Force. And although our meetings  
9 have been public, and we have heard comments through  
10 the time that we met, we wanted to afford the public  
11 a more formal opportunity to question and comment on  
12 our report and include that as commentary in our  
13 report.

14           We have, as you've already seen from the  
15 introductions, a broad representation in the  
16 membership. We have, as I've said, the city and  
17 county commission members, personal property owners  
18 and commercial property owners; utility companies are  
19 represented; state and federal regulators in the form  
20 of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and  
21 the EPA; congressional staff delegations from  
22 Congressman Clay's office and Congressman Talent's;  
23 civic groups such as the Grace Hill Neighborhood  
24 Association; and the environmental groups of the  
25 Coalition for the Environment. And as I've said in



1 the introductions we had David Adler as a site  
2 manager who served as ex officio.

3 We've held monthly meetings beginning the  
4 month following the summit meeting. We've had much  
5 diligence in the attendance of these meetings and  
6 I've always been grateful for that.

7 Our first action was to develop a mission  
8 statement which states up there are to identify and  
9 evaluate remedial action alternatives for the cleanup  
10 of radioactive waste at the St. Louis site and to  
11 petition the DOE to pursue a cleanup strategy that is  
12 environmentally acceptable and responsive to public  
13 health and safety concerns.

14 In order to do this we realized that very  
15 early on some of these issues were hard to tackle in  
16 a large group so we formed working groups which are  
17 listed, and there several here. The primary ones  
18 that I can speak to are the Alternative Sites. We  
19 looked at the local sites, we looked at other  
20 Missouri sites and we looked at out-of-state sites.

21 We also had a pretty active Priorities  
22 Working Group which tried to direct the interim  
23 cleanup fund for the years '95 through '97 and we had  
24 a Technology Working Group which studied potential  
25 technologies that might be suitable to be used on our

1 problem.

2 In development of the final report we  
3 decided to break the entire site into eleven  
4 component sites and this is rather complicated.  
5 Primarily there were -- those being the Downtown  
6 Site, the SLAPS site, the HISS site and the Vicinity  
7 Property sites.

8 But as we looked at this and tried to  
9 evaluate the cleanup strategy for each of those four,  
10 it became more and more complicated because some  
11 sites were privately owned and some were government  
12 -- city owned properties. So we really had to break  
13 them down further.

14 And they are listed. SLAPS and the  
15 ballfields is part of St. Louis City; Latty Avenue  
16 and the North County haul routes are mainly the  
17 roadways in that area along with some Latty Avenue  
18 properties; the HISS site is in conjunction with  
19 what's called FUTURA, that's a company adjacent to  
20 the HISS site; Coldwater Creek posed its own set of  
21 problems; West Lake Landfill was yet another concern.

22 And the downtown properties were separated  
23 into three. You see Mallinckrodt, meaning the plant;  
24 the Vicinity Properties, being private property areas  
25 adjacent to the plant, and the Riverfront Trail is a

1 section of land between the plant and the levee right  
2 along side of the Mississippi River.

3 MS. DREY: Do you want to say what SLDS  
4 stands for?

5 THE CHAIR: SLDS stands for the St. Louis  
6 downtown site.

7 We agreed to a cleanup approach for each of  
8 these component areas, drafted a final report in a  
9 group effort and reached consensus. The next steps  
10 are to obtain your public comment, to incorporate  
11 that as a whole into the addendum of the report and  
12 to sign and transmit the document to the Department  
13 of Energy.

14 RECOMMENDATIONS

15 THE CHAIR: I've separated recommendations  
16 into Interim and Overall. The Interim  
17 recommendations begin with the 1995 funds that went  
18 to six residential properties. They were highest on  
19 our priority list of actions to take and all of those  
20 were remediated.

21 In fiscal year '96, funds were used to  
22 clean up twelve North County commercial Vicinity  
23 Properties (or VPs); the SLDS Plant 10 area of  
24 Mallinckrodt was also cleaned up.

25 And now as we transition from 1996 funds to

1 '97 funds, we will continue with Interim actions  
2 that are currently underway. / And these are three  
3 primarily -- the Riverfront Trail, a Vicinity  
4 Property down at St. Louis downtown site, the removal  
5 of several buildings at the Mallinckrodt plant and to  
6 continue with SLAPS work which is restorative and  
7 maintenance in its nature.

8 Our Overall recommendations, what's listed  
9 on the overhead, is all of the areas we have  
10 consensus on asking for a complete excavation and  
11 removal. This would allow for an unrestricted use of  
12 this land and that was the consensus of the Task  
13 Force.

14 The next three properties listed on the  
15 next overhead are West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton,  
16 Mallinckrodt Chemical Plant and the Riverfront  
17 Trail. We have outlined a recommendation to clean  
18 those up to a restricted use, that is, for  
19 recreational or commercial use. This is basically  
20 not taking all of the contamination off-site, leaving  
21 some there. But with the amount of exposure that is  
22 there in those areas due to the limited time that is  
23 spent, there is a reduced risk and you can obtain a  
24 little higher level of activity in those areas.

25 We also recommend that DOE further evaluate

1 emerging technologies and apply them whatever and  
2 wherever feasible to reduce soil volumes as well as  
3 allow for safer transport. And in addition, all  
4 wastes are to be containerized and transported to  
5 out-of-state licensed disposal facilities.

6 It was a consensus objective that SLAPS be  
7 our highest priority with work to begin in the fiscal  
8 year '97 time frame if possible.

9 And finally, we recommend that the  
10 Department of Energy increase its presence on-site  
11 through the establishment of a fully-established  
12 field office.

13 QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION

14 THE CHAIR: And now we will try to answer  
15 your questions, any that you may have. Yes?

16 MR. PION: Has any been restricted to the  
17 low level waste then if no remedial action was  
18 taken?

19 THE CHAIR: Did everyone hear the question  
20 in the audience? We have no exact figures that we  
21 studied but generally these risks are calculated one  
22 per thousand or one per ten thousand or one hundred  
23 thousand. And as I understand it, it is the ten to  
24 the minus three to four range that we are at with our  
25 risk; is that correct? David Miller from SAIC has

1 been one of the experts we've called upon numerous  
2 times to help provide us with that type of  
3 information. Can you help, David?

4 MR. MILLER: The current risks at the sites  
5 of been modelled and measured also. And currently  
6 the way the land use is being done, i.e., the  
7 Mallinckrodt site being an industrial site and the  
8 St. Louis airport site being completely fenced in and  
9 restricted -- there's no access to that -- and the  
10 HISS site also being completely fenced in and  
11 controlled, having no access, means that the exposure  
12 rates to any potential existing people right now are  
13 very, very low and, in fact, they are within the  
14 acceptable risk range. And I don't want to speak for  
15 all other agencies but no other agency has come out,  
16 whether it be county or state or federal, to say  
17 there are currently imminent health threats from the  
18 site.

19 The reason that the sites are being  
20 addressed is because the long-term estimates if the  
21 properties went uncontrolled would say that there's a  
22 potential for future residents on these types of  
23 sites to be exposed. That would be if the fences  
24 fell down and people forgot this contamination was  
25 there and perhaps developed them for some sort of

1 residential use.

2           So the short answer is currently the site  
3 is considered safe but the long-term risk is what  
4 we're addressing as part of these considerations.

5           THE CHAIR: Thank you.

6           MS. DREY: I would just like to say, Mr.  
7 Miller, that I don't agree with everything you said.  
8 I do think that the contaminates that are at our  
9 sites are contaminating the air and groundwater and  
10 surface water and potentially then people. You know,  
11 today even though they're fenced. So we do have  
12 radioactive dust, radon gas and contaminants going  
13 into waterways.

14           And when they talk about risk, when they  
15 use these numbers -- one in ten thousand or whatever  
16 -- they're talking about cancer. But there are  
17 other risks we have to be concerned about when it  
18 comes to exposure to radiation such as impact on the  
19 immune system, reproductive system, mutagens and so  
20 forth. Thank you.

21           THE CHAIR: Are there any other questions?  
22 Okay. We will break and resume in fifteen minutes.  
23 Thank you.

24           ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC COMMENT

25           THE FACILITATOR: My name is Jim Dwyer.

1 For those of you who do not know me I have been  
2 serving for the past couple of years as the mediator  
3 and facilitator for the St. Louis Site Task Force and  
4 my job tonight is to facilitate our way through the  
5 public comment section of the meeting.

6 And I would like to propose a couple of  
7 ground rules or an approach to organizing it so that  
8 it's efficient and effective. There are 16 people  
9 who have signed up to speak. First of all, I would  
10 like to ask whether there is anyone who has not  
11 signed up but who has had second thoughts and would  
12 like to be added to the list? Apparently not. So  
13 there are 16 of you.

14 We are now five minutes ahead of schedule.  
15 We had anticipated an hour of the schedule tonight  
16 being allocated for this purpose. We now have an  
17 hour and five minutes, that results in approximately  
18 three or three and a half minutes apiece. If that is  
19 absolutely inadequate for any of you, I would  
20 appreciate your saying that at the outset, but we  
21 would like to give everybody a fair share of the  
22 available time and stick with our appointed  
23 adjournment time so that people get to where they  
24 need to be.

25 There is one speaker who has an airplane to



1 catch, we are taking people in the order in which  
2 they signed up, he happens to be close to the top of  
3 the list so I think we'll be able to accommodate his  
4 needs and stick with the game plan.

5 Finally, we had originally thought for  
6 purposes of adhering to our production schedule,  
7 getting the public comment section incorporated into  
8 the final report in a timely manner, that we would  
9 have to close off public comment as of tonight.

10 We have since determined that we have the  
11 luxury of another couple of days so for any of you  
12 who may discover issues or concerns as you go through  
13 the report in greater detail tomorrow or the next day  
14 or for those of you who know of people who were  
15 unable to be here tonight but who might like to be  
16 included in the public comment section of the report,  
17 you will be happy to know that we are willing to  
18 accept public comment through the close of business  
19 Friday. You can see Sarah Synder, the lady in the  
20 yellow blazer, at the back of the room to get the  
21 appropriate telephone and fax numbers and e-mail  
22 address -- there are numerous ways you can  
23 communicate with us -- but please pass the word, if  
24 you think it's appropriate, and let people know that  
25 we have another 48 hours in which people can comment.

1                   Finally, the procedure is that Sarah will  
2 bring a portable microphone to each speaker in turn  
3 so if you would simply stand up when your name is  
4 called -- Tom is going to help as well or are you the  
5 primary microphone carrier? All right, good. So if  
6 Joan Kelly Horn would stand.

7                   MS. HORN: When you mentioned that someone  
8 had a plane to catch, I thought you were referring to  
9 me because I am also catching a plane in a little  
10 bit.

11                   Let me just thank the Task Force and also  
12 thank all of you here that have shown interest in  
13 this, this is an issue that this community has been  
14 dealing with for decades. When I was in the Congress  
15 in 1991 and '92, I cannot tell you how much time my  
16 staff and I spent with the Department of Energy, with  
17 the residents in the affected areas with the local  
18 elected officials in the affected areas and I always,  
19 always supported full funding for the Department of  
20 Energy to clean up the sites. Without full funding  
21 for the program to clean up these sites, it is pure  
22 rhetoric to say I support cleaning up.

23                   So I think we all need to ask Mr. Talent,  
24 who has voted to eliminate the Department of Energy,  
25 to eliminate the civilian programs that the

1 Department of Energy -- these are all separate votes  
2 and we have all this documented -- we cannot get it  
3 cleaned up if we don't have full funding. I would  
4 continue to support full funding for this cleanup.

5 The people in this community have waited  
6 long enough. This has been, as we all know, waste  
7 from 50 years ago and who knows what kind of damage  
8 it's been doing, so I am just again sort of chagrined  
9 to see that things haven't moved forward faster than  
10 they have because it seems like not a lot has  
11 happened since five or six years ago.

12 On the other hand, the Task Force has  
13 worked very hard and come up with a very fine report,  
14 which I have obviously have not had time to study  
15 very carefully, but hopefully now this will be the  
16 beginning of the end of the process and the first  
17 step to getting the record of decision and to moving  
18 on and getting this cleaned up and relieving this  
19 community of this burden that we've had so many  
20 years. But do keep in mind -- we don't do it if we  
21 don't have any money, if we don't have a Department  
22 of Energy.

23 So as I used to do, and as we do, I  
24 certainly will yield back my other two minutes so  
25 that some of the other speakers who have more

1 technical comments or substantive comments on the  
2 report can have more time. Thank you very much.

3 THE FACILITATOR: Thank you. The next  
4 speaker is Ken Midkiff who represents the Missouri  
5 Sierra Club. Mr. Midkiff.

6 MR. MIDKIFF: My name is Ken Midkiff. I am  
7 the director of the Sierra Club in Missouri. We have  
8 approximately ten thousand members with six thousand  
9 of those members being in the St. Louis metropolitan  
10 area.

11 We were not on the Task Force but we did  
12 sit in on and follow the procedures closely and  
13 occasionally even commented out of turn. We  
14 discovered this was a very long, laborious and  
15 occasionally contentious process, however, we do feel  
16 that the Task Force arrived at conclusions that are  
17 commendable and applaudable and that we fully  
18 support.

19 It only makes sense to clean up to the  
20 highest standard those areas that are most likely to  
21 expose the public to health risk. The three sites  
22 that were deemed to present less risk are selected  
23 for a lesser cleanup.

24 It would seem to be imperative that the  
25 airport site be cleaned up to the highest standards.

1 It is in a flood plain and in an area likely to  
2 contaminate surface and groundwater. This property  
3 was also previously owned by the Atomic Energy  
4 Commission and was deeded over in a Quitclaim to the  
5 airport. If it were still ADC property it would be  
6 absolutely necessary that the federal government  
7 clean it up. Just because it's changed hands does  
8 not make that any less necessary.

9 We would ask that the division of energy  
10 proceed in the most expeditious manner to implement  
11 the recommendations of the Task Force. Similar to  
12 what was done at Weldon Spring.

13 Finally, I do wish to point out that there  
14 are no good solutions to dealing with radioactive  
15 waste. We as a society can only choose among a list  
16 of pretty bad alternatives and we must choose the one  
17 then that is least objectionable.

18 We do not believe that transport of  
19 radioactive waste to Utah is a good idea but it  
20 appears to be the only alternatives that meets the  
21 criteria. At least the waste will be stored in a  
22 place where it's properly supervised and where the  
23 public will not be exposed. To leave the waste in  
24 areas where the public is likely to be exposed is  
25 completely unacceptable.

1           It is also a travesty that as a society we  
2 continue to produce radioactive waste. There are no  
3 solutions, there are only problems. We are leaving a  
4 terrible legacy for future generations. The only  
5 real solution is to stop producing the stuff and deal  
6 with what we have. Thank you.

7           THE FACILITATOR: Thank you, Mr. Midkiff.  
8 The next speaker is Jerry Klamon.

9           MR. KLAMON: I work with several  
10 environmental organizations. I have been organizing  
11 the Earth Day Festival in St. Louis for the last five  
12 or six years. I would like to congratulate the  
13 group, the St. Louis Remediation Task Force, on  
14 developing consensus on the report. I think that's  
15 nothing short of miraculous.

16           And I think what's really important now is  
17 that the Department of Energy really accepts that  
18 this community wants this problem taken care of. The  
19 weapons that were created -- really the problem is a  
20 by-product of those weapons -- were done for this  
21 country as a whole. And I think it's extremely  
22 important that the government shows by example that  
23 it's very important to clean up the messes that you  
24 make.

25           It's very difficult for us to tell industry

1 that they shouldn't do what we call environmental  
2 borrowing by leaving pollutants around and I think  
3 this is a case where they didn't know very much when  
4 the weapons were manufactured, there were a lot of  
5 mistakes that were made, and that the problem of  
6 cleaning it up is something that needs to be shared  
7 across the country on the tax base and should be done  
8 right. It's just critical that it be done right.

9 And as part of that process I think it's  
10 important that the Department of Energy establish a  
11 staffed field office to expedite the St. Louis  
12 cleanup, that's the way we can really make sure that  
13 it's done properly. There are people here that can  
14 take care of it, that can monitor the process and I  
15 think nothing else will really be acceptable to this  
16 community. Thank you.

17 THE FACILITATOR: Thank you. Laura  
18 Newman.

19 MS. NEWMAN: I basically wanted to express  
20 my thanks to the Citizens Stakeholders Committee and  
21 heartily request that the Department of Energy  
22 respect this well thought out, consensus-based  
23 report. I have heartfelt respect for the integrity  
24 and intelligence of several of the people who served  
25 on this Task Force, unfortunately I don't know all of

1    them but the ones I do know I have a lot respect for,  
2    and I really trust that a recommendation that  
3    received their consensus approval represents the best  
4    case for remediation.

5               I urge the Department of Energy to act on  
6    this plan absolutely as soon as possible and to  
7    consider that the densely populated area of  
8    metropolitan St. Louis deserves to have immediate  
9    cleanup. Thank you.

10              THE FACILITATOR: Thank you. The next  
11    speaker is Virginia Cook who is representing  
12    Congressman William Clay.

13              MS. COOK: I'll be very brief. I just want  
14    to bring it to the attention of the body here that  
15    there was a letter, and it will be in the final  
16    report from Congressman Gephardt and Congressman Clay  
17    to the Department of Energy. This letter was dated  
18    August 29, 1996. It was directed to Mr. Grumbly, the  
19    director of the Department of Energy.

20              I'll just be very brief and read part of a  
21    paragraph from the letter where the congressmen tell  
22    him, "We believe it would be of significant benefit  
23    if you were to meet with the Task Force to accept its  
24    final report. Such a meeting could greatly enhance  
25    DOE's future relations with the St. Louis community



1 and vastly improve prospects for implementing a  
2 successful remediation program." Thank you.

3 THE FACILITATOR: Thank you, Virginia. The  
4 next speaker is James Baker representing County  
5 Executive Buzz Westfall.

6 MR. BAKER: Thank you. Good evening. I am  
7 here on behalf of Mr. Westfall to both congratulate  
8 the Task Force and to present a brief statement of  
9 his behalf.

10 "It is a pleasure for me to take this  
11 opportunity to address our public officials and our  
12 entire citizenry on a topic of great importance to  
13 St. Louis County and its surrounding areas. In 1990  
14 at my inaugural address I spoke to you about the  
15 challenges and opportunities I would face as your  
16 county executive.

17 Quoting from that address: While  
18 environment concerns must be balanced with other  
19 factors the bottom line is that nothing is more  
20 critical to the quality of our lives than the air we  
21 breathe, the water we drink and the ground we walk  
22 on. As county executive I will do everything in my  
23 power to prevent the nuclear waste bunker near  
24 Lambert Field. The people of the region have spoken  
25 loud and clear on this facility. They don't want it

1 in St. Louis County and the federal and state  
2 governments ought to listen to what the people have  
3 said. I will do my best to see that the people are  
4 heard and their wishes respected, ending the quote.

5 In November of 1990, the people made their  
6 voices clearly heard by exercising their franchise to  
7 oppose plans to build a nuclear bunker near Lambert  
8 Field. To this end I formed the St. Louis County  
9 Hazardous Waste Commission. Members of that body  
10 were then asked to participate as members of the St.  
11 Louis Site Remediation Task Force. The achievement  
12 of the Task Force has truly been a watershed event  
13 in creating what I referred in my 1992 State of the  
14 County Address as a new spirit of cooperation.

15 The Hazardous Waste Commission members,  
16 Task Force members and citizens at large have spoken  
17 with one voice that our area should be free from  
18 environmental and health risk posed by the presence  
19 of radioactive contamination in their midst.

20 The new spirit of cooperation has proven to  
21 be a testament to the vitality, intellectual talent  
22 and civic responsibility of a citizenry that travels  
23 the path of excellence in choosing to enter into an  
24 honest discourse with its government for the welfare  
25 of everyone concerned.

1 I am proud to be part of an effort that has  
2 been energized by this spirit and I will work to  
3 achieve full remediation of the affected properties  
4 in our region. Because of your new spirit of  
5 cooperation I now share with you a new sense of hope  
6 that economic development will thrive on land that  
7 was once abandoned and that children will again play  
8 on green fields and on the banks of the Coldwater  
9 Creek.

10 I urge all citizens of this great region to  
11 share in this vision. I offer you my congratulations  
12 and my continued commitment to turn our hope into  
13 reality."

14 THE FACILITATOR: Thank you, Mr. Baker. I  
15 have been advised that Mr. Werner would like to react  
16 to Virginia Cook's comment.

17 MR. WERNER: Yes. I am Jim Werner with the  
18 Department of Energy in Washington. I just want to  
19 answer the question you asked Tom Grumbly.  
20 Congressman Clay and Congressman Gephardt sent us a  
21 letter in late August, among other things, asking  
22 that Tom Grumbly come and receive the recommendation  
23 from the Task Force, and I'm just trying to respond  
24 to it. And I can say on behalf of Tom Grumbly  
25 tonight, after getting that letter and looking real

1 hard at the schedule and things, we will find a time  
2 for Tom to come out and respond to Congressman Clay's  
3 and Congressman Gephardt's letter.

4 THE FACILITATOR: Thank you. The next  
5 speaker is Charles Riggs.

6 MR. RIGGS: I am Charlie Riggs with  
7 Sverdrup Environmental one of Sverdrup Corporations  
8 subsidiaries. I would like to thank the Task Force  
9 for allowing me to speak to you this evening and I am  
10 here to express Sverdrup's support for the findings  
11 and recommendations that are put forth in the  
12 committee's report to the Department of Energy.

13 We've been a part of the greater St. Louis  
14 community for years and we agree that the radioactive  
15 contamination at the FUSRAP sites must be removed and  
16 the time for action is now. We have been directly  
17 involved in cleaning up such environmental legacies  
18 in many areas of the country. We, as a corporation,  
19 know how to get the job done.

20 We have joined a team of local businesses  
21 that are also very experienced in dealing with  
22 environmental problems of this magnitude and that can  
23 implement the Task Force recommendation. In addition  
24 to Sverdrup our team includes the National Center of  
25 Environmental Information and Technology, Clean Earth

1 Technologies and RM Western Associates. We are all  
2 businesses with vested interest in the St. Louis  
3 community. We have made a proposal to the Department  
4 of Energy for that purpose.

5 We have described and offered a unique  
6 combination of cost-effective proven technologies for  
7 remediating the specific hazards by the FUSRAP  
8 wastes. The application of technologies that we have  
9 offered would provide enhanced material handling and  
10 waste form preparation for the reduction of risk  
11 during transportation and for the protection of human  
12 health in the environment. We see this as an  
13 opportunity to partner with the Department of Energy  
14 to bring about the successful remediation of St.  
15 Louis sites in accordance with recommendations of the  
16 Task Force. We thank you.

17 THE FACILITATOR: Thank you. The next  
18 speaker is David Schorr who is the director of the  
19 Missouri Department of Natural Resources and who is  
20 here this evening representing Governor Carnahan.  
21 Mr. Schorr.

22 MR. SCHORR: As indicated, my name is David  
23 Schorr. I serve Governor Carnahan and the citizens  
24 of Missouri in the capacity as cabinet secretary for  
25 natural resources.

1           Consistent with the Missouri constitution,  
2 my agency's responsibilities and environmental  
3 control and preservation of Missouri's natural  
4 resources in this state. These include all state  
5 responsibilities related to the Super Fund cleanups  
6 in this state.

7           Governor Carnahan and I would like to  
8 extend our personal thanks to the Task Force members  
9 for your hard work and dedication. Your report is  
10 quality and represents a unique assemblage of our  
11 citizens' point of view. We are grateful for the  
12 opportunity to assist you. The department has had a  
13 nice working relationship with the Task Force but  
14 more importantly we are grateful for your desire to  
15 improve our great urban center.

16           Governor Carnahan is deeply concerned about  
17 the legacy of nuclear weapons waste in the St. Louis  
18 City and St. Louis County area. Nowhere else in the  
19 United States do DOE's nuclear weapons wastes reside  
20 in such an uncontrolled urban setting. Nowhere else  
21 in the United States do such federal weapons waste  
22 receive so little attention from the Department of  
23 Energy.

24           We are pleased that recently the DOE  
25 administration has taken a direct interest in our

1 sites and has focused attention internally on our  
2 needs and our concerns. Governor Carnahan agrees  
3 with the Task Force that DOE should expeditiously  
4 address the St. Louis waste problem and bring the  
5 matter in its entirety to a conclusion in concert  
6 with the wishes of St. Louisans. We encourage DOE to  
7 review the hard work and effort of this Task Force  
8 and propose a responsive set of alternatives to meet  
9 the Task Force goals and objectives.

10 When the citizens of St. Louis were called  
11 upon by the United States government to participate  
12 in the war effort, they responded knowing that many  
13 American youth would be sacrificed by yet another  
14 delay, they didn't wait for concerns and conclusions,  
15 they proceeded counting on their leaders to handle  
16 the consequence. Now, it is time for the United  
17 States government to mobilize to meet their task,  
18 that is, a proper cleanup in our community.

19 Governor Carnahan has been working with DOE  
20 officials to bring about the cleanup that St. Louis  
21 deserves. He has met with key DOE officials and has  
22 been encouraged by their courage, willingness to  
23 resurrect priorities in light of the Task Force  
24 efforts and information by state, city and county  
25 officials. We are hopeful that DOE using the Task

1 Force goals will expedite and focus their effort.

2 As director of the Department of Natural  
3 Resources I want to state for the record and for  
4 inclusion in the Task Force report that the aquifer  
5 that underlies the airport site and many other sites  
6 in north St. Louis County is a usable aquifer that  
7 provides potable water by Missouri definition.

8 Importantly it is the only bedrock aquifer  
9 in the area that yields potable water because the  
10 other aquifers are too high in dissolved solids. I  
11 will submit a listing of wells drilled into this  
12 important aquifer for the Task Force's use in  
13 inclusion in appendices of this report. It should be  
14 DOE's responsibility to protect this aquifer, not to  
15 put it at risk by inaction or short-sighted remedies.

16 I also want to comment on EPA's involvement  
17 in this effort. I am disappointed in EPA's failure  
18 to encourage DOE as the sole PRP in this Superfund  
19 site to bring these cleanup efforts to closure. This  
20 Task Force report is a valuable stepping stone in the  
21 Superfund process and should be used to provide  
22 stimulus to a conclusion.

23 Thank you for the opportunity to comment  
24 and most importantly it is all too often we do not  
25 get out citizen participation in the efforts that we



1 work on and I truly wish to thank the Task Force for  
2 their time and effort. Thank/you.

3 THE FACILITATOR: The next speaker is  
4 Barbara Cooper who is here representing Congressman  
5 Jim Talent and despite her allergic reaction is going  
6 to read a statement from the congressman.

7 MS. COOPER: Actually I'm here this evening  
8 on behalf of Tom Horgan who is a member of the Task  
9 Force and has been with the Task Force for the  
10 duration. It is a pleasure to be here. The  
11 congressman sent his remarks, since he is in  
12 Washington, and I shall read them to you. They are  
13 very brief.

14 "Good evening. I want to thank you for  
15 this opportunity to make a few remarks for the record  
16 regarding the final report of St. Louis Site  
17 Remediation Task Force."

18 Please excuse my raspy voice, I'm doing my  
19 best to recover, though.

20 "First of all, I want to say that I  
21 strongly support the conclusions and recommendations  
22 of this Task Force. The Task Force has worked very  
23 hard over the past two years in coming to its  
24 conclusions on this matter. The recommendations of  
25 the Task Force report have overwhelming community

1 support as evidenced by the report's unanimous  
2 approval at the September 17 Task Force meeting. The  
3 report will now be submitted to the Department of  
4 Energy for its consideration.

5 I will be meeting with DOE Undersecretary  
6 Thomas Grumbly on September the 25th to personally  
7 request that the DOE adopt the Task Force's  
8 recommendations for cleanup. At this meeting I will  
9 reaffirm the massive community support for these  
10 cleanup recommendations by the Task Force, the Task  
11 Force which Mr. Grumbly himself created in August of  
12 1994, to recommend cleanup remedies for the St. Louis  
13 FUSRAP sites.

14 In addition to this I will continue to work  
15 to keep up the momentum, including providing the  
16 necessary funding for the cleanup to proceed as  
17 recommended by the Task Force. Another vital  
18 priority must be the prioritization of the site  
19 cleanup. The areas involved are highly populated and  
20 therefore we must take care how the materials are  
21 removed and how these materials will be transported.  
22 To that end should the DOE approve the Task Force  
23 recommendation, I will fight to ensure that the waste  
24 is transported in a safe and effective manner,  
25 avoiding any highly populated areas.

1           In conclusion, I would like to express my  
2 personal gratitude to all of the members of the Task  
3 Force for their tireless work on this project for the  
4 past two years and congratulations to each of you on  
5 a job well done. Respectfully submitted, Congressman  
6 James Talent, Missouri Congressional District."

7           Because I am representing the congressional  
8 office, it would be unethical and inappropriate for  
9 me to respond to a political statement given by an  
10 opponent and so I will just say to you this evening  
11 that I would like for you to please look at the  
12 record in the past in doing our research for this  
13 evening of how funding has been supported. During  
14 that two-year tenure, funding was cut by 10 percent.  
15 Much more than has happened in the past. So please  
16 look at that when you're reviewing the reports and  
17 keep that in mind. Thank you very much.

18           THE FACILITATOR: Thank you, Barbara. The  
19 next speaker is Sandy Delcoure.

20           MS. DELCOURE: My name is Sandy Delcoure  
21 and I adopted Coldwater Creek under a program called  
22 Streams for the Future which is sponsored by the  
23 Missouri Department of Conservation and the  
24 Conservation Federation of Missouri.

25           In 1991 I approached the Rivers and Trails

1 Conservation Assistance Program which provides  
2 technical assistance to state and local governments  
3 and local organizations for establishing and managing  
4 river and trail corridor projects. I collected  
5 signatures from state and local officials in support  
6 of the restoration of Coldwater Creek as a greenway  
7 for the community in future.

8 I support the proposal to ship much of the  
9 radioactive waste at the airport and along Coldwater  
10 Creek to remote areas away from the heavily populated  
11 St. Louis community. I also encourage that the  
12 microwave vitrification process be seriously looked  
13 into and a field demonstration project be done with  
14 it and the radioactive waste sites concerned. It  
15 appears to be a logical solution and prevention of  
16 further contamination of the area through the cleanup  
17 and dust, et cetera.

18 I would like to thank the Department of  
19 Energy, the Task Force and especially Kay Drey for  
20 all the time and work they have done on the Task  
21 Force in the last two years to come with a solution  
22 to the problem of our radioactive wastes in the St.  
23 Louis area. A lot of time and effort went into their  
24 report and they are to be commended for the fine work  
25 they all did together. Thank you.

1 THE FACILITATOR: Thank you, Sandy. The  
2 next speaker is Chuck Blumenfeld.

3 MR. BLUMENFELD: Hi, my name is Chuck  
4 Blumenfeld and I represent Dawn Mining Company. Dawn  
5 is a uranium milling company that is no longer  
6 operating in Fort Washington that has a lined  
7 impoundment which has been licensed to receive 11E2  
8 material. And we are here tonight, not being so  
9 presumptuous as to comment on the Task Force, but  
10 just to make some comments about some of the issues  
11 that we have been involved in.

12 First, I want to thank the Task Force for  
13 allowing us to participate in the meetings and it's  
14 been a fascinating process and I can say I don't  
15 think anybody has worked in a group that has been as  
16 diligent and hard working and thorough as this Task  
17 Force.

18 We just wanted to emphasize that the Task  
19 Force conclusions with regard to the cost of off-site  
20 disposal are very important. The Department of  
21 Energy's report vastly overstated what the costs of  
22 off-site disposal would be in relation to on-site  
23 disposal. And the Task Force has been very diligent  
24 in looking at those costs and concluding that the  
25 costs would be about the same for on-site and

1 off-site.

2           One caution we would like to impart with  
3 regard to the microwave vitrification, and I'll  
4 submit this report for the record for comment, the  
5 Department of Energy in 1995 had a peer review group  
6 looking at various ways of handling radioactive  
7 materials and the peer review group concluded that no  
8 further money should be spent by the Department of  
9 Energy on that particular technology because it did  
10 not have a lot of promise in effectively reducing  
11 large volumes of radioactive material and obviously  
12 we want off-site disposal because that meets our  
13 objectives.

14           But I think it is important for the  
15 community to recognize that the Department of Energy,  
16 with all due respect, seems to enjoy studying things  
17 more than moving things and spending a lot of time  
18 looking at a technology if it's not going to be  
19 effective, should be looked at carefully by the Task  
20 Force.

21           Finally, we have been involved in a couple  
22 of other locations that have material like this and I  
23 just want impart how lucky you all are to have as  
24 effective and committed congressional delegation to  
25 look at this issue. That is the way the other sites

1 that are being remediated by the Department of Energy  
2 were initiated. It was by getting strong support  
3 from the congressional delegation and the governor  
4 and it appears that you have that and I believe that  
5 will be very effective in pursuing your objectives.  
6 Thank you.

7 THE FACILITATOR: Thank you, Mr.  
8 Blumenfeld. Anna Ginsburg.

9 MS. GINSBURG: I am here tonight  
10 representing Mayor Freeman Bosley, Jr. of the city of  
11 St. Louis and I'm going to read his statement.

12 "I want to thank the St. Louis Site  
13 Remediation Task Force for two years of hard work  
14 culminating in the report which you are reviewing  
15 tonight. Your accomplishments are an excellent  
16 example of good things that can happen when we all  
17 work together as a region.

18 I am especially pleased to see that you  
19 have made the protection of the public health and the  
20 environment priorities in your recommendations for  
21 remediation. In 1990 the voters of St. Louis  
22 overwhelming voted against the establishment of a  
23 permanent radioactive waste bunker in the area. Your  
24 report clearly reflects the community's desire to see  
25 this wastes cleaned up.

1 Over two million people live in the St.  
2 Louis area. We don't need to continue living with  
3 one of the largest volumes of nuclear weapons waste  
4 in the country. Some areas in St. Louis have been  
5 contaminated for over 50 years. Now that the Cold  
6 War is over it is time for the federal government to  
7 clean up.

8 When Thomas Grumbly from the Department of  
9 Energy came here two years ago he asked the community  
10 to come together and find a mutually acceptable  
11 solution to this problem. You have done your job.  
12 We now ask the federal government to do theirs. I  
13 want you to know that I fully support the  
14 recommendations in this report and intend to continue  
15 working with the citizens of the region until the  
16 cleanup is complete."

17 THE FACILITATOR: Thank you, Anna. The  
18 next speaker is Martin Pion.

19 MR. PION: I'm here representing the  
20 Missouri GASP (Group Against Smoking Pollution) as  
21 its president as well as myself as a resident in  
22 North County. I have addressed the Task Force before  
23 and so some of you will be familiar with my remarks  
24 and my position on this. I'm not here as a  
25 politician. I don't have to be re-elected so I don't



1 have to say the popular things.

2 I'm really disappointed that this much  
3 effort and time has been put into pursuing this issue  
4 which I see as a low-risk issue for most of the  
5 people in the St. Louis metropolitan area. And we're  
6 talking about a vast amount of money that ultimately  
7 we have to fork up -- it's coming out of our pocket.  
8 We should be very concerned that our money is being  
9 well spent. That's what all the Republicans are  
10 saying these days. I'm not a Republican by the way.

11 What I want to address as briefly as I can  
12 is the issue of risk. One of things that we do  
13 worst, and often these things are driven by political  
14 consideration is assessing risk. One of things I've  
15 learned over time as an environmentalist is that  
16 environmentalists are extremely good in getting the  
17 public very alarmed about things but they're  
18 extremely bad about assessing the relative risks of  
19 these things that they're getting the public alarmed  
20 about. Because I've been an environmentalist for  
21 many years and I've been alarmed about many things in  
22 the past as a coordinator of Friends of the Earth in  
23 England.

24 Kay Drey is a remarkable person. I have to  
25 give her credit for being an incredibly determined

1 and very intelligent person but I wish she had spent  
2 her 18 years devoting it to a higher-risk project --  
3 and I could give her something to do if she were  
4 interested, I don't think she is -- Kay Drey will  
5 agree with me when I say that if we're looking for  
6 things of concern that fall under the heading  
7 Radioactive Risk that one of the major risks that  
8 we're exposed to -- well, there are two that I want  
9 to mention tonight -- one is radon that is naturally  
10 occurring in the ground under our homes and collects  
11 in some of our energy-efficient homes -- I don't have  
12 one -- but that affects everybody in the St. Louis  
13 metropolitan area. It's naturally occurring.

14 Kay Drey's problem is that she focuses on  
15 the man-made radiation issues and she's absolutely  
16 totally absorbed with that and anything that's  
17 man-made must be bad and we have to get rid of it no  
18 matter what the cost. That's not rational, I'm  
19 afraid. That's her big weakness as I see it. Now,  
20 I'm just one person and Kay is one person too.

21 Let's talk about two issues. One is close  
22 to my heart and one is less close. As president of  
23 Missouri GASP I'm interested in getting smoking out  
24 of my life, other people's smoking. We're in a  
25 smoke-free room here but I checked with the hotel

1 before coming out here and everywhere in this hotel,  
2 apart from this room, smoking is allowed.

3 Tobacco smoke contains among the 43  
4 carcinogens, known or suspected human carcinogens in  
5 tobacco smoke is one radioactive. At least one, I  
6 think there's two, polonium 210 is a radioactive  
7 component in tobacco smoke that all of you breathe in  
8 when you're exposed to it. So if Kay Drey wants the  
9 radioactive issue to get a handle on, I recommend  
10 that she gets a handle on that.

11 There's 53,000 people estimated that die  
12 from environmental tobacco smoke every year. That's  
13 a much bigger problem than the low-level waste at the  
14 airport over which, apart from Kay Drey, nobody can  
15 actually say that anyone has died from that  
16 radioactive waste that we've got. I'm not saying  
17 that we shouldn't deal with it because of that, but I  
18 want to put it into perspective.

19 THE FACILITATOR: Mr. Pion, one minute  
20 please.

21 MR. PION: I talked to a gentleman today  
22 and he said well why not. By the way, we could spend  
23 \$20 million on tobacco control or anti-smoking  
24 programs, TV ads, and we'd have a much bigger impact  
25 in the St. Louis area reducing mortality. This is

1 the sort of problem that we could solve if we started  
2 to do something about smoking among adults. Talking  
3 about non-smoking, it doesn't cost anything to put up  
4 a No Smoking sign.

5 Let's talk about if we want to spend  
6 money. We're obviously keen on spending \$600  
7 million. I talked to some people today about radon  
8 mitigation, we could spend \$600 million I estimate  
9 and we could test all the properties in the St. Louis  
10 area, metro St. Louis -- this is just a rough  
11 estimate by the way, back-of-the-hand estimate -- but  
12 for about \$600 million we could test all those  
13 properties. It costs a \$105 per property and we  
14 could remediate all of them as well, every single  
15 home. Let's suppose they all needed remediation for  
16 \$600 million, the cost for 90 percent of those homes  
17 is less than a \$1,000. And for 10 percent I was told  
18 it could be as high as \$1,400. We could do all that  
19 and really reduce the radiation exposure in the St.  
20 Louis area and actually that would be an  
21 accomplishment.

22 So what I'm saying here is let's balance.  
23 Let's look at the risks, not emotionally because  
24 that's the way we do it most of time, we don't want  
25 it in our back yard. That's what the referendum said

1 -- Do you want a radioactive waste site in your back  
2 yard? Who's going to say yes? But give some choices  
3 and people will choose to be more rational about it.  
4 So what I'm saying is let's be rational about this.

5 I'm not a 100 percent thrilled by this  
6 outcome. I don't want to see \$600 million spent this  
7 way. Thanks.

8 THE FACILITATOR: Thank you, Mr. Pion. The  
9 next speaker is Pat Waterson.

10 MS. WATERSON: Good evening everyone. I'm  
11 Pat Waterson from the Missouri Coalition for the  
12 Environment. The Missouri Coalition for the  
13 Environment applauds the St. Louis Remediation Task  
14 Force on its difficult work for the past two years.  
15 Unanimous agreement of the Task Force that the waste  
16 from the St. Louis site should be cleaned up and  
17 removed from Missouri's largest population center is  
18 a precedent-setting decision and the Coalition  
19 strongly support it.

20 The St. Louis site is the oldest  
21 radioactive waste of the atomic age. On April 2,  
22 1942, Mallinckrodt Chemical Works near downtown St.  
23 Louis began the experiments to purify the uranium  
24 needed by the federal government for the Manhattan  
25 Project. They accomplished their mission in 50 days

1 and continued to produce radioactive waste in St.  
2 Louis for the next 25 years.

3 For the past 25 years the Coalition has  
4 been a strong voice for a cleanup of the St. Louis  
5 site. In April of 1992 we hosted a symposium  
6 entitled A Mountain of Waste 50 Years High. The  
7 Coalition continues to oppose the use of nuclear  
8 power and weapons.

9 We request that the Department of Energy  
10 establish a fully-staffed field office to expedite  
11 the St. Louis site cleanup comparable to the office  
12 set up at Weldon Spring. Thank you and we appreciate  
13 the chance to speak at this public meeting.

14 And I agree with the previous speaker that  
15 smoking is a big deal and I would urge everyone to  
16 think carefully about -- this is a personal comment  
17 on my part -- about the supports we have for the  
18 tobacco industry in this country. I think that's  
19 also a important issue. Thanks.

20 THE FACILITATOR: Thank you, Pat. Arlene  
21 Sandler.

22 MS. SANDLER: I'm a county resident, a  
23 Missouri River water drinker and a follower of this  
24 problem for about the last 15 years and I just wanted  
25 to take a half a minute to thank the Task Force as

1 everyone here has for two years of very hard work and  
2 what I see as maybe the first step at last toward the  
3 possible end of this problem at least in the St.  
4 Louis area because it is a problem that really never  
5 goes away.

6 Realistically, I think that the cleanup  
7 will only happen when that field office is set up.  
8 Just as what's happening in Weldon Spring. They have  
9 a field office there and cleanup is ongoing. Thanks  
10 again.

11 THE FACILITATOR: Thank you. Rachel  
12 Loche.

13 MS. LOCHE: Hi, my name is Rachel Loche and  
14 I'm a resident of the city of St. Louis. And I've  
15 just come to add my voice to the tens of voices here  
16 and to the thousands of those that are probably out  
17 in places beyond this building who applaud the Task  
18 Force's recommendation for the cleanup of radioactive  
19 waste in our neighborhoods.

20 I think that the course of action that  
21 you've decided to take is not only the best thing to  
22 do but it's the right thing to do -- both for  
23 ourselves here and for our future generations.  
24 Thanks.

25 THE FACILITATOR: Thank you. And then

1 finally Mal Donohue.

2 MR. DONOHUE: Hi, my name is Mal Donohue  
3 and I'm a resident Berkeley and I commend the  
4 commission, the Task Force, for the work they've done  
5 over the past two years. I was fortunate to be able  
6 to attend a few of their meetings.

7 I disagree wholeheartedly with their  
8 recommendation. I believe it is fiscally  
9 irresponsible. I totally agree with this gentleman  
10 right here, I think he's a kindred spirit. I think  
11 there are many more risks that we have to deal with  
12 every day whether it municipal garbage being thrown  
13 in landfills which are unlined and can leak in  
14 aquifers with risks which are many, many fold of  
15 magnitude greater than what we're dealing with -- a  
16 low-level radioactive waste.

17 I believe it's politically incorrect for  
18 people to jump on a bandwagon and make accusation,  
19 rhetorical remarks that aren't based on fact.  
20 They're simply just remarks. And marketing people  
21 who come and try and sell their goods and services to  
22 the Department of Energy.

23 I would really like to see the money be  
24 used responsibly. I'd like to see people have a  
25 sense of urgency about the cleanup and I would like



1 to see people take a look at the facts, like this  
2 gentleman said, and make sure that we're spending the  
3 money responsibly. Because it is our money, it's our  
4 tax money. Thanks.

5 THE FACILITATOR: Thank you, sir. And then  
6 one additional speaker, one additional participant  
7 here tonight has indicated a desire to speak and  
8 that's Ed Mahr.

9 MR. MAHR: Two directions. In the future I  
10 think people are going to have questions and they  
11 have to direct them to somebody. Now, in the past  
12 when I call up Weldon Spring's trailer I didn't get  
13 an answer that I considered satisfactory because the  
14 people with the know-how were out and you got the  
15 secretary.

16 I think that we have to set up some place  
17 other than the technical deciders of the issues where  
18 the average common person can get a question answered  
19 in a semi-technical or an extremely technical manner  
20 and I think it has to be somebody from the Task  
21 Force.

22 And Sally Price, I don't know, she might be  
23 great; Kay she might be great, but those two people  
24 are very busy and I would like to nominate Jim Dwyer  
25 because he's been, you know, through the entire thing

1 and he knows all the little foibles of all the little  
2 people.

3           The second comment, this is just random  
4 thoughts. I was not a member of the Task Force, I  
5 was just there. And these are just partial sentences  
6 but actually it was about two years of comparing  
7 apples and oranges, each person looking at different  
8 parts of the elephant. No one else in the world had  
9 to come up with a satisfactory solution for the waste  
10 problem that was without faults. And some of the  
11 people knew the potential horror of the atomic legacy  
12 -- some of the speakers, not the Task Force members  
13 of course -- but some of the others didn't know a  
14 millirem from a millennium.

15           There were 50 years of other people's  
16 attempts to deal with and be dealt upon by the  
17 nuclear legacy of waste that were being discussed.  
18 Everyone felt under educated, hesitant to speak from  
19 ignorance, afraid to sound a fool, everyone was  
20 willing to pay to the god of science but the science  
21 god took a powder.

22           The god ducked out and asked his subjects  
23 to write the commandments, tenets, and direction of  
24 endeavor. Then god asked the people to vote on their  
25 future and the people sat and daydreamed while the

1 words droned on endlessly. One chairman of the total  
2 group ducked and their lesser subjects appeared  
3 infrequently -- some never. Some new people took  
4 their place and they all daydreamed.

5 But finally the subject approached, a  
6 consensus of a common direction to proceed -- they  
7 voted their consciences and prayers and the subjects  
8 were ready to go to sleep and rest. But someone was  
9 still needed to form the wagon train and get it in  
10 shape for the upcoming journey.

11 The same collie dog that was herding and  
12 watching the livestock was still alive, awake and  
13 working. The little dog had naps perhaps but he was  
14 still running his damn fool legs off to-and-fro.  
15 Without the collie, wagon-train master this journey  
16 would not have gotten even to this utopian  
17 consensus.

18 When the journey starts, that is the actual  
19 cleanup, I hope the collie dog who is Mr. Jim Dwyer,  
20 is still part of the wagon train. I just feel he  
21 deserves a nice warm pat on the head.

22 THE FACILITATOR: I don't know what to  
23 think about that. Thank you, Ed.

24 That completes the list of people who have  
25 signed up to speak. I understand that Jim Werner

1 would like to bring some remarks from the Department  
2 of Energy to the group.

3 MR. WERNER: Thank you, Jim. My job here  
4 has been to listen tonight and so that's what I have  
5 done mainly. I just wanted to add my thanks to the  
6 list of everybody else who has. And to give you a  
7 little perspective.

8 I've worked on the Department of Energy  
9 cleanups for many years now and part of that has  
10 involved going out and working with community  
11 organizations as well as engineering contractors and  
12 everybody. And I've got to say that this is truly  
13 one of the most impressive, probably the most  
14 impressive community Task Force I have seen of the  
15 dozens that I've seen around the country, so it's an  
16 extraordinary effort.

17 And this is really exactly what it takes to  
18 get the work done. As somebody said earlier you've  
19 now done your job, it's time for us to do ours. But  
20 I'm not sure whether, as somebody else said, this is  
21 the beginning of the end or the end of the beginning  
22 but clearly what we now need to do is take your Task  
23 Force report and honor it, respect it, to read it  
24 very carefully.

25 I expect that we may have to come back and

1 ask you some questions so that we understand it fully  
2 and really understand what we're getting at here.  
3 Although you're pretty clear from what I could see.  
4 This is not hard. But as we go forth and put  
5 together a remedy, a plan for it, I think that you  
6 all want us to be using good management, make sure  
7 we're getting a dollar's worth of cleanup for a  
8 dollar spent and use the money right, use good  
9 engineering, use good common sense and to use a  
10 democratic process which is what you all have done  
11 here.

12           We do have our work cut out for us.  
13 There's been some talk about it, it's not my job to  
14 assign blame, it's our job to deal with it, but I  
15 just got the appropriations report today from  
16 Congress and it is about a \$60 million cut in our  
17 account that is funding this sort of cleanup -- \$59  
18 million. So we obviously have to grapple with that  
19 for fiscal year 1997 which does not necessarily mean  
20 this site. We've got to sort that out. That's yet  
21 to be done. But that is a fact, that is a reality we  
22 now have to deal with. But I think there are a lot  
23 of options to deal with those problems. We'll look  
24 at them, that's our job.

25           But thank you again very much for all the

1 extraordinarily hard work. This is, I know, a  
2 volunteer work but that's what makes it tick. So you  
3 push us to do our job better. So thanks again.

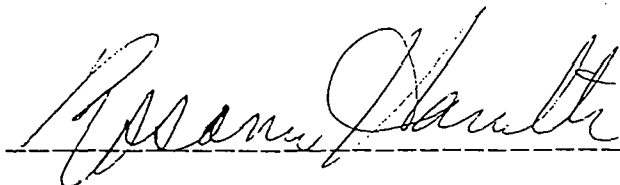
4 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Werner, for  
5 those comments. And thanks to each of you for  
6 coming. Your comments are greatly appreciated. I  
7 encourage you to stay informed and involved in this  
8 issue. And this concludes our meeting. Good night.

9  
10 (HEARING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 9:00 P.M.)

11  
12 \* \* \* \* \*

13  
14  
15 CERTIFICATE

16  
17 I hereby certify that the foregoing is an  
18 accurate and complete transcription of my shorthand  
19 notes taken at the aforesaid time and place.

20  
21  
22 

23 Court Reporter

24  
25 

Date

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